

# SIB islander

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

August 2016

## SIB 2017 Photo Contest

Entry deadline is September 1

What do you see when you look around our beautiful island home? Everyone has a different perspective of everyday objects, buildings, the ocean and natural spaces, our people and city facilities. Let your creative juices flow. Enter into the



spirit of competition by taking photos within the City limits between 158 and 195 Streets from the Intracoastal Waterway to the Atlantic Ocean. Send up to ten high resolution photo entries per person to [photocontest2017@sibfl.net](mailto:photocontest2017@sibfl.net) by midnight September 1.



## from our Mayor



George 'Bud' Scholl  
Mayor

Our K-8 community school is one of the finest in the Miami-Dade County Public School (MDCPS) system having received an "A" rating from the State of Florida every year since its inception.

After nine years of dedicated service to Sunny Isles Beach K-8 and 36 years within the MDCPS system our school's founding principal, Dr. Annette Weissman, is retiring. Dr. Weissman has performed an incredible job of starting the school from scratch and quickly building a sterling reputation. Our school's students, teachers and support staff have received numerous awards and recognition on the regional and national levels all under Dr. Weissman's leadership. She leaves behind quite a legacy which will need to be perpetuated by our next principal, teachers and staff.

Since our community school is operated by the MDCPS system, they are the ones that are responsible for vetting and choosing Dr. Weissman's replacement. MDCPS officials went through a very comprehensive search and interview process in filling this important position within our community. After much consideration, they decided upon Dr. Adam Kosnitzky, a highly experienced professional who has been working within the MDCPS system for 22 years. Dr. Kosnitzky has been in school administration for the past 10 of those years with his most recent post as principal at Norland Elementary School. He earned his PhD from Barry University in Leadership and Education with an emphasis in Special Education, his Master's degree in Math Education from Florida International University and his Educational Specialist in Special Education degree from Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Kosnitzky has a long family history with our community dating back to 1973 when he and his family first moved to Florida and actually lived in the Dunes motel before settling in North Miami Beach. His late father, Harry, and mother, Audrey, have been residents of Winston Towers for over 30 years.

I know I speak for all our residents as we welcome Dr. Adam Kosnitzky as our new school principal and look forward to supporting him and all of the teachers, staff and students at our community school.

# A Message from the City Manager

by Christopher J. Russo



Providing caring customer service goes beyond the places and people that you usually expect. You expect good customer service at a market, an entertainment venue, the library, and of course when you visit Sunny Isles Beach. Here, we extend that exceptional level of care to all facets in which we serve the public; Building and Code Enforcement, Community Center and Parks, Ocean Rescue and Police. There are times that the public doesn't respond as we expect. Some of those can simply be a misunderstanding. A misunderstanding that can be avoided.

Please read the message below from our Police Chief Fred Maas on a valuable program that is gaining national attention relative to this subject.

## Autism and the Wallet Card Program

There is a wonderful program in existence that helps the general public as well as police officers, fire rescue personnel and city or county officials and workers that interact with people who have Autism Spectrum Disorder (A.S.D.)

There has been a wave of media and medical attention given to this condition that affects persons of all ages, from young toddlers to adults. What is important is that so much additional knowledge and

understanding of autism and its characteristics and effects on people is readily available. No one has to be uninformed about autism. In fact, the more you understand, the more you will recognize and be able to effectively interact with those who have it.

One of the available programs to benefit the autistic, and those coming into contact with them, is the "Wallet Card Application."

This simple yet highly effective program enables an autistic person of any age to produce an identification card when necessary to provide personal identification of the individual, the fact that they are a person with autism (A.S.D.) and an emergency contact number if necessary.

Traits of autism can be mistaken for other conditions or causes for concern. Once an emergency response person or a member of the general public understands the person and the situation, it can be a "game changer" and reduce potential conflict.

Anyone can learn more about A.S.D., the Wallet Card Program and Application and how to communicate effectively with autistic people by visiting the website provided by Disability Independence Group (DIG). That site address is: [justdigit.org/wallet-cards/](http://justdigit.org/wallet-cards/).

This program was first brought to my



attention by the City Advisory Committee Chairperson Jeniffer Viscarra. I thank her for her contribution to the City and to her committee. City administrators can't be everywhere all the time. The work of the committee expands our reach into the community and this program is an example of how the committee can work with the City for the betterment of our community.

# SIBlife

## Welcome back!

August is Back to School month. The CCS Department was busy this summer getting ready for a new school year. So what's in store? The After School Program Sportstacular drop-in program will be back for our middle school students. This free offering provides unique activities specifically for the middle school students. Participants earn points that are redeemed for a monthly field trip out of the city.

The traditional After School Program has some new things in store as well. Fridays are Fun Days. Movie time is replaced with themed group activities that allow children to explore their creative side. From science to sports, or art to acting, the variety of activities will be sure to engage all students. Space is limited so sign up early.

## Project Updates

You may have noticed all those bumps in the road along Collins Avenue. The crew working on the Undergrounding of Utilities is moving along to the north. As they work, they cover the areas they are still working on with large steel plates at the end of their shift each morning. The area they finish is filled with temporary asphalt. These bumps remain until a full resurfacing that is planned by FDOT. Slow down and use caution when driving over these areas.

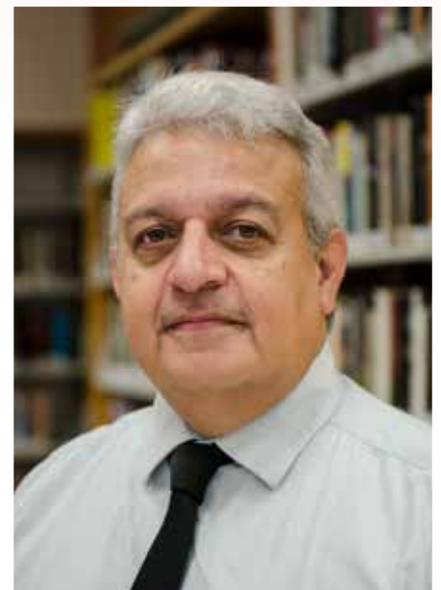
Samson Oceanfront Park is moving along at a steady pace. Work will soon be moving to the south side of the park with the opening of the north side. Beach access

will remain open. With the opening of the north side, there is no longer the need for the free beach chairs. This service will be discontinued. We thank you for your patience during this renovation.

Work along 174 Street has doubled. Two crews are working in two areas to get the project back on schedule after delays due to outside agencies. Simultaneously, the work to construct the emergency/pedestrian bridge to connect 172 Street to 174 Street is taking shape. Residents can now see where the bridge meets the road on both sides. We have received great feedback from parents looking forward to having a safe passage for their children to traverse this area without using Collins Avenue.

## Library News

In April, Hector Vazquez became the manager of the Sunny Isles Beach Branch Library. A native of Miami, Mr. Vazquez graduated from Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High in 1981, served in the Navy for 4 years, and then attended University of Florida, Florida International University, and University of South Florida where he received his MA in Library Science in 1992. Hector has been with Miami-Dade Libraries since 1999, after prior library experience in Lee County and the City of Hialeah. He looks forward to serving the Sunny Isles Beach community. We in turn welcome him, and are happy to have such an experienced leader in our local Miami-Dade Library Branch.



## Taormina Sister City Program

from the desk of Vice Mayor Jeanette Gatto



The Sunny Isles Beach's Sister City partnerships give us the opportunity to take advantage of a variety of cultural exchanges in the areas of business, education, lifestyle and the arts. These exchanges can be very rewarding on many levels for our City as well as the Sister City involved.

To that end, we are very pleased to welcome Erika Raneri from our Sister City Taormina, Sicily. Erika has degrees in architecture and construction engineering. She will be spending the next year living in Sunny Isles Beach and assisting Chris Russo, our City Manager. This work program will give Erika firsthand experience on what it takes to run a city on a day to day basis. She will assist in areas such as code compliance, planning and zoning, building inspections, maintenance and technology. Erica will not only have the ability to bring back to Taormina a wealth of experience but will also be able to share new, fresh ideas which can be beneficial to our City.

We welcome Erika and hope that this is the start of many cultural exchanges with our other Sister Cities—Netanya, Israel and Hengchun, Taiwan.

I welcome your feedback at 305.792.1752 or [jgatto@sibfl.net](mailto:jgatto@sibfl.net).

## The School Annex Connundrum

from the desk of Commissioner Isaac Aelion



Back in 2003, when the City of Sunny Isles Beach was just 6 years old, the pressure from young families with kids moving into the City was so great that a need to build a school arose, and in 2008 the first children walked into a brand new K-8 public school. The first year there were 1200 students enrolled, but a few years later, the capacity grew to almost 1700 and the school was expanded to accommodate the extra student load. Today, the school capacity has grown to almost 2200 students and the City is considering an annex addition next to City Hall to accommodate the growing student capacity.

The City recently celebrated its 19th birthday with pride for having so quickly grown its infrastructure along with the development of new residential units. A byproduct of this growth has been the impact on traffic. Although it is a well-known fact that 70% of the traffic in the City is arterial, there is still that element of increased school children's movement and increased traffic involved with the proposed annex, which deserves serious consideration.

Commissioner Aelion can be reached at 305.792.1700.

# SIBiInformation

## Behind the Scenes with the Communications Division

Media Stats spring 2016:

March—May



We took a look at our communication channel statistics over spring, and here's how we stacked up.

### Website

38,263 unique visitors from  
127 different countries

### Most Viewed City Page:

Employment  
10,656 page views

### Most Viewed Event Page:

Egg Scramble Event  
866 page views

### SIB-TV/Vimeo

2,220 viewers watched online

### Social Media

1,426 "likes" on Facebook  
971 Twitter followers  
702 Instagram followers

### Email:

Our eSIBi service  
3,724 email subscribers  
75 email campaigns sent out

### Photo Gallery:

Most Popular Photo Album  
19th Anniversary Celebration  
1,827 views



### August 3

Wednesday, 3:00—4:00 pm

Bingo

SIB Gov. Center

Commission Chambers

### August 5

Friday, 9:30 am—2:30 pm

Mini-FLOW: Florida Licensing on Wheels

SIB Gov. Center

1st Floor Meeting Room

### August 7

Sunday, 12:30—5:00 pm

Cultural Event Trip:

*Blame It On the Movies!*

Stage Door Theatre, Margate

### August 11

Thursday, 9:00 am—noon

Blood Pressure and Glucose Testing

SIB Gov. Center

1st Floor Meeting Room

### August 13

Saturday, 10:00 am—2:00 pm

Back to School Picnic

Pelican Community Park

### August 17

Wednesday, 10:00 am—noon

Special Master Hearing

SIB Gov. Center Commission Chambers

### August 18

Thursday, 7:00—8:00 pm

Full Moon Yoga

Samson Oceanfront Park

### August 23

Tuesday, 9:30 am—4:30 pm

The Festival Flea Market

Pompano Beach, Florida

### August 24

Wednesday, 3:00—4:00 pm

Bingo

SIB Gov. Center Commission Chambers

### August 27

Saturday, 10:00 am—3:00 pm

Senior Expo

Pelican Community Park

### August 29

Monday, 10:00 am—noon

Modern Era Movie

Pelican Community Park

## 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 Computers, Internet and Email

Tuesday: August 2 for English

Tuesday: August 16 for Spanish

10:30 am inside the library

### Programs for Children

Bedtime Stories

Wednesdays: August 3–31

6:30–7:15 pm

Sharing stories and music in the evening.

Ages 3 to 5 yrs.

Reading Ready Toddler Storytime

Mondays: August 1–29

10:00–10:30 am

Stories, songs, and activities for toddlers and their caregivers.

Ages 19 mo. to 3 yrs.

Family Program

Saturdays: August 6–27

11:00 am

Stories, crafts and activities for children & their families.



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.

# SIB *islander*

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18115 North Bay Road  
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# CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

18070 Collins Avenue • Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

## SIB *islander*

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



JOIN US THIS AUGUST  
at Pelican Community Park

### Back to School Picnic

Saturday, August 13 • 10:00 am—2:00 pm  
Pelican Community Park • 18115 North Bay Road

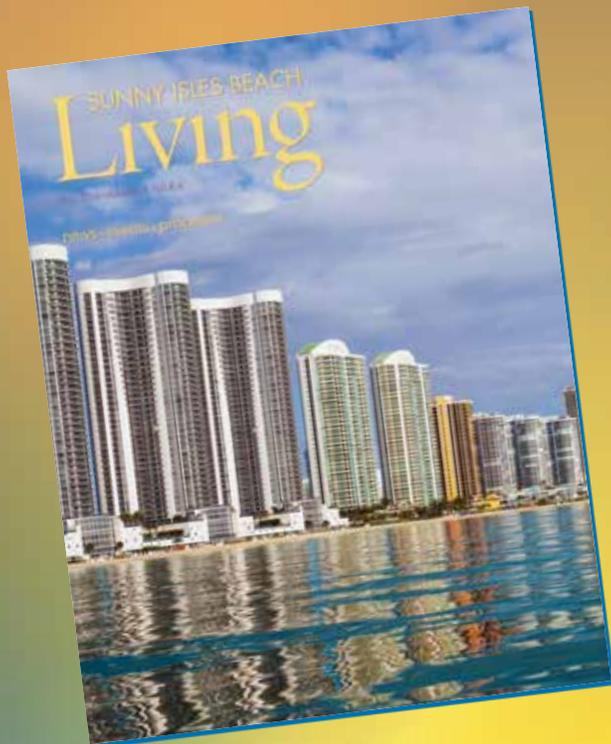
Prepare for the new school year at this fun,  
free and informative event.

### Seniors Expo

Saturday, August 27 • 10:00 am—3:00 pm  
Pelican Community Park • 18115 North Bay Road

The City, along with *BoomerTimes* and *SeniorLife Magazine*,  
presents exhibits on travel, health and wealth.

Cash and prize raffles and entertainment will be offered  
throughout the day, plus a veteran recognition ceremony  
at 11:00 am. The event is free and open to the public.



The fall 2016 edition of *SIB Living* will be available  
soon! Visit [sibfl.net](http://sibfl.net) for more City activities  
or call 305.792.1706 for additional information.