



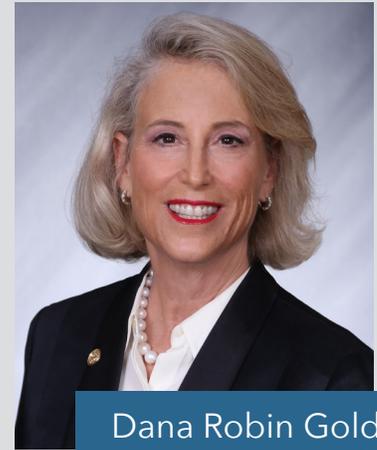
Islander

Follow us @CityofSIB |     YouTube

NOVEMBER 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ Just over one year ago Gateway Center opened at the south end of Sunny Isles Beach, changing the way residents experienced recreation in our city. ”



Dana Robin Goldman
Mayor

Gateway Center was a capital project several years in the making and underwent many iterations before we officially broke ground. The multipurpose, one-of-a-kind facility was the City's largest recreation undertaking in over a decade. Since Pelican Community Park opened in 2008, we've expanded recreation programming tenfold due to high demand and community wants and needs.

It became apparent that the City needed additional space to continue to deliver high quality programming to the extent that we wanted to offer. Additionally, with Pelican Community Park being so close to the school, we felt it would be more advantageous if our adults and seniors had a dedicated space for programming that better suited their needs.

Gateway Center is a phenomenal space that our adult and senior population can find great fulfillment at, develop new skills or expand their knowledge. From its welcoming aesthetic and atmosphere to the state-of-the-art technology integrated throughout, Gateway Center exceeds all expectations. We always knew that the Center would be extraordinary, but how the

Cultural & Community Services (CCS) department has curated its programming and special events is special.

This fall, we are taking programming up a notch by offering the most diverse and expanded set of programs, events and services for our seniors and adults. The launch of our first Senior Roundtable was so successful that they are now offered monthly as we invite seniors to share their feedback about anything and everything. We've expanded our education series, now offering several medical lectures, Lunch & Learns, and language classes; and introduced new workshops for Medicare instruction and registration. Cultural trips are being offered again, as are art classes and workshops. You can find the complete program offerings and register online at activities.sibfl.net.

If you have not been to Gateway Center yet, I hope you are able to visit and take a look around this fall. There is always something to do, whether it's a class, workshop or event. And if you cannot make it in person, we have a digital 360 tour available online at sibfl.net/gatewaycenter. I invite you to discover why Gateway Center is the City's new crown jewel.

Contact Mayor Dana Robin Goldman at mayor@sibfl.net or [305.792.1753](tel:305.792.1753).

MESSAGE FROM THE City Manager

Stan Morris

It is my privilege to share the following report with our Sunny Isles Beach residents this month. Nearly one year since I assumed the role of City Manager, I am proud to share the progress that our city has made on five main areas: fiscal responsibility, public safety, transparency, sustainability, and community services.

Throughout the last year, Sunny Isles Beach has remained fiscally responsible in spite of the growing economic challenges the country is facing. We were even able to maintain financial growth as well. The filing of the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget reflects the highest reserves in the City's history. We reduced the millage rate to 2.0 mils per \$1,000 of assessed value, which represents the lowest millage rate in the city's history.

Focusing on public safety, the Police Department has been increasing enforcement and visibility through staffing, strategy and long-term solutions. On the staffing front, we hired Captain Edward Santiago as Chief, starting a new chapter for the Police Department. The department went on to hire eleven new police officers, four dispatchers, police evidence and crime scene technician, and two dedicated uniform patrol traffic units who focus exclusively on enforcing traffic violations. Improving upon our enforcement strategy was key this year. PD reinstated their community policing efforts placing a greater emphasis on cultivating relationships with residents and a full-time beach patrol. The department increased traffic enforcement and multi-agency details along our major thoroughfares resulting in crucial citations and arrests. PD is utilizing several technological advances to improve safety on the road such as additional speed signs and the implementation of a ghost car providing stealth where it is needed. The creation of the Mobility and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee (MAPSAC) offered a chance for interested and qualified citizens to work closely with the City on pedestrian and mobility safety issues. In addition to increasing enforcement on the streets, you'll see more officers patrolling on the beach and in the parks.

When I first assumed the role of City Manager, it was important to me that our city upholds the highest level of transparency, accountability and accuracy. Increasing public involvement through new advisory committees, such as the MAPSAC, the Environment Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC), and

an Auditor Selection Committee, provided a forum for engaged citizens to discuss key issues our city faces and provide feedback and recommendations for new solutions. The new Senior Roundtable, Residents' Academy, and Teen Talk roundtable series opened up engaging and safe forums for seniors, teens, and involved residents to learn about the city and discuss issues important to them. It is well known there have been issues and concerns involving the City's Comprehensive Plan over the last few years, which is why we've retained a zoning consultant to perform a complete review of the Plan.

Sustainability is at the forefront of our agenda as we work to support a healthy and resilient community. This past year, the Commission adopted two ordinances prohibiting balloon releases and prohibiting smoking at public beaches and park property. We formalized a partnership with Adopt a Dune to launch a dune restoration program with oceanfront properties and are in the process of developing a citywide dune master plan. Also, along the beach, we reestablished monthly beach cleanups.

Providing community services that enhance your quality of life has always been a top priority. This year we celebrated the City's 25th Anniversary with a series of events and activities. The Cultural & Community Services department increased programming for tots as well as adults and seniors at Gateway Center. They are also establishing a new teen center, which will result in additional programming for our teen population. We continued to support Ukraine by hosting donation drives and over six events to assist Ukrainian refugees and sponsoring children to attend our summer camp program.

Looking ahead to the next year, we have several major projects on the docket. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is underway and expected to be completed in fall of 2023. We are committed to ensuring our Zoning Code is compliant and representative of our residents' vision for the future. The Police Department is on the way to becoming accredited to maintain the highest quality and standards of law enforcement. This is an exciting time to be a Sunny Isles Beach resident. I always strive to maintain transparency and honesty when it comes to local governance and invite you to reach out to the City Manager's Office should you have any concerns or questions.

Contact City Manager Stan Morris at smorris@sibfl.net or [305.792.1701](tel:305.792.1701).

Is Nothing Sacred?

Vice Mayor Jeniffer Viscarra

At the Sunny Isles Beach February Commission Meeting, right after a particularly toxic campaign period, Rabbi Kaller delivered a moving invocation. Referencing The Diary of Anne Frank, it was a call to heal, to turn the page, and to believe in the good in each other. It was a message our city needed and one for which I was personally grateful.

Unfortunately, shortly before Yom Kippur, the invocation was taken out of context and used as a political attack - the opposite of its intended purpose. To malign a healing message as Jewish families prepared for the Day of Atonement and Forgiveness showed a complete disregard for a well-respected religious leader and, more broadly, our Jewish community.

The misuse of the invocation was offensive and entirely out of bounds, even by political standards. It was ugly and mean-spirited, not to mention inappropriate.

Like the invocation at issue, however, we can find guidance in Anne Frank's work by leading by example, being grateful for "all the beauty still left around [us] and [being] happy."



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

Moving Forward

Commissioner Alex Lama

I would like to commend and thank the Police Department, City Manager's Office, the city staff and my fellow commissioners on the accomplishments we have been able to achieve so far in 2022.

As public servants and city employees, our number one priority is to work for the well-being of the residents and good of the community. With this mindset, and through focus and diligent effort, we have been able to make much needed improvements on several fronts, including:



Public Safety

- Appointed Edward Santiago as Chief of Police who has been with the city's PD since its inception 24 years ago.
- Hired 8 police officers and 4 dispatchers.
- Increased traffic enforcement and beach patrol.
- Placed school crossing guards at 174 Street & Collins and 174 Street & North Bay Road.
- Purchased new and needed equipment for the PD, including vehicles and electronic ticketing machines.
- Invigorated the accreditation process for our PD.
- Began exploring and analyzing the construction of a stand-alone police station for further visibility and enhanced security of our city.

Public Involvement and Outreach

- Established the resident-led Environment Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) and Mobility & Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee (MAPSAC).
- Established the Residents' Academy to teach residents about the inner workings and functions of local government and to promote civic engagement.
- Established demographic-based groups including Teen Talk and Senior Roundtable where residents of each demographic can meet and discuss ideas on how the city can serve and improve their specific needs.
- Launched the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Study.

Taxes and Financials

- Lowered the city's property taxes for residents to a millage rate of 2.0 (2.0 mils per \$1,000 in the property's assessed value). This is the lowest rate in the city's history.
- Our 2022-2023 budget reflects the largest reserves in the city's history.
- The budget also reflects a conservative and responsible 4% increase (one of the lowest increases in the city's history) with which we were able to accommodate the hiring of new police and administrative staff and fair wages that will help us attract and retain talent.

I also want to thank this current Police Department, city staff and Commission for the teamwork, sharing of information, camaraderie and willingness to expedite solutions and ideas that will raise the quality of life of our residents. Let's keep moving forward together.

Contact Commissioner Alex Lama at seat2@sibfl.net or [305.792.1752](tel:305.792.1752).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER



November 2, 9, 16, 30
Wednesday | 3 - 4 PM
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Gateway Market
Wednesday, November 2, 9, 16, 30
5:30 - 10 PM
Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

**Mount Sinai Blood Pressure
and Glucose Screening**
Thursday, November 3
9:30 - 11 AM
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Mount Sinai Lunch & Learn
Thursday, November 3
11 AM - 12 PM
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Lunch is included. Pre-registration required.

**Family Movie
Night: Encanto** 
Friday, November 4
7 - 9 PM | Free
Heritage Park, 19200 Collins Ave.
Saturday, November 5
7 - 9 PM | Free
Town Center Park, 17200 Collins Ave.

Full Moon Yoga
Monday, November 7
5:15 - 6:15 PM | FREE
Samson Oceanfront Park (on the beach),
17425 Collins Ave.
Pre-registration required.

All Day Fun Zone
November 8, 21, 22, 23 | 8 AM - 6 PM
Pelican Community Park, 18115 North Bay Rd.
Residents: \$30 | Non-Residents: \$45
Per day, per child.

General Election
Tuesday, November 8
7 AM - 7 PM
Multiple Locations: For more information,
visit sibfl.net/clerk-election.

**Lunch n' Learn with Florida
Historian Cesar Becerra** 
Tuesday, November 8
11 - 11:45 AM | FREE
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Lunch is included. Pre-registration required.
Residents: FREE | Non-Residents: \$5

Teen Talk
Tuesday, November 8 | 6 - 8 PM
Pelican Community Park, 18115 North Bay Rd.
Snacks and drinks will be served.

Federal Holiday: Veterans Day
Friday, November 11
City facilities closed.
SIBshuttle will not run.

Veterans Day Celebration
Friday, November 11 | 9:30 AM
Heritage Park, 19200 Collins Ave.

Beach Cleanup
Saturday, November 12
8 AM - 12 PM | FREE
Ellen Wynne Beach Access, 192 St.
& Collins Ave.

**Hygiene Pack
Distribution Program**
Thursday, November 17
12 - 1 PM | FREE
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Residents only. Pre-registration required.

**Regular City
Commission Meeting**
Thursday, November 17 | 6:30 PM
Commission Chambers, Government Center,
18070 Collins Ave.

Artists in Residence Series
Friday, November 18
11 AM - 1 PM
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Residents: FREE | Non-Residents: \$10
Lunch is included. Pre-registration required.

Teens Only:
The Real Food Academy
Friday, November 18 | 3 - 7 PM
570-A NE 81 St, Miami, FL 33138
Pre-registration required.

Gateway LIVE!:
Featuring Sogno Circus Dream
Saturday, November 19 | 7:30 - 9 PM
Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Residents: FREE | Non-Residents: \$10
More details on [page 6](#).

Senior Fall Festival
Monday, November 21 | 11 AM - 1 PM
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Residents: \$10 | Non-Residents: \$20

Federal Holiday: Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 24
City facilities closed.
SIBshuttle will not run.

City Holiday:
Day after Thanksgiving
Friday, November 25
City facilities closed.
Only SIBshuttle Orange Lines
will be in operation.

Doc Chats:
Your Guide to Arthritis
Wednesday, November 30
11 AM - 12 PM
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Lunch is included. Pre-registration required.

**FOR COMPLETE EVENT
DETAILS, VISIT**
sibfl.net/events

SPOTLIGHT ON...

CUSTOMER RELATIONS TEAM

This month we spotlight our Customer Relations team, a dedicated group of problem-solvers, answer-finders, and friendly faces. Always on the frontlines, the Customer Relations team manages each facilities' front desks, the Resident ID Card program, registration for programs and events, and much more. Whether you want to know the hours for a park, which senior programs are happening this season or more about the SIBshuttle, you can call [305.792.1706](tel:305.792.1706) or visit us at Pelican Community Park, Gateway Center or the Government Center and our Customer Relations team will be happy to help.

We appreciate their commitment to service, helpfulness and patience as they work seven days a week to help keep our city running.

Have a question on our programs, services, or registration?
Email the Customer Relations Team at frontdesk@sibfl.net or call [305.792.1706](tel:305.792.1706).

INSIDE THE *Isles*

New Senior Programs

Our Cultural & Community Services department recognized the need for more holistic programming for our senior population. This is why they introduced several new programs and special events for seniors at Gateway Center. From classes and clubs to trips and workshops, there are many opportunities for wellness, entertainment, and education. Our Tech and Art programs offer structured classes to learn new skills. We've reintroduced cultural trips to places like Schnebly Winery, Hamilton, and Cirque du Soleil-style shows, and increased our monthly wellness lectures adding Doc Chats to the calendar.



To view all senior programs and register online, visit activities.sibfl.net.

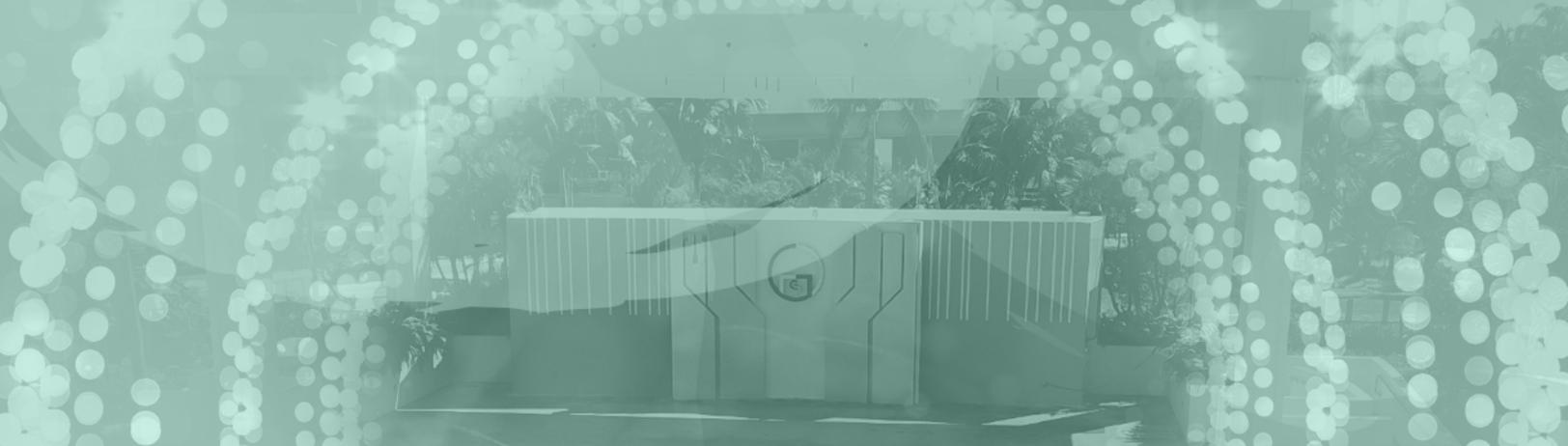
ABOUT LAST SEASON...



Missed one of our fall events?
Check out our online photo gallery to see the highlights!
sibfl.net/photos



Mark your calendar for our upcoming events!
Check out [page 4](#) to see all events happening this month and visit sibfl.net/events to see the complete event calendar.



GATEWAYLIVE

////// PRESENTS ////

SOGNO CIRCUS DREAMS

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 19

Jump into the magical world of the circus during an immersive journey with "Sogno." Explore an alternative world of comedic and acrobatic situations and discover how self-confidence can help you reach your goals.

GATEWAY PARK

151 SUNNY ISLES BLVD.

7:30 – 9 PM

RESIDENTS: FREE | NON-RESIDENTS: \$10

For more information, visit sibfl.net/gatewaylive.

Islander

**PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH
MEDIA DIVISION**

18070 Collins Avenue, Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160
305.792.1706 | sibfl.net