



# Islander

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JANUARY 2026

## MESSAGE FROM THE City Manager's Office

On behalf of the City of Sunny Isles Beach, I would like to wish all our residents a happy and healthy New Year. I am proud of all that we accomplished together in 2025 and will continue to work to ensure this city remains the height of living well into 2026.



This year we celebrate the City's 29th Anniversary earlier than usual. We will mark the occasion on February 28 with an evening of music and food on the sand at Samson Oceanfront Park. This change was made to better accommodate residents by increasing availability to attend and taking advantage of more favorable weather outside of the rainy season. Registration will open on January 20, and wristbands will be available for pickup at our City facilities.

Now is a good time to remind you to renew your Resident ID card. Our Resident ID cards offer a

variety of benefits, including advanced registration for programs and events, discounted prices at City events, and access to Gateway Center amenities. It can take 7 – 10 business days to receive your Resident ID card, so make sure you renew early so you can take advantage of the many great events we have planned for you, including the 29th City Anniversary Celebration.

We are also looking forward to the opening of a new park later this year. Crews are making great progress on the construction of the Intracoastal Sports Park. This vibrant outdoor space will give residents access to outdoor exercise equipment, a pedestrian pathway, and multi-use sports courts for tennis and basketball. The park is expected to open by mid-year.

Public safety continues to be a top priority for the City in the year ahead. We are pleased to announce that a new red-light camera at Sunny Isles Beach Boulevard and Collins Avenue is now live, with payable enforcement in effect. An additional red-light camera will soon be installed at 174 Street and Collins Avenue, with a warning period going into effect upon installation. Visit our social media channels for updates.

We are excited about what the new year holds for Sunny Isles Beach. As always, I encourage you to reach out to my office with any questions or concerns.

Contact the City Manager's Office at [citymanager@sibfl.net](mailto:citymanager@sibfl.net) or 305.792.1731.

# Florida's Property Tax Amendments: What 2026 Holds and Why It Matters

Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra

First and foremost, I hope the New Year finds all Sunny Isles Beach residents well. We have a lot to talk about in 2026, starting with the new legislative session, which begins January 13 and ends 60 days later on March 13.

In 2026, proposals to change Florida's tax structure—specifically property tax amendments— are expected to meander their way through the legislative and electoral process. First, any such amendment must clear the Florida Legislature with a significant hurdle: both the House and Senate must approve the proposal by a three-fifths supermajority (60%). The regular legislative session, lasting just 60 days, is the primary window for debate and passage. If lawmakers fail to act by March 13, the proposal is likely dead for the year, unless the Governor intervenes by calling a special session.

If the Legislature does pass a tax amendment, the next step is voter approval. The proposed change is placed on the November 2026 general election ballot. Florida's constitution requires at least 60% of voters to approve constitutional

amendments—simply getting a majority is not enough. This second supermajority is designed to ensure only measures with widespread public support are adopted.

A final, critical deadline looms in late August, when the Secretary of State certifies the ballot. This is the absolute last chance for any measure to make it onto the ballot, as ballots must be finalized and prepared for mailing to overseas voters in September.

As I mentioned before, anything limiting taxes sounds great to the individual, but can be devastating to cities. The outcome for residents in cities that provide a lot of free or reduced services may be the loss or reduction of those services. It may also mean the increase in municipal fees as cities will have to make up the shortfall to maintain the level of service the residents expect. In short, keep in mind that something has to give. It may end up being taxpayers... just in a different way.



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

## Pick Up Your 2026 Desktop Calendar Today!

The 2026 desktop calendar is here, and you can get your free copy at any of our City facilities:

- **Government Center**
- **Pelican Community Park**
- **Gateway Center**

This year's calendar features stunning photos from our annual photo contest, showcasing the City's unique architecture, open spaces, and waterways - all captured by talented photographers. Calendars are available during regular operating hours, so stop by and pick one up while supplies last.



# CALENDAR FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT [sibfl.gov/events](http://sibfl.gov/events)

## JANUARY OF EVENTS

### Federal Holiday: *New Year's Day*



**Thursday, January 1**

City offices closed.  
City Bus will not operate.  
Parks open from 8 AM - 6 PM.



### Full Moon Yoga

**Saturday, January 3**

**5 - 6 PM**

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

### DBPR Resident Support Session

**Wednesday, January 7**

**10 AM - 2 PM**

Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.  
To request an appointment, email [citymanager@sibfl.net](mailto:citymanager@sibfl.net).



**January 7, 14, 21, 28**

**Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM**

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

### Beach Cleanup

**Saturday, January 10**

**8 - 11 AM**

Samson Oceanfront Park, 17425 Collins Ave.

### Teens Only: *FitFest*

**Sunday, January 11**

**12 - 2 PM**

The Spot, 215 185 St.  
Pre-registration is required.

### City Commission Workshop: *Agenda Review*

**Tuesday, January 13**

**10 AM**

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

### Teen Talk

**Tuesday, January 13**

**5 - 6 PM**

The Spot, 215 185 St.

### City Commission Workshop: *Special Presentations & Discussion Items*

**Thursday, January 15**

**3 PM**

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

### Regular City Commission Meeting

**Thursday, January 15**

**6:30 PM**

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

### Cultural Trip: *Key West Aquarium*

**Friday, January 16**

**5 AM - 8 PM**

Bus will depart from and return to Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.  
Price: \$60  
Resident ID Cardholder: \$30

### Florida Arbor Day

**Friday, January 16**

**10 AM - 12 PM**

The Spot, 215 185 St.

### How to Do Business with the City Workshop

**Friday, January 23**

**10 AM**

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

### Gateway LIVE!

**Saturday, January 24**

**7:30 - 9 PM**

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

### Teens Only: *Trailblazers Club*

**Sunday, January 25**

**1 - 3 PM**

The Spot, 215 185 St.  
Pre-registration is required.

### Senior Roundtable

**Wednesday, January 28**

**12 - 1 PM**

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

### Eyes Open: *Human Trafficking Awareness for Parents & Teens*

**Wednesday, January 28**

**6:30 PM**

Pelican Community Park, 18115 North Bay Rd.

### Town Hall Meeting: *Emotional Intelligence Workshop*

**Thursday, January 29**

**6 - 7:30 PM**

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

*Disclosure: Events are subject to change.*

# Miami-Dade County Sunny Isles Beach Branch

# JANUARY **LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

**Talking is Teaching – Talk, Read, Sing for Preschoolers**  
(ages 3 - 5 yrs.)

**Monday, January 5, 12, 26**  
**11 AM - 12 PM**

**Chess Club**  
(ages 9+)

**Tuesday, January 6, 13, 20, 27**  
**4 - 6 PM**

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

**Wednesday, January 7, 14, 28**  
**11 AM - 12 PM**

**Children’s Story and Craft**  
(ages 3+)

**Wednesday, January 7**  
**5:30 - 6:30 PM**

**Citizenship Class**  
(ages 19+.)

**Saturday, January 10**  
**10 AM - 12 PM**

**The Kids Reading Club**  
(ages 6 – 11 yrs.)

**Saturday, January 10**  
**1 - 2 PM**

**Homework Help and Tutoring**  
(students grades K-12)

**Saturday, January 17, 24, 31**  
**10 AM - 1 PM**

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

**Russian Social Club**  
(ages 19+)

**Saturday, January 17**  
**3:30 - 5 PM**

**Baby Rock (Special Program)**  
(ages 0 – 18 mos.)

**Wednesday, January 21**  
**11 AM - 12 PM**

**Furry Tales**  
(ages 4 – 8 yrs.)

**Saturday, January 24**  
**2 - 3 PM**

**Wildlife Show (Special Program)**  
(All ages)

**Saturday, January 31**  
**2 - 3 PM**

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.





29<sup>th</sup>

**ANNIVERSARY**

**CELEBRATION**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

*Samson Oceanfront Park, 17425 Collins Ave.*

Price: **\$50** / Resident ID Cardholders: **FREE**

*Wristbands go on sale on Tuesday, January 20*

Get into the spirit of Carnival as we celebrate 29 years of Sunny Isles Beach. Our annual celebration is taking place early this year to better serve everybody and allow for the largest event possible. Sport your most vibrant colors and enjoy a night of music, food and fireworks on the sand.

For more information, visit [sibfl.gov/anniversary](http://sibfl.gov/anniversary).

*Pre-registration is required.*



# Islander

**PUBLISHED BY**  
**CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH**  
**MEDIA DIVISION**  
18070 Collins Avenue  
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

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**COMMISSIONER** Fabiola Stuyvesant

**COMMISSIONER** Jeniffer Viscarra

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