

SIB islander

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

September 2019

*What a Night
at Gateway LIVE!
Jersey Boys Meets Mamma Mia*

Purchase your tickets for
Saturday, October 12
7:30 pm



Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Tickets: \$10, or free with a valid
City-issued SIB Resident ID Card

Don't miss this must-see high-powered performance event sweeping across four decades! What a Night! honors 40 of the most revered chart-topping hits of our time. Featuring an inspired show-stopper, 15 performers come together to live the imagined moment when ABBA and The Jersey Boys hit the stage as one in the most sensational musical finale you'll ever see!

Free parking is available in the Gateway Park garage. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit sibfl.net/gatewaylive.



from our Mayor



George 'Bud' Scholl
Mayor

On August 28, we held a Special Commission Meeting to vote upon a proposed building moratorium in the Town Center District.

As I write this article, the meeting has not yet happened, but I want to take this time to discuss the Town Center District and proposed moratorium. A building moratorium stops any new development project. During the moratorium, we will find an acceptable solution to move forward and address development issues in the Town Center District.

The City and its experts are attempting to correct mistakes made between 2007 and 2011 regarding the Town Center District. These mistakes were discovered after the Infinity project, a proposed development, was submitted for approval. That development has not been approved and is not currently under consideration for approval.

These mistakes resulted in the completion of six buildings that will be deemed non-conforming if we do not amend our comprehensive plan to correct them. This would cause substantial economic hardship, and in extreme cases, could put homes and businesses in jeopardy. Our top priority is to fix these mistakes.

The initial recommendation from the City's experts was to revise the Comprehensive Plan to uphold prior approvals. This proposal is what created much of the public concern—even though it appeared the most expeditious and efficient way to ensure that those affected would not face additional exposure. We did not move forward with this proposal and are considering alternatives.

Our main priority is to find a legal solution that protects the owners in the affected buildings, while mitigating concerns of granting other land parcels the same zoning as prior approvals. These proposed changes are not about up-zoning; and there has never been any project or plan to approve 9,000 additional units. The vote upon a proposed building moratorium in the Town Center District is to ensure no development can move forward while we find a solution to the inherited and recently discovered problems described above.

We have an obligation to protect these homes and businesses while preserving the rights and quality of life for all residents. I thank everyone who joined us at the August Special Meeting. I hope you join us at future meetings and voice your opinions.

SIBlife

Update SIBAlert Contact

It's that time of year to prepare and update everything storm-related. Just like you check your batteries for charge, you should also check to ensure your contact information, including your phone number, is up-to-date on SIBAlert. If you have not yet signed up for this alert system, do so now. To get emergency warnings and alerts, specifically for our area, sent directly to your mobile device all year long, sign up at sibalert.net. Register or update your contact information in the month of September and you will be entered to win a special prize.

Medical Lecture Series Returns

After a summer hiatus, September brings the return of the monthly lecture series provided by the doctors of our City partner, Mount Sinai Medical Center. On the first Thursday of each month from September until May, participants are treated to an informative session regarding an aspect of their health. It is a great opportunity to learn about prevention and treatment from an expert in a small group setting. A light snack is provided to those who RSVP. Seating is limited, and reservations are required at 305.674.2626. And if you are unable to attend, the lecture will be posted afterward on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/cityofsib!

Renew Your Short-Term Vacation Rental License

Beginning September 2, you can renew your short-term vacation rental license with the Planning and Zoning Department. All licenses expire on September 30, 2019 and owners or responsible parties must submit renewal applications.

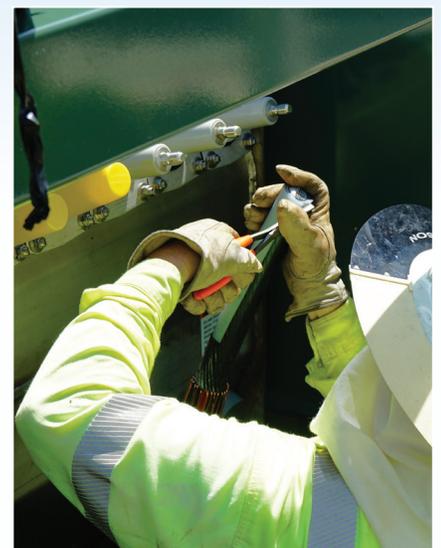
Licenses can be renewed online through your portal account. The license renewal fee is \$400 each, which includes the Short-Term Vacation Rental License and the local business tax receipt. The late payment fee is \$50. For more information about renewing your license, visit sibfl.net/short-term-rentals, call 305.792.1740 or email infopz@sibfl.net.

Capital Improvement Projects Update

As we transition into the fall season, let's take a closer look at the progress of some of our capital improvement projects. The Gateway Park buildout will begin construction soon. A contractor was given the notice to award and is nearing the completion of the permitting process. Once construction begins, the project is estimated to be completed in 10 months. The design of the Golden Shores Pump Station has begun and is anticipated to be finalized by the end of the year in order to go out to bid for construction.

Phase one of Florida Power and Light's work on the Utility Undergrounding project on Collins Avenue is projected to be complete by the end of the month. Work will then move from the south end of the City to the north section from 183 Street to the northern City limits.

Approximately one third of the Street Light Enhancement project is complete. Work will continue concurrent to the Utility Undergrounding and is expected to continue into 2020. The sidewalk by Town Center Park on Collins Avenue will soon be widened, providing relief to pedestrians who travel this route frequently. Stay up-to-date on all capital improvement projects by visiting sibfl.net/capital-projects.



A Message from the City Manager

by Christopher J. Russo



For the last five years, the City has undertaken one of its most complicated and extensive capital improvement projects: Utility Undergrounding. With multiple phases reaching across the entire length of Sunny Isles Beach, the Utility Undergrounding has involved more than 10 outside providers and agencies, and laid more than 60 miles of conduit along Collins Avenue.

As we have moved into the next phase of our Utility Undergrounding project with Florida Power and Light, and have completed approximately one third of the Street Light Enhancement project, it is now time to add the Golden Shores Undergrounding project into the mix. This work is occurring simultaneously to the Undergrounding and the Street Light Enhancement projects on Collins Avenue.

At the July 2019 Commission Meeting, the City Commission authorized the planning and engineering stages of the undergrounding and street light enhancements in the Golden Shores community. The Golden Shores neighborhood consists of 225 homes, a majority of which receive their electricity, cable, and phone utilities from overhead services. Last month, the Golden Shores Undergrounding project began with the initial data gathering, or surveying, of the neighborhood. Crews are currently going to each address, locating property

markers and capturing the existing conditions of any obstacles, poles, or lines.

Attention to detail during this initial period of the project is imperative as we accurately map the utility infrastructure of each and every home. Once the entire data gathering, planning and design phase is completed, a process that will take approximately 18 months, the City will go out to bid to select the contractor that will complete the undergrounding process of burying conduit and preparing for the conversion to underground utilities. The bid process will take about four to six months, and once the contractor is selected and approved by the City Commission, the undergrounding will commence. The project will be worked in four phases; during each phase, the undergrounding for about one quarter of the neighborhood's homes will be completed.

Though the project may bring temporary construction and minor inconveniences to the neighborhood, it will also bring fresh, new roadways. As crews complete the undergrounding of each section, all roads will be repaved. We are also working to minimize the impact of the placement of required equipment to preserve the aesthetic of the community.

The Golden Shores undergrounding and street light work is projected to reach completion in 24 months once construc-

tion begins. What can residents expect once this work is complete? Repaved roads in the entire Golden Shores neighborhood. Enhanced beautification and landscape in the community. New and improved decorative street lighting; the same as the new lights on interior City streets. An improved sidewalk that will extend the length of Atlantic Boulevard from 185 Street to 191 Street on the east side connecting to Collins Avenue at select street locations, which will aid pedestrian traffic. A reduction of power and utility outages, and a major increase in safety by eliminating downed live distribution electrical wires during and after a storm or hurricane. The installation of new equipment that is more resistant to the impacts of weather, and quicker to repair should power and utility outages occur.

We understand that capital improvement projects can sometimes raise frustrations, but there is a reason we work year-round: to uphold and improve the quality of life for all our residents. This project will provide more resilient utilities, help improve residents' safety, and enhance the aesthetics of our community. For regular updates on the Golden Shores Undergrounding project, sign up for our eSIBi email notifications at sibfl.net/notifyme.

Preserving Quality of Life for All Residents

from the desk of Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra



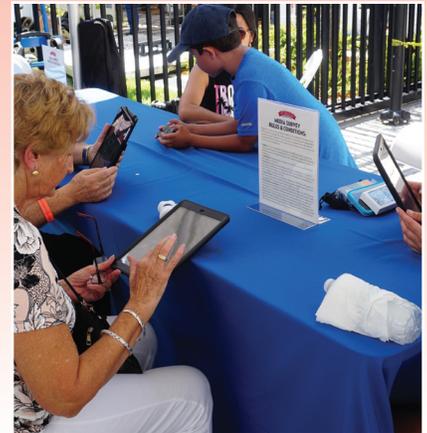
In early 2019, I learned that the City's land-use plan, known as the Comprehensive Plan, requires a correction. With regards to the Town Center District, the Plan has not been legally compliant since 2007, and became non-compliant again for a different reason in 2011. However, six buildings that included many residences were still approved and built.

In April 2019, our new City Attorney recommended we correct the Plan to bring it into compliance with state law and to protect those buildings' homeowners. This proposed amendment to the Plan is what brought more than 100 residents to the July City Commission Meeting. Unfortunately, many came with the misconception that the amendment would immediately pave the way for thousands of condo/hotel units in the district as well as the Infinity project (which the Commission had already deferred/postponed in December 2018).

It is worth highlighting that the decision to defer the Infinity project had nothing to do with the error in the Plan, as that had not yet come to light. The City Commission deferred the Infinity project based on some of the same quality of life concerns residents expressed at the July meeting. My goal in July was to make us compliant as a city and ensure the residents in the six buildings receive the same rights and protections as everyone else.

After hearing the residents, however, we opted to defer the vote on the amendment and explore additional approaches to accomplish the same goal – comply with the law and preserve quality of life for all residents. And I have faith that we'll get there.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns at jviscarra@sibfl.net or call 305.792.1750.



Many of you might have participated in our media survey at the City's Anniversary Celebration this past June. We collected data from a wide range of demographics in our City about how our residents and non-residents receive news, alerts and updates from the media division.

Below are some key findings:

- Total survey responses: 192
- Languages spoken: 7
- Primary source for emergency alerts: SIBAlert
- Primary source for recreation information: eSIBi email notifications
- Primary source for events: eSIBi email notifications
- 91% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with SIBislander
- 97% of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the availability of information about City services

As you can see, many of the survey respondents are subscribed to our email notifications, referred to as eSIBi or electronic Sunny Isles Beach information. If you are not signed up, visit sibfl.net/notifyme to subscribe. And visit sibfl.net/media to see all the ways you can receive information from the City of Sunny Isles Beach!

Put it Down: Focus on Driving, It's the Law

from the desk of Chief Dwight P. Snyder



As part of our traffic safety initiative, our police department is committed to providing updated educational awareness to our residents and guests to help keep everyone safe.

As you probably heard, on July 1, 2019, the "Florida Ban on Texting While Driving" law went into effect, making "texting" while driving a primary traffic offense. There are many reasons for this statute, but it largely revolves around traffic safety and reducing serious injuries and tragic deaths. The new law prohibits drivers from utilizing any type of wireless communication device to type or send electronic messages while the vehicle is in motion.

Additionally, beginning October 1, 2019, the second part of this statute takes effect. This portion of the law prohibits drivers from using any type of handheld communication while driving in a designated school zone or active construction area where workers are present. This means no handheld talking or texting on your wireless device while driving in these designated areas.

Distracted driving is anything that takes your hands off the wheel, your eyes off the road or your mind off driving. It is extremely risky behavior that puts everyone on the road at risk. The purpose of this new law is singular: to require drivers to put down their phones and focus on driving so that everyone can "Arrive Alive." Be assured, the safety of this community is our greatest responsibility and will always be our top priority.

For more information, visit the Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles website at fhmv.gov or refer to Florida State Statutes 316.305, 316.306 for complete guidelines.

**September 2**

Monday, Labor Day
Federal Holiday: Government offices closed
SIBshuttle does not operate

September 3

10:30 am–4:00 pm
Blood Drive
SIB Government Center

September 5

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

September 6

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

September 7

Saturday, 5:30 pm
Cultural Event: *The Dinner Detective*
Sunny Isles Beach, FL

September 10

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

September 10

Tuesday, 5:30 pm
Special City Commission Meeting
FY 2019-20 First Budget Hearing
SIB Govt. Center
Commission Chambers

September 11

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

September 12

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

September 13

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

September 13

Friday, 7:00–10:00 pm
Teens Only: Sushi Making Class
Pelican Community Park

September 14

Saturday, 10:00 am
Cultural Event: Butterfly World
Coconut Creek, FL

September 18

Wednesday, 6:00 pm
Special City Commission Meeting
FY 2019-20 Second Budget Hearing
SIB Govt. Center Commission Chambers

September 18

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

September 19

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

September 21

Saturday, 7:00 pm
Hispanic Heritage Concert
Heritage Park

September 22

Sunday, 5:00 pm
Hispanic Heritage Art & Culture Showcase
Heritage Park

September 25

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

September 29

Sunday, 11:00 am–1:00 pm
Wiggle and Paint
Samson Oceanfront 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 Introduction to Computers for ages 55+

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

Citizenship Classes

Saturdays: September 7–28
10:00–11:30 am

Poetry Reading

Saturday: September 14
4:00–5:00 pm

Russian Social Club

Saturday: September 21
3:30–5:30 pm

Programs for Children**Bedtime Stories**

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

Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers

Mondays: September 9–30
10:00–10:40 am
Ages 19 mo.–3 yrs.

Creative Corner Family Program

Saturdays: September 7–28
11:00 am inside the library

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CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH
CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

18115 North Bay Road
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160
305.792.1706

September 2019



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 Manager at 305.947.0606, 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!*



Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Hispanic Heritage Concert

Enjoy an evening of popular and traditional music and dance.



Saturday, September 21 • 7:00 pm

Hispanic Heritage Art & Culture Showcase

Immerse yourself in this rich and diverse culture, featuring vendors and performers from our local community.



Sunday, September 22 • 5:00 pm

Heritage Park • 19200 Collins Avenue

Admission is free. Free parking is available in the Heritage Park garage and under the William Lehman Causeway, or ride the free SIBshuttle within City limits.