

# SIB islander

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

July 2017

## WANTED! STUNNING PHOTOS



**The SIB Photo Contest 2018  
deadline is September 1, 2017**

We live, work and play in paradise. Share your best shots of this beautiful City and its everyday objects, buildings, the ocean, natural spaces and our people. Make sure your photos are within Sunny Isles Beach City limits between 158 and 195 Streets, from the Intracoastal Waterway to the Atlantic Ocean. Send up to 10 high resolution photo entries per person to [photocontest@sibfl.net](mailto:photocontest@sibfl.net) by midnight September 1, 2017



## *from our* Mayor



George 'Bud' Scholl  
Mayor

In addition to the number of new buildings still under construction by developers, our City has also had several large, complex projects happening over the past several months.

Probably the most visible to our residents and guests has been the undergrounding of our utility lines and new lighting posts along Collins Avenue. This is a project where the major work has been completed at night to cause the least amount of disruption. However, the most frustrating part of this project for residents and commuters has been the uneven road conditions along Collins Avenue because of all the road patches needed to cover the trenches that were required. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is responsible for resurfacing Collins after we have completed the necessary trenching for placement of the underground conduits (piping) that will house the utility cables. The good news is we have completed the portion of this project that has prohibited the FDOT from resurfacing the road. They are scheduled to commence this work by the end of June. We hope that by the time you are reading this newsletter, the resurfacing of Collins Avenue will have commenced.

Another major project coming our way is beach renourishment. The federal Army Corps of Engineers is the branch of the government that is responsible for beach renourishment in South Florida. We have been working with the Army Corp. for a number of years in acquiring the permits and easements necessary to provide additional beach sand to some badly eroded areas of our beachfront. We are pleased to announce that the Army Corp has scheduled this project to commence by November. It is no longer possible to pump sand from offshore like in years past, now it must be trucked in from specially approved sand reservoirs.

The other project that is moving along and should be completed by year end is the emergency/pedestrian bridge connecting North Bay Road at 174th Street. This has been a multi-year endeavor that required a massive amount of coordination and permitting. We have also completed the Gateway Park and parking garage along with the Gateway Park Pedestrian Bridge over westbound 163rd Street, Sunny Isles Boulevard. These projects continue to move us toward our major goals of hardening our infrastructure and having a truly pedestrian friendly, interconnected city.

# SIBlife

## Get Your Play On

July is Parks and Recreation Month and Sunny Isles Beach residents have so much to celebrate! Eleven parks with a variety of amenities and an entire beach all within walking distance to every resident. Join us at a park in July and be sure to post your favorite park picture on social media using the hashtag #PlayOnJuly to show the world how to play Sunny Isles Beach style! And as always, with all of your Sunny Isles Beach social media, be sure to include us, using the official Sunny Isles Beach hashtag #CityofSIB.

## More Undergrounding

As promised, this project keeps moving. Next up is Atlantic Avenue between 178 Street and 183 Street. This area around the school has limited time when it is possible to do this work. Where there are normally lines of cars and buses, will now be construction equipment. Although no roads will be completely closed, you will encounter occasional lane closures managed by flagmen. Avoid it when possible by using North Bay Road to traverse north and south in this central island area.

## Growing Pains

We have often written about the benefits, both hardening of infrastructure and aesthetics, of the Undergrounding of Utilities project that has been in progress since April 2016. We warned about the frequent late night lane closures, we survived the few gas leaks that created traffic delays for morning commuters, we made it through the equipment noise overnight. However, the concern that has most often been expressed

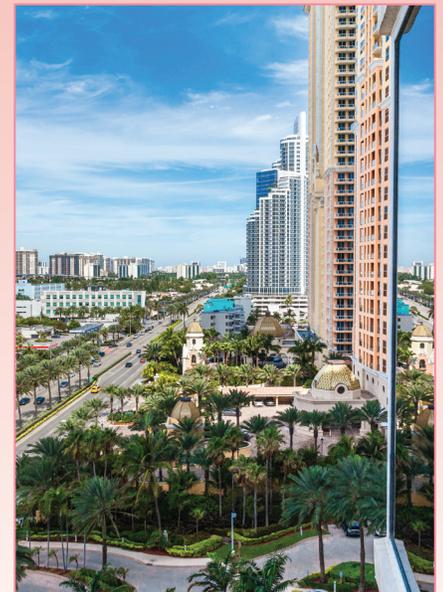
throughout it all is the 'bumpy road' left on Collins Avenue. Those bumps are an unfortunate phase of this project. We are now pleased to advise that the next phase of this project, the milling and repaving of the road by FDOT, has commenced. It is a major project and we have a long road ahead before we see the completion. Just as this past phase that lasted 12 months went by so fast, so will this project which is estimated to take roughly 13 months. For more information, you can contact the FDOT Project Administrator, Mario Vega, P.E. at 305.968.8460.

## Stay Connected

With many projects in the City as Mayor Scholl mentioned, it is important that you connect with us through our email service, website visits, SIBTV on Atlantic Broadband Channel 107-5 or AT&T Channel 99 and through our social media outlets. You can do so by following on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @CityofSIB. Sign up for the City's email notifications at <https://www.sibfl.net/media/esibi-e-mail-notifications/>. For questions, contact Cultural and Community Services at 305.792.1706.

## Sister City Program Update

It's official! The City of Sunny Isles Beach and Punta del Este, Uruguay signed a Sister City Agreement in June. This tourist town in South America represents our Latin American community. All Sister Cities are represented in the Visitor's Center located on the first floor of the Government Center. Stop by Monday-Friday between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm to learn more.



# A Message from the City Manager

by Christopher J. Russo



I want to use this opportunity to recognize a seldom acknowledged City department, its manager and department members, who are, in my opinion, part of the many unsung heroes of our City government. I am talking about our Code Compliance Department.

Most citizens don't realize how important code compliance is. In fact, some might even consider it a bother. But, I want to tell you, as a manager for over 30 years, I know firsthand that effective code enforcement is absolutely essential to the increase in property values, protection of safety and health, and enhancement of the overall image of a community. Good code enforcement can make the difference between a "good" and a "great" city.

Don't take my word for it though. Look at the history of this area. Before we became a City and developed proper ordinances and established a Code Compliance Department to enforce them, there was literally no local code enforcement in the then "Sunny Isles" area. Properties were allowed to deteriorate, leading to blighted conditions. Such conditions, as they tend to do, led to a steady stream of crime involving theft, drugs, prostitution, and the

proliferation of numerous safety hazards. After its formation, the City quickly established our Police Department which did a masterful job of cleaning up the streets and reducing crime, while the City Commission developed a series of ordinances designed to keep the City beautiful and safe, raising the quality of life of our citizens, and increasing (and preserving) property values. Besides these ordinances, our Code Compliance Department also enforces fire, building and zoning codes.

This is no easy job. Helena Forbes, our Department Manager, and her staff, are responsible for ensuring this protection and compliance. They have the very difficult task of talking to citizens about their code violations—usually something negative and not something people usually want to hear about. They deal with hundreds of inquiries, violations, and other matters every month. Our highly trained team of Code Compliance Officers consider the degree and nature of the violation and how to help property owners come into compliance, recognizing that many times violations are unintentionally committed, usually due to lack of knowledge.

Helena Forbes ensures her staff is always respectful and not punitive. She requires

uniform enforcement, whether our officers are dealing with making sure certain licensing is current and in place, citing structures in disrepair, eliminating trash and overgrown vegetation, dealing with fence and wall issues, eliminating prohibited signage or outdoor storage, dealing with sidewalks and lane closure problems, beach and parking enforcement, securing seawalls, even dealing with stray animals. They are out on the streets every day of the week. Helena emphasizes to her staff to always consider the delicate balance between general rights of property owners on their own individual properties with the maintenance of the City's image and overall welfare of the general public. She ensures our Code Officers are customer friendly and here to serve you!

Sunny Isles Beach is a beautiful City in which to live, work and play. Residents enjoy magnificent year-round weather, friendly neighbors, and a low crime rate that is the envy of other cities. One of the reasons for this high quality of life is the mostly thankless job of our Code Compliance Department. So the next time you see a Sunny Isles Beach Code or Parking Enforcement Officer, please take a moment to say thank you. They deserve our support and gratitude!

## Donations Directly Contribute to Students Success

from the desk of Commissioner Jeanette Gatto



For those of you who have children attending the Norman S. Edelcup/SIB K-8 School you may be aware of the newly built computer lab at the school. What you may not know is that the lab, along with other “big ticket” learning tools, was provided through generous donations to the Sunny Isles Beach Children’s Trust. The SIB Children’s Trust, since its inception, has purchased over \$300,000 of state-of-the-art amenities to help our students attain the highest advantage of educational excellence through financial support of supplemental resources and programs. This included sophisticated mobile computer carts with computers, which allows them to be taken from class to class, learning software and other amenities.

It is the goal of the Sunny Isles Beach Children’s Trust to give our students the most advanced tools available which are typically not budgeted by the Miami Dade School Board, providing them with a competitive edge in the educational arena. In the future, the SIB Children’s Trust will be more visible within the community in the form of coordinated programs for the next school year. Investment in our children’s education cannot be stressed enough. If you are interested in volunteering your time or simply want to make a donation you can reach me at [jgatto@sibfl.net](mailto:jgatto@sibfl.net).

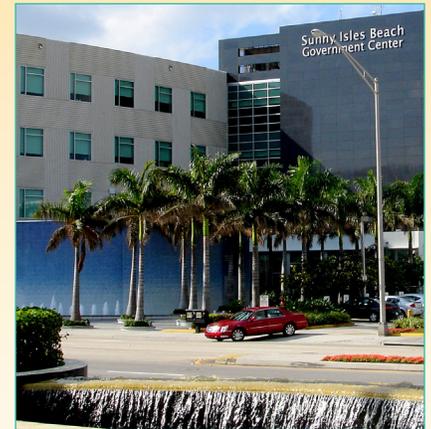
## SIB Veterans Wall Nominations Due by September 1

The City of Sunny Isles Beach recognizes residents who have served in the U.S. Military Services by adding their names to our Military Memorial Wall at Heritage Park each year on Veterans Day, November 11. To apply, complete the application form, provide proof of residency and a copy of the Honorable Discharge Certificate or the DD214 Discharge Form.

Veterans or relatives may get the application at the Government Center, 18070 Collins Avenue or Pelican Community Park, 18115 North Bay Road. A resident may also request an application be mailed to their home. Applications may be downloaded from the City website at [sibfl.net](http://sibfl.net). Click on the Resident dropdown menu and click again on Nominate a Veteran to see the complete details and to print a nomination form.

If you know a military veteran, male or female, who resides in Sunny Isles Beach, remind them of this honor. Veterans may apply on their own behalf or be nominated, with proper documentation, by a friend or relative. The nominees will receive a reminder invitation to the November 11 ceremony. We hope to see many new veterans, along with past honorees, at the ceremony this year. For questions call Cultural and Community Services at 305.792.1706.

# SIBiInformation



## Behind the Scenes with the Office of the City Clerk

To obtain City records, make a public records request via the Office of the City Clerk. The clerk’s office processes all requests to view and/or obtain copies of Public Records in accordance with State law. The clerk’s office has a “reasonable time” period to provide the information; records are not usually available immediately.

The requestor must pay for copies. A deposit may be required. If a public records request is voluminous and requires extensive City staff time, the City may charge, in addition to the copy charges, a special service charge for the labor cost of City staff.

**To request a public record, address requests to:**

Acting Clerk Mauricio Betancur

**In person at:**

18070 Collins Avenue, 4th floor,  
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160  
By fax to 305.949.3113,  
By telephone at 305.792.1703

**Via email to:**

[cityclerk@sibfl.net](mailto:cityclerk@sibfl.net), or by visiting  
[www.sibfl.net/publicrecords](http://www.sibfl.net/publicrecords).

**July 4**

Tuesday, Independence Day  
Govt. Offices & Pelican Community Park closed  
SIB Shuttle does not run

**July 5**

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

**July 7**

Friday, 9:30 am–2:30 pm  
Mini-FLOW  
SIB Government Center

**July 9**

Sunday, 1:00 pm  
Cultural Event: SIB Historical Bus Tour  
SIB Government Center

**July 11**

Tuesday, 10:00 am  
Golden Era Movie  
SIB Government Center

**July 11**

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

**July 13**

Thursday, 9:00 am–12:00 pm  
Blood Pressure and Glucose Screening  
SIB Govt. Center 1st Floor Meeting Room

**July 15**

Saturday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm  
Summer Splash  
Heritage Park

**July 20**

Thursday, 9:30 am  
Cultural Event: Festival Flea Market Mall  
Pompano Beach, FL

**July 20**

Thursday, 9:30 am  
City Commission Workshop-FY 17/18 Budget  
SIB Govt. Center  
4th Floor Meeting Room

**July 20**

Thursday, 3:30 pm  
City Commission Workshop-Short Term Rentals  
SIB Govt. Center  
Commission Chambers

**July 20**

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

**July 22**

Saturday, 8:30 am  
After School Program Registration Begins  
Pelican Community Park

**July 26**

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

**July 29**

Saturday, 1:00 pm  
Cultural Event: Flagler Museum  
Palm Beach, FL

**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**

Tuesday: July 18  
10:00–11:00 am inside the library

**Programs for Children****Bedtime Stories**

Wednesdays: July 5–26  
6:30–7:15 pm  
Sharing stories and music.  
Ages 3 to 5 yrs.

**Talking is Teaching:****Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers**

Mondays: July 3–31  
10:00–10:30 am  
Activities for toddlers and caregivers.  
Ages 19 mo. to 3 yrs.

**Family Program**

Saturdays: July 1–29, 11:00 am  
Activities include the entire family.

**Programs for All Ages****Poetry Reading**

Saturday: July 22  
4:00–5:00 pm  
Bring your own poetry to share, hear others recite their own, or come share your 'all-time' favorite with others.



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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CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH  
CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

18115 North Bay Road  
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160  
305.792.1706

July 2017

# 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!*



## Golden Era Movie

*Roman Holiday*

with Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn

Tuesday, July 11 • 10:00 am

SIB Government Center • 18070 Collins Avenue



Note: The summer movie will be held at the SIB Government Center, 1st Floor Meeting Room. Movie and lunch are complimentary with the SIB Resident ID Card & \$5 without. Reservations are required and must be made in person at the Sunny Isles Beach Government Center or Pelican Community Park. Be sure to RSVP early, as space is limited and fills up quickly.

## SUMMER SPLASH



Join us in cooling off this summer at our **FREE** event that will feature giant water slides, bounce houses, entertainment, games, and other fun activities.

Saturday, July 15 • 10:00 am—4:00 pm

Heritage Park • 19200 Collins Avenue

The SIB Shuttle bus provides free transportation, within City limits, or **FREE** Event Parking is available in the Heritage Parking Garage and under the William Lehman Causeway.