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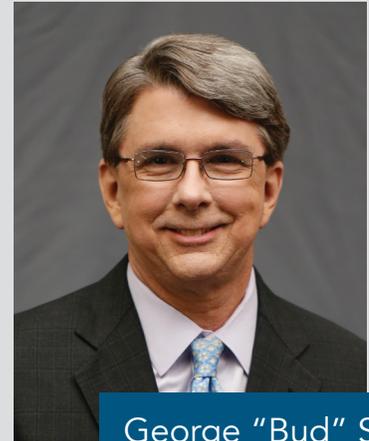
CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

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AUGUST 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ It is my pleasure to announce that Gateway Center is complete and officially open to residents. ”



George "Bud" Scholl
Mayor

Gateway Center is our most impressive construction and architectural accomplishment to date with innovative technology that rivals any top-of-the-line facility and rental space. Designed to the last detail, Gateway Center exemplifies a new age in recreation and rental facilities.

When I think back to the conception of Gateway Center, I am reminded of the late Roslyn Brezin. The space that is now Gateway Center went through many iterations as we narrowed down the focus and purpose, but what remained consistent was incorporating a safe and collaborative place for our senior community, something Roz was always vocal about.

For those who may not have known her, Roz was a resident of Sunny Isles Beach for nearly 50 years before she passed away in 2019. She was a member of the City's Charter Commission in 1997 and was later appointed to the City Commission in 2003, where she served until 2010 after being reelected twice. Among her many areas of interest, senior citizens were at the top of her

priorities. Roz was a champion for senior programming and worked to bring diverse activities for our SIB seniors. With our seniors being so active and engaged in our structured programming, Roz was adamant that we also have a space for seniors to drop by, gather and hang out in a spontaneous and casual setting.

I am delighted to say that Roz's desire came to fruition. Gateway Center is now open, with senior programming already taking place in the state-of-the-art facility. One of my favorite spots of the Center is the Roslyn Brezin Senior Lounge, where we honor Roz's legacy. Part of Social Alley, a long hallway full of relaxing and comfortable seating, the Senior Lounge is a spot for seniors to socialize, meet, start up a game of Mahjong or bridge, or simply enjoy a calming atmosphere. Gateway Center is also home to a ballroom, state-of-the-art catering kitchen, fitness room, and classrooms.

I invite you all to stop by, enjoy a cup of coffee, and explore the beauty of Gateway Center.

Contact Mayor George "Bud" Scholl at mayor@sibfl.net or [305.792.1751](tel:305.792.1751).

Message from the City Manager

Christopher J. Russo

By now, most of our residents know that the Building Department initiated a Special Inspection Program at the end of June in response to the Surfside building collapse. This program allows our Building Department to assess each property built before 1982 and uncover any unexpected issues. Just as important, it gives residents peace of mind that they are safe in their home.

Some of you have questioned where the year 1982 came from. Miami-Dade County has a 40-year recertification process in place that requires buildings to undergo an inspection when they become 40 years old, and subsequently every 10 years after. This process involves buildings hiring an architect or engineer to perform structural and electrical inspections, and then submitting a report to our Building Department. If repairs are required, the building must hire a Florida licensed general contractor, obtain the necessary permits, receive final approval from our inspectors, and submit a final certification letter from their architect or engineer of record in order to receive certification. In the rare case that a building is deemed non-compliant with the 40-year recertification process, our Building Official may be required to refer them to the Miami-Dade County Unsafe Structures Board, a quasi-judicial advisory committee that reviews the decision of Building Officials regarding buildings considered unsafe.

Our goal in initiating the Special Inspection Program was to take a proactive approach to inspecting all buildings nearing their 40+ year recertifications and those that already had theirs. There are 59 buildings that meet the criteria of this program and thus far, the Building Department has completed the assessment of 19 buildings. But just because a building's special inspection is complete does not mean the building is automatically in the all-clear. If our inspectors find a concern or something unexpected, they will require the building to contract a Florida licensed professional engineer for further evaluation. Buildings will have 30 days from the date of notice to submit the engineer's report to our Building Department.

As a result of these inspections, the parking garage of one building was partially declared unsafe by the engineer doing the garage repair design, due to deterioration that required immediate attention. The condominium's pool, located on the second floor of the parking garage, was drained and 150 cars were required to relocate. The City is assisting with providing alternate parking for those residents. To reassure residents,

now that the garage is partially empty and installation of additional shoring has taken place, the engineer has declared the building safe for continued occupancy while the repair work is ongoing. But this is a good example of how our inspections are proactively helping mitigate risk.



At the July Commission Meeting, John Pistorino, a professional engineer, spoke about the methodology of high-rise construction and explained how he wrote the requirements to create the 40-year recertification back in the 1970s. He explained that for the buildings built recently, the strength of the concrete and construction is greater than it was 40 years ago and that these buildings also have multiple safeguards in place to make sure they are safe to live in. There is also the State of Florida Threshold Building Law, which requires any building with more than three stories to have an independent engineer inspect and certify that every constructional component is in accordance with the building's plans. John also pointed out that the intention of the recertification process isn't that condos should wait until the building is 40 years old to look at it. They need to take a proactive approach rather than waiting for issues to arise. We live in a hostile environmental zone due to the high concentration of salt in the air, but if you catch an issue early enough, it can be handled in a reasonable and inexpensive fashion. To put it plainly, as long as the building is being looked after, it will be safe for residents.

We post the status of the Special Inspection Program regularly on our website at sibfl.net/specialinspections. You can see which buildings are undergoing inspections and whether the inspection is pending or completed. Residents should inquire with their condominium or building management office to find out if a notice was issued and to obtain a copy if that is the case.

We understand and are doing everything in our power to ensure that your condominiums and buildings are all safe. This process takes time and we appreciate your patience as our Building Department works tirelessly to complete these inspections in addition to their regular day-to-day tasks.

Contact City Manager Chris Russo at crusso@sibfl.net or [305.792.1701](tel:305.792.1701).

Safety Begins with Us

Vice Mayor Larisa Svechin

It's that time of year again when our children head back to school and we all know that means increased traffic on the streets and the sidewalks. With kids back in the classroom on August 23, we can expect the usual drop-off and pick-up influx of cars and pedestrians on foot, bikes, and scooters from all across the city.

Parents: if you are walking your child to school, keep an eye on them and the roads. If your child travels to school on their own, stress to them the importance of being alert, not looking at their cell phone and following the traffic signals.

Unfortunately, we all know what can happen when drivers are distracted. For those who travel the city during school drop-off and pick-up, use extra caution.

Taking your eyes off the road, even for just a few seconds, can result in severe consequences.

Our safety is my priority, and as a mom of four, children's safety comes first. Distracted driving has no place in our city. Be mindful and patient - keep yourself and your neighbors safe. Our Police Department has several safety measures in place to keep our children safe, but we all have a part to play. Follow the speed limit, keep your eyes on the road, and don't fall victim to distractions when driving or walking. Let's have an excellent school year, both in and out of the classroom.



Contact Vice Mayor Larisa Svechin at seat1@sibfl.net or [305.792.1754](tel:305.792.1754).

The Surfside Collapse and the Inevitability of Change

Commissioner Dana Goldman

The Surfside collapse is a tragedy without precedent in our coastal communities. The loss to our neighboring Surfside community is both immense and incalculable. Over time, Surfside will likely be viewed as a watershed moment. It's a turning point in how we address building inspection, reinspection, maintenance protocols and oversight along multiple lines. While the causation(s) of this collapse remain unidentified, the inquiry into the life safety of our coastal high-rise buildings is in full throttle.

Miami-Dade County and our city have been fully immersed in 40+ year old building inspections. Miami-Dade's grand jury, the Florida Bar's Condominium Law and Policy on Life Safety Tax Force and several Florida engineering boards amongst others have been tasked with examining this event, the efficacy

of our inspection requirements and procedures, condominium law and association operations, and providing recommendations for legislative and/or regulatory changes.

For many years I have stood for greater transparency and accountability in our condominium associations. Every unit owner should have access to the records of their building condition. Boards should be responsive to their members regarding their building needs. Increased resident awareness and participation is also a cornerstone of condo reform. I will be conducting future condo rights workshops exploring these many issues and welcome your input.



Contact Commissioner Dana Goldman at seat3@sibfl.net or [786.512.6364](tel:786.512.6364).

August Meetings & Activities

Blood Drive

Friday, August 13 | 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM
 SIB Government Center | 18070 Collins Avenue
 Presented by OneBlood. Appointments are required.

Back to School Bash

Thursday, August 19 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM
 Pelican Community Park | 18115 North Bay Road
 FREE

Special Magistrate Hearing

Wednesday, August 25 | 10 AM
 SIB Government Center | 18070 Collins Avenue

Concert in the Park

Wednesday, August 25 | 7:30 - 9 PM
 Heritage Park | 19200 Collins Avenue
 FREE

Mini-FLOW

Friday, August 27 | 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
 SIB Government Center, 1st Floor Meeting Room
 18070 Collins Avenue
 Appointments are required.

For complete meeting and activity details, visit sibfl.net/events.

TEENS ONLY ESCAPE ROOM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28 | 7 - 9PM

GATEWAY CENTER
 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration required.
 Learn more at activities.sibfl.net.

INSIDE THE Isles

NEW BUILDING PERMIT FEES

We would like to commend the Building Department on successfully developing a new building permit fee structure. After a comprehensive analysis conducted by JRD & Associates, the new fee structure is more transparent, concise, easy to understand, and will ensure cost recovery. The most notable part of the revised building permit fees is that they are more economical for our residents completing small projects. Residents wishing to complete a \$5,000 project can now expect a 78% reduced permit fee. In addition, our fees for commercial projects remain competitive when compared to neighboring cities.

The new building permit fee structure is as follows:

Take the total cost of your job or project and multiply it by the percentage in the appropriate tier below to figure out the cost of your building permit.

RESIDENTIAL FEES

Minimum fee: \$25 applied to the job value up to \$1,000.

Tier 1: Job value between \$1,000 and \$50,000.
 2.75% of Job Value

Tier 2: Job value between \$50,000 and \$100,000.
 2.50% of Job Value

Tier 3: Job value exceeding \$100,000.
 2.00% of Job Value

COMMERCIAL FEES

Minimum fee: \$25 applied to the job value up to \$1,000.

Tier 1: Job value between \$1,000 and \$100,000.
 2.75% of Job Value

Tier 2: Job value between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000.
 2.50% of Job Value

Tier 3: Job value between \$1,000,000 and \$100,000,000
 2.00% of Job Value.

Tier 4: Job value exceeding \$100,000,000.
 0.50% of Job Value

Note: The new building permit fee for new constructions and additions includes roofing, windows/doors, driveway (not including approach), and zoning (the plan review).

The new permit fee structure is proposed to start in October 2021 to coincide with our new fiscal year.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

POLICE DEPARTMENT



The SIBPD work around the clock to help keep all Sunny Isles Beach residents and visitors safe. We want to say a big thank you to the officers, dispatch and administrative staff who ensure our safety, especially during the last year.



We also want to say farewell to Chief Dwight Snyder. After a 46-year career, half of which was with the SIBPD, Chief Snyder is retiring on August 30. Throughout his leadership as Chief, the police department has expanded and improved community policing in our city. We wish him all the best!

BACK TO SCHOOL

SAFETY

Ensuring a safe and successful school year for your family starts at home. Before the first day of school, parents and guardians should talk with their children about a safety plan.

Teach your children what to do in case they get lost by establishing a meet up spot, such as the SIB Government Center, in case of emergencies. Parents should teach their young children and teens how to avoid tricks that strangers might use to gain their trust. All students should know their parent's or guardian's full name and phone number.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

The City of Sunny Isles Beach also has a zero-tolerance traffic enforcement safety initiative. Please obey all traffic rules, be alert of oncoming traffic when crossing the street, and yield to pedestrians. When loading or dropping off students from school, use the designated drop-off lane and have students exit/enter the vehicle from the passenger side only.

If your student rides a bike or skateboard to school, make sure they are wearing the right protective gear, following the rules of the road, stopping at stop signs and always looking both ways before crossing a street. Students may bring their own lock and secure their bike at the racks adjacent to the P.E. shelter or secure your skateboard at the racks located at the 181 Drive / North Bay Road bus stop intersection.

Learn more about school traffic safety at sibfl.net/schooltraffic.

GET VACCINATED

Vaccination is also an important part of back-to-school safety. August is National Immunization Awareness Month and we want you to know that you have the power to protect against vaccine-preventable diseases. Vaccines are safe, effective, and the best way to provide immunity before children are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases. Help prevent the spread of disease by working with your doctor to stay up to date on recommended vaccines.

Learn more about the vaccines your child is eligible for on the [CDC's website](https://www.cdc.gov).

Setting the right example for your children to follow will make our school and community that much safer. We hope you join us in making the 2021/2022 school year safe, happy, and productive!

FALL 2021 PROGRAM LINEUP

This fall, we are happy to offer an expanded lineup of recreational programs, athletics, and ongoing programs for all ages. Kids may join Karate and learn the art of self defense. Adults and seniors now have the opportunity to experience returning and new activities at Gateway Center, the City's new state-of-

the-art recreational facility. Adults may join yoga to melt the day's stress away or Circuit Training to work up a sweat. Seniors can also fill their day with fun activities such as "Bingocize," an interactive bingo game, Tai Chi or relax with a film screening from the Golden Era.

We hope to see you soon!

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Basketball Academy	Soccer
Cheer & Dance	Speed & Agility
Gymnastics	Study Hall
Karate	Volleyball
Ready, Set, Grow!	

ADULT PROGRAMS

NEW

NOW AT GATEWAY CENTER

Barre Pilates	Yoga
Circuit Training	Zumba
Oil Painting Club	

SENIOR PROGRAMS

NEW

NOW AT GATEWAY CENTER

Bingocize	Mahjong Club
Chair Yoga*	Movement & Mobility
Game Club	Senior Barre*
Golden & Modern Era Movies	Tai Chi*
Low Impact Aerobics*	Zumba Gold*

ONGOING PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- AARP Smart Driver
- Bingo
- Blood Drive
- Blood Pressure & Glucose Screening
- Mini-FLOW
- Mount Sinai Medical Lecture Series



**SIBeHealthy is a new subcategory of programs available to individuals ages 55+ for a small fee. Residents who are 62+ and have a valid City-issued SIB Resident ID Card can register for two free eligible programs a month.*

For more information and to register, please visit sibfl.net/fall.