



Islander

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MARCH 2025

CITY BREAKS GROUND ON FUTURE Intracoastal Sports Park

In a major step toward promoting health, wellness, and community connection, City leaders officially broke ground on the future Intracoastal Sports Park on February 26. This long-anticipated project will transform a currently closed construction zone, located along 158th Street and Collins Avenue, into a vibrant outdoor space for recreation and movement.

Members of the public joined elected officials, city staff, and the project's management team to celebrate the milestone. The park will feature multi-use sports courts for tennis and basketball, outdoor exercise equipment, and a pedestrian pathway designed to encourage an active lifestyle.

"Through development bonuses we were able to capture additional parks for our residents," said City Engineer Richard Labinsky.

Our residents have long wanted more outdoor sports spaces, and this park is a direct response to that need. With the city's only indoor court located at Pelican

Community Park, the new outdoor courts will provide a fresh way to play and stay active in the open air.



"It's a great addition," said resident Jonas Nielsen. "You have so many residents that live in this area and they will be able to walk to the park, which is great!"

With construction now underway, residents look forward to the new sports park opening at the end of this year.



Celebrating Women's History Month

Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra

Women's History Month, celebrated every March, invites us to reflect on the struggles and triumphs of women who paved a better path for the rest of us. Without them, we would not have the highest number of women governors in U.S. history (13), the first woman mayor in Miami-Dade County, a majority-woman commission in Sunny Isles Beach, or many of the rights that we take for granted.

Some of women's advances are so unremarkable today that we don't realize they were once battles. For example, it wasn't until 1971 that women could no longer be denied private employment just because they had pre-schooled children (*Phillips v. Martin Marietta Corporation*). In 1974, women were finally allowed to access credit without a male co-signer, thus expanding financial independence (*Fair Credit Opportunity Act*). Also, until 1981, wives did not share in the legal control of jointly owned property

(*Kirchberg v. Feenstra*). Without the battles the women before us fought and won not so long ago, the women who followed might not be heard today. It's worth celebrating.



Bringing the topic closer to home, I invite you to attend a special Women's History Celebration honoring the remarkable contributions women have made to our community. The event will take place on Thursday, March 20 at 2 p.m. It will begin with a celebratory gathering and light refreshments, followed by a proclamation presentation during the city's 3 p.m. Commission Workshop. Join us for an afternoon of recognition, reflection, and appreciation.

Contact Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra at seat4@sibfl.net or 305.792.1750.

Protecting Safe Speed Limits in Our Community

Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant

I want to extend my most sincere gratitude to everyone who participated in the 2024 electoral process. It gives a sense of belonging when we actively partake in electing our leaders. Nonetheless, voting is just the first step. It is necessary to continue actively participating by attending Commission meetings to express your opinions and hold local leaders accountable for the decisions they make.

At the monthly Commission meetings, residents have the right and opportunity to express their support "for" or "against" any issue that comes in front of the Commission, such as the impending ban on scooters, the continuous waiving of the open and transparent bidding process when awarding million-dollars contracts to handpicked vendors, safety and security issues, and more.

For example, in the January meeting, the County "mandate" to increase our internal streets' speed limit from 20 to 25 MPH was discussed. I was able to delay

the vote by deferring the item, meaning it would come again in front of the Commission in the future. However, I need your help to halt this government nonsense. It defies common sense to increase the speed limits of areas like Golden Shores with their narrow streets and nonexistent sidewalks, or North Bay Road, which is the walking commute road of many of our young school children. So please pay attention and take part.

Attending the meetings also gives everyone the chance to bring new topics during the "Citizens Forum." To say that decisions made at the Commission meetings impact or will impact our lives is an understatement. That is why voting is just part of the task, and continuous participation is vital to avoid elected officials' deliberate deception.



Contact Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant at seat3@sibfl.net or 305.792.1751.

Commission Recap

Below are some of the key approvals and decisions made by the City Commission at the February 20, 2025 meeting. For the full agenda and meeting recordings, visit sibfl.gov/meetings.

Citywide Monument Sign Project

The City Commission has approved a project to remove existing monument signs throughout the city and replace them with newly fabricated signs by Neon Signs. These updates will enhance key locations, including the William Lehman Causeway, Government Center, median welcome signs, the Sunny Isles Boulevard sign, as well as neighborhood and park monuments.

New Procurement Department Established

The City Commission has approved the creation of a standalone Procurement Department. Previously operating within the Finance Department, Procurement will now function as its own department, recognizing its distinct role in managing purchasing and contracting processes for the city. This move ensures fiscal responsibility and improves transparency.

Pedestrian Improvements Agreement with FDOT

The City Commission has approved an agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to improve pedestrian intersections on Collins Avenue from State Road 826 to 178 Street. The project will include upgrades at 170 Street, 172 Street, 174 Street, and 178 Street, featuring new handicap-accessible ramps, improved crosswalks, and updated signage.

The City Celebrates History with 20-Year Time Capsule Opening

Last month, past and present city leaders, residents, and staff gathered to celebrate the history of Sunny Isles Beach by opening a time capsule buried in 2005. The stainless-steel capsule was sealed and buried at the David P. Samson Commission Chambers on February 5, 2005, and exactly 20 years later, it was removed and opened.

Designed to offer future generations a glimpse into the city's evolution since its incorporation in 1997, the capsule contained historical items curated by historian Richard C. Schulman. Among the artifacts were newspaper articles, photographs of city leaders and events, the city charter, letters from the former Commission, a copy of the 2004-05 city budget, and even CDs, DVDs, and a VHS capturing moments from the past.

“Each item represents a piece of our story – a glimpse into what life was like in 2005, what mattered to the people who were here before us, and how far we’ve come since then,” said Mayor Larisa Svechin.

Thanks to careful preservation efforts, most of the items remained intact. The airtight seal and oxygen-absorbing packets helped protect them from aging over the past two decades.

This isn’t the only time capsule hidden in the city. Another capsule, buried at Trump Palace, is set to be opened on the City’s 50th Anniversary in 2047—offering future residents yet another window into Sunny Isles Beach’s history.



CALENDAR

MARCH OF EVENTS

HELP (Health Emergency Life Protection) Training Course

Saturday, March 1

10 AM - 12 PM

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

Beethoven on the Beach

Sunday, March 2

6 - 8 PM

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Teens Only: Baking Club

Tuesday, March 4

4:30 - 6:30 PM

The Spot, 215 185 St.

Bingo

March 5, 12, 19, 26

Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Gateway Market

March 5, 12, 19, 26

Wednesdays | 5:30 - 10 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Mount Sinai Lunch & Learn

Thursday, March 6

12 - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Beach Cleanup

Saturday, March 8

8 - 11 AM

Samson Oceanfront Park, 17425 Collins Ave.

Helmet Fitting & Giveaway

Sunday, March 9

9 AM - 1 PM

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

AARP Tax Aide Free Preparation & Filing

Monday, March 10, 17, 24, 31

Mondays | 10 AM - 2 PM

First Floor Meeting Room, Government Center

Appointments must be made in-person at Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Lunch n' Learn with Cesar Becerra

Tuesday, March 11

11 AM - 12 PM

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

Teen Talk

Tuesday, March 11

5 - 6 PM

The Spot, 215 185th St.

Doc Chat with Humana

Wednesday, March 12

11 AM - 1 PM

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

Full Moon Yoga

Friday, March 14

6 - 7 PM

On the beach by Samson Oceanfront Park, 17425 Collins Ave.

City Commission Workshop

Tuesday, March 18

10 AM

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

Women's History Month Celebration

Thursday, March 20

2 - 3 PM

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

City Commission Workshop

Thursday, March 20

3 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, March 20

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

CarFit: Helping Senior Drivers Improve the Fit of their Vehicles

Saturday, March 22

9 AM - 1 PM

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

Pre-registration is required by contacting Sandra Block at 305.792.1839.

Senior Roundtable

Wednesday, March 26

12 - 1 PM

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

Family Resource Fair

Monday, March 31

4 - 7 PM

Pelican Community Park, 18115 North Bay Rd.

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

Disclosure: Events are subject to change.

Miami-Dade County Sunny Isles Beach Branch

MARCH **LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

Homework Help and Tutoring (students grades K-12)

Saturday, March 1, 8, 15
10 AM - 1 PM

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

Citizenship Class (ages 19+)

Saturday, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
10 AM - 12 PM

Chess Club (ages 9+)

Tuesday, March 4, 11, 18, 25
4 - 6 PM

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

Wednesday, March 5, 12, 19, 26
11 AM - 12 PM

The Kids Reading Club (Ages 6 – 12 yrs.)

Saturday, March 8
1 - 2 PM

Children's Stories and Craft (Ages 3 – 11 yrs.)

Wednesday, March 12
5:30 - 6:30 PM

Russian Social Club (ages 19+)

Saturday, March 15
3:30 - 5 PM

Furry Tales (all ages)

Saturday, March 22
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.



2025 SUNNY ISLES BEACH

FAMILY

RESOURCE FAIR

MONDAY, MARCH 31 / 4 - 7 PM

Pelican Community Park, 18115 North Bay Road

Join us for a fun-filled event packed with exciting activities for the whole family! Discover a variety of city, county, and community services designed to support and benefit our residents.

PRIZES

**BOUNCE
HOUSE**

**FOOD
TRUCKS**

MUSIC

Learn more about
our new activities and
events registration
platform **CivicRec!**



SIBFL.GOV/EVENTS



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COMMISSIONER Jerry Joseph

COMMISSIONER Fabiola Stuyvesant

COMMISSIONER Jeniffer Viscarra

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