

SIB islander

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

March 2020

Spring & Summer Camps



Spring Break Camps

March 23–27 • Registration now open

Give your child a Spring Break to remember! Join us at one of our all-day camps for fun activities, field trips, sports and much more!

- General Camp
- Soccer Camp
- Volleyball Camp

Registration is currently open and filling up quickly. Visit activities.sibfl.net.

Summer Camps

June 8–August 21

Registration Dates

March 14: Residents with a valid City-issued SIB Resident ID Card.

March 28: Everyone.

The City of Sunny Isles Beach offers a variety of camp options for children ranging in age from 5 to 15 years old, including General Day Camps, Specialty Day Camps and Sports Day Camps. Camp hours are from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

For more details, visit sibfl.net/ccs or call 305.792.1706.



from our Mayor



George 'Bud' Scholl
Mayor

There is a common misconception in local government that citizen concerns often go unnoticed.

I want to debunk that myth for Sunny Isles Beach. Our City Commission is here to serve the interest of all residents by listening and then acting on their concerns.

This is best demonstrated by a resolution we recently passed at the January 2020 Commission Meeting regarding condominium arbitration. The catalyst came in early 2019, when a citizen group called the Sunny Isles Beach Condo Owners Unity Coalition led by Ella Kallish and Warren Stamm reached out to the City expressing concerns regarding abuse, fraud and litigations within many condominium associations.

As an ongoing issue and with an overwhelming majority of our population residing in condos, we actively listened to this issue and then collaborated with city staff to determine the best possible outcome.

By a unanimous vote, we passed a resolution that allows the City Manager to petition the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) to certify a lawyer to act as an arbitrator for the purposes of conducting arbitration hearings and have a representative of the Office of Condominium Ombudsman to provide services within our city on a monthly basis.

I am proud to say that this resolution is a direct result of citizen concern. They came to us with a problem and we worked to find an optimal result that most benefitted the community.

We are always receptive to your concerns, especially when they impact a large majority of the community. A strong partnership between a government and its constituents is paramount to forge a strong city. Sometimes, an issue falls outside of the city's purview; this was true for condominium disputes. We could not step in because these dealings are overseen by the DBPR. But we acted on our citizen's concerns and are now the first city in Florida to petition the DBPR to provide condominium arbitration services directly for our residents.

Grassroots movements such as the SIB Condo Owners Unity Coalition along with your involvement are what help enact positive change in our community. You are all on the frontlines and I invite you to reach out to the City with your concerns and questions. We are here to serve you.

SIBlife

Think Before You Flush and Drain

As we place an emphasis on clean water, recycling, and reducing our ecological footprint, there are some ingrained habits and behaviors that we must work together to change. When flushing items down the toilet, remember a toilet is not a trash can. Even if a product is labeled as “flushable,” throw it in the garbage. The only thing that should be flushed down the toilet besides human waste is toilet paper.

Another practice you should be mindful of is properly maintaining your drains. The best proactive approach to cleaning is to wipe cooking equipment of the fats, oils and grease before washing it. When cooking with oil, make sure to cool it, can it and trash it. If each of us changed this habit and stopped pouring grease down the drain, we could decrease clogged pipes system-wide.

Gateway Center Update

We are making exciting progress on the Gateway Center buildout. In November 2019, the 13,397 square foot floor was built in four days using 45 tons of steel rebar and 51 truckloads of concrete or 510 cubic yards. The future classrooms and banquet hall are beginning to take shape, with walls being framed, and drywall being installed. Work has also begun on a satellite visitor center, which will be housed near the elevator lobby on the first floor. This Visitor Center will offer city merchandise and refreshments in a chic setting.

Spring Break Camps

Spring Break is always a fun time in

Sunny Isles Beach. This year our Spring Break Camp runs from March 23–27. General Camp is open to ages 5–14, and features field trips, arts & crafts, games, and plain old fun. We also have two sports camps. The first is Soccer Camp, open to ages 6–14, at Senator Gwen Margolis Park, which encourages players to refine their game skills while having fun. The other is Volleyball Camp, open to ages 8–14, with qualified instructors teaching game play strategies and other volleyball skills at Pelican Community Park. For more information or to register visit activities.sibfl.net.

Re-envisioning Town Center North Overlay

The City is creating development guidelines for the newly formed Town Center North Overlay and we want your input! On Tuesday, March 10, participate in an Interactive Listening Session involving short informal presentations and discussions about how you envision the new Town Center North Overlay. The meeting is from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the First Floor Meeting Room of the SIB Government Center, 18070 Collins Avenue.

The Town Center North Overlay boundary consists of the westbound lanes of Sunny Isles Boulevard north to 172 Street, spanning east to Collins Avenue and west to the Intracoastal Waterway. This area was created in December 2019 as an amendment to the city’s Comprehensive Plan. For more information about the Interactive Listening Session, visit sibfl.net/TownCenterNorth.



A Message from the City Manager

by Christopher J. Russo



There have been quite a number of articles in the news recently concerning the multiple sewer line breaks in the City of Fort Lauderdale. This has resulted in millions of gallons of sewage flooding complete neighborhoods and waterways throughout that city. Because of this, a number of Sunny Isles Beach residents have asked me about the condition of our own sewer system. How old are the pipes in our city? Will our pipes also break? Needless to say, this is a disturbing situation that can make any resident fearful. So I took the time to engage a representative from the Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department, which owns and operates the sewer system for the City of Sunny Isles Beach, in order to share the conditions of the pipes in our city.

First, I would like to explain the different kinds of sewer lines. A force main is made of cast-iron and usually larger than 24 inches in diameter. Force mains are very susceptible to corrosion and last approximately 40 years. Gravity sewer mains are the lines between the man-

holes you may see in the streets or on sidewalks. In my career, I have known these pipes to last up to 100 years, however a good lifespan is 60 years. Then there are laterals, which are the lines from the mains to your home or building. In the City of Fort Lauderdale, portions of their sewer lines date back to the early 1960s, with force mains that are typically 40 years or older.

In Sunny Isles Beach, we have 13,416 feet of force mains; that equates to approximately 2.5 miles of these pipes. In our case, the average age of these pipes is 25.7 years, approximately half the life of many of the pipes that failed in other locations. With regard to gravity sewer mains, we have approximately 59,500 feet of these pipes, which equates to approximately 11.3 miles. The average age of gravity sewer mains in our city is 33.7 years. As you can see from these numbers, the sewer lines in our city are neither old nor in poor condition.

Now you may recall approximately a year ago there was a sewage backup from the Miami-Dade County sewer pumping

station on Sunny Isles Boulevard. We learned that 500 pounds a day of what are alleged to be flushable wipes, primarily for babies, impeded the operation of the pumps and caused that blockage and emergency spill into the Oleta River basin. Following that incident, our city did a media campaign on the seriousness of this issue emphasizing that all residents should NOT flush any wipes down the toilet. This is still a very serious matter that must be corrected. Do your part and keep our drains moving by not flushing anything other than human waste. Remember: a toilet is not a trash can.

The good news in all this is that our sewer pump station will be the first one to be replaced with state-of-the-art technology as part of a \$1.6 billion upgrade of the entire Miami-Dade County sewer treatment system. This Sewer Pump Station project is scheduled to begin this April.

In summation, I am happy to report that the sewer system in our city is in good condition and should be for many years to come.

Art is All Around Us

from the desk of Vice Mayor Larisa Svechin



I love Sunny Isles Beach and everything it offers, from the spectacular beaches and international cafes, to the renowned restaurants and multitude of parks. One of its little-known jewels is our arts initiative. I have the pleasure of sitting on the Public Arts Advisory Committee with a group of residents doing incredible work in acquiring public art. The city also launched an oil painting club about one year ago and it is thriving; new members are joining every week. Look out for more pop-up painting events around the city where you can get more information or just watch the artists create.

Our new Art in the Park event had a record breaking 60 artists registered with another 20 on the waiting list. Adults and children partook in a free painting class at Heritage Park. The next Art in the Park event will be June 7, so sign up early to get a spot. We are also pursuing a partnership with the Coconut Grove Art Festival to bring an annex of award-winning artists to Sunny Isles Beach. Furthermore, in partnership with the SIB PTSA, NSE/SIB K-8, and resident leaders, I am planning the annual children's art exhibit for later this year.

Additionally, I am happy to announce that we are planning to renovate the Government Center lobby, including increased security and aesthetic renovations, with a space to display artwork year-round. This success is largely in part to the collaboration and hard work of resident volunteers, city staff, and support from my fellow commissioners and Mayor.

Please contact me with questions or comments at lsvechin@sibfl.net.

Confronting Fraud and Corruption in our City's Condominiums

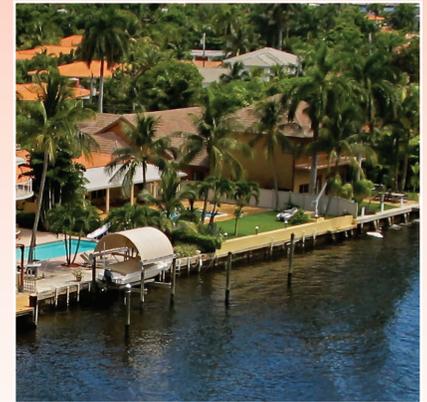
from the desk of Commissioner Dana Goldman



Rising voices confronting condominium fraud and corruption practices reverberate in Tallahassee. State Senator Jason Pizzo, true champion of condominium unit owner rights, has introduced important new legislation to more effectively prosecute fraudulent and criminal acts under the Florida Condominium Act, Senate Bill SB 1752 ("SB 1752"). If adopted, SB 1752 will revise criminal penalties for kickbacks and the use of association debit cards, provide criminal penalties for certain violations relating to official association records and largely expand criminal penalties for fraudulent voting activities related to association elections. SB 1752 will also provide greater transparency by lowering the threshold for website posting requirements to 25 or more units (currently 150) and requiring associations to provide checklists and affidavits to official records requestors.

Kudos are also in order for our very own "Condo Cop," Mitch Glansberg of the Sunny Isles Beach PD. His detective work culminated in the arrest and booking of a local condominium manager for their alleged use of an association's debit card and transferring money into a personal account to support their gambling habits. Utilizing best practices to identify, prevent and protect against condo manager fraud will be the subject of an upcoming Condo Rights Workshop.

If you would like a copy of SB 1752 or to receive notice of future Condo Rights Workshops held throughout the City, my email is dgoldman@sibfl.net and my direct phone number is 786.512.6364. Our shared vision is the improvement of quality of life for our condo dwellers, in policy and practice.



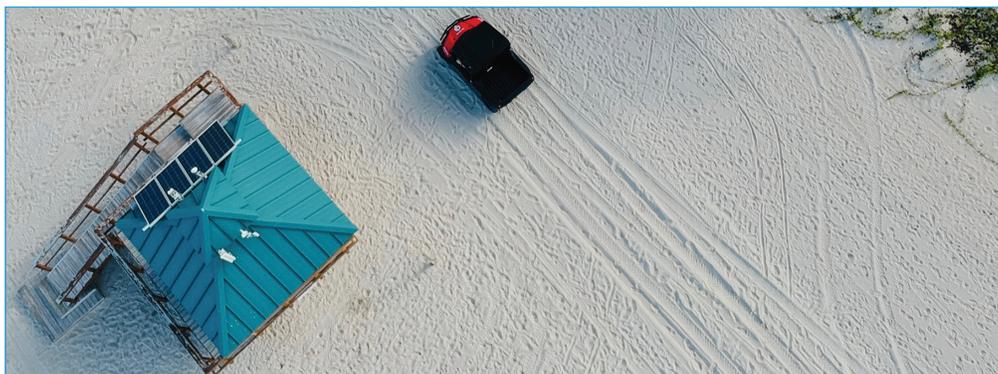
Golden Shores Undergrounding Update

The survey work of the Golden Shores Utility Undergrounding Project is 87% complete. There are 47 inaccessible homes in the neighborhood, and we encourage those residents to cooperate with the City's contractor, Craven & Thompson (C&T), to grant access to the exterior utility locations in their rear yard. Currently, this is not impeding progress of the project, but may in the coming months should these homes refuse to cooperate. FP&L will now complete their design to underground electrical service based on the survey work. Simultaneously, C&T is working on a street lighting design, which should be out to bid and awarded within 12 months. We anticipate the bidding and award of the utility undergrounding construction within 16 months.

Golden Shores Pump Station Project

The survey and evaluation work for the rebuilding of the Golden Shores Pump Station is complete. The engineering design for the new pump station is 30% complete. Within 12 weeks, we expect three portable pumps to arrive, which will be used in heavy rain events to supplement the existing pumps and perform as the main pumps while the pump station is under construction. We anticipate the completion of the design by the end of 2020, at which time we will go out to bid.

To learn more about these capital projects, visit sibfl.net/capital-projects.



March 1

Sunday, 2:00 pm
Cultural Event: Russian National Ballet
Fort Lauderdale, FL

March 4, 11, 18, 25

Wednesday, 9:00 am–2:00 pm
AARP Tax Return & Preparation
SIB Govt. Center First Floor Meeting Room

March 5

Thursday, 10:00 am–noon
Medical Lecture Series
SIB Govt. Center Commission Chambers

March 6

Friday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm
Mini-FLOW
Pelican Community Park

March 6

Friday, 7:00–9:00 pm
Family Movie Night: *Big Miracle*
Heritage Park

March 7

Saturday, 7:00–9:00 pm
Family Movie Night: *Big Miracle*
Town Center Park

March 9

Monday, 7:00 pm
Full Moon Yoga
Samson Oceanfront Park

March 10

Tuesday, 10:00 am–1:00 pm
Golden Era Movie: *The Apartment*
Pelican Community Park

March 10

Tuesday, 11:30 am–2:00 pm
Blood Drive
SIB Government Center

March 10

Tuesday, 6:00–8:00 pm
Town Center North Overlay
Interactive Listening Session
SIB Govt. Center First Floor Meeting Room

March 11

Wednesday, 3:00 pm
Bingo
SIB Govt. Center
Commission Chambers

March 12

Thursday, 9:00 am–noon
Blood Pressure and Glucose Screening
SIB Govt. Center
Commission Chambers

March 12

Thursday, 10:45 am
Cultural Event: Frost Museum
Miami, FL

March 13

Friday, 7:00–10:00 pm
Teens Only: Silent Glow Disco
Pelican Community Park

March 15

Sunday, 6:00 pm
Beethoven on the Beach
Gateway Park

March 18

Wednesday, 7:30–9:00 pm
Sunny Serenade: Viva
Samson Oceanfront Park

March 19

Thursday, 6:30 pm
Regular City Commission Meeting
SIB Govt. Center
Commission Chambers

March 25

Wednesday, 3:00 pm
Bingo
SIB Govt. Center
Commission Chambers

March 28

Saturday, 6:00–9:00 pm
Spring Fling
Pelican Community Park

MDC–SIB Branch Library Programs

Miami-Dade County Sunny Isles Beach Branch Library: For more information about hours and the offerings below call 305.682.0726. Classes and programs are held in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Sunny Isles Beach Government Center, 18070 Collins Avenue, unless otherwise indicated.

Programs for Adults

Basic Computer Classes for Seniors age 55+

Tuesday: March 17
10:00–11:00 am inside the library

Citizenship Classes

Saturdays: March 7–28
10:00–11:30 am

Poetry Reading

Saturday: March 14
4:00–5:00 pm

Russian Social Club

Saturday: March 21
3:30–5:30 pm

Programs for Children

Bedtime Stories

Wednesdays: March 4–25
6:00–6:30 pm inside the library
Ages 3 to 5 yrs.

Homework Tutoring

Saturdays: March 7–28
10:00 am, 11:00 am, noon, 2:00 pm
and 3:00 pm; all inside the library
Registration required.

Talking is Teaching:

Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers

Mondays: March 2–30
10:00–10:40 am
Ages 19 mo. to 3 yrs.

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CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH
CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

18115 North Bay Road
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160
305.792.1706
March 2020



All persons are invited to attend these meetings. If a person decides to appeal any decision made at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in any meeting because of that disability should contact the City Clerk at 305.792.1703, TTY 305.792.1589 no later than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

18070 Collins Avenue • Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

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*The official communication
of the City of Sunny Isles Beach!*



Beethoven on the Beach

This outdoor classical music performance by Orchestra Miami is conducted by Elaine Rinaldi and features Chilean violinist Francisca Mendoza.



Sunday, March 15 • 6:00 pm
Gateway Park • 151 Sunny Isles Boulevard

Admission and parking are both free. Ride the free SIBshuttle within city limits.

Spring Fling

Enjoy a buffet-style dinner and dance to the beat of some of your all-time favorite tunes. Attendees may win raffle prizes, make new friends or reconnect with acquaintances at this annual dinner dance.



Saturday, March 28 • 6:00–9:00 pm
Pelican Community Park • 18115 North Bay Road

Tickets are available at Pelican Community Park or the Government Center for \$20, or \$10 with a valid City-issued SIB Resident ID Card.