

# SIB islander

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

August 2017

## The No Fishing Rule



Residents and visitors should note that fishing from the beach is prohibited by Ordinance 201-6.D, Rule 23.

**Rule 23. Fishing:** No person, adult or minor, shall fish in park waters by use of hook and line, seine, trap, spear gig or other device except at such places and in such areas as have been prescribed for such usage.

**The Newport Fishing Pier, 16501 Collins Avenue, is the only place fishing is allowed along any stretch of the beach** in the City limits of Sunny Isles Beach.



## from our Mayor



George 'Bud' Scholl  
Mayor

No one likes paying taxes and property taxes are no exception! However, I have good news regarding the portion of our property taxes that are collected for operating our City.

We take our responsibility for keeping the City's property taxes as low as possible very seriously. In fact, for the 7th year in a row, we have lowered the City's millage rate.

The City's millage rate is the percentage of your property value that is allocated to contribute toward operating the City. There are currently 34 cities in Miami-Dade County with property taxing authority. With the proposed 2017 decrease to 2.3 mills, Sunny Isles Beach is projected to maintain the 30th lowest millage rate in Miami-Dade County. By way of comparison, if you owned a home right next door in Golden Beach, your 2016 millage rate would have been 8.4 mills. This means the City portion of your property tax bill would have been roughly 3 ½ times the property tax bill that you would pay in Sunny Isles Beach.

An often misunderstood fact about property taxes is the amount of our taxes that are actually paid to our City. Property taxes are assessed and collected by Miami-Dade County and the bulk of these funds are retained by Miami-Dade County. The City only receives 12.5% of your total tax bill. If you look closely at your property tax bill you will find a breakdown that roughly looks like this: 40% School Board, 28% County Operations, 13% Fire Department, 1.5% Library, 5% Other, and 12.5% Sunny Isles Beach. Our residents often are under the impression that all their property tax payments are going to the City. This is clearly not the case.

Our philosophy is to stretch our property tax dollars as far as possible. While we have no control over what Miami-Dade County charges, we are proud of the fact that the City of Sunny Isles Beach has one of the lowest millage rates in South Florida, which eases the property tax burden for all our property owners.

# A Message from the City Manager

by Christopher J. Russo



## It's summer time and the living is getting easier.

The summer started with a great 20th Anniversary Party which included a visit from our newest Sister City, Punta del Este, Uruguay. The festivities featured a new “nightclub” type party at Heritage Park, our traditional barbeque in Town Center Park—with rides, art, music and games for the kids—followed by the highlight of the celebration. The concert at the newly renovated Samson Oceanfront Park was filled with music and a fantastic fireworks show. This park was the very first park created by our City soon after incorporation. After 16 years of service, it was time to update, expand, and refresh this gem.

We also fully opened Gateway Park and garage on Sunny Isles Boulevard, including the pedestrian bridge, which spans over the westbound lanes of Sunny Isles Boulevard, providing a safe walk to the Park. On the south side, patrons cross at an exclusive street level signalized crosswalk. The 370-car parking garage serves not only the Park, but is also close to the beach. The garage is available for general public parking. Improvements are still being made to this large multi-faceted venue. We are now

focusing on the level of programming we intend to provide and reevaluating the commercial use of the 18,000 square feet of indoor space versus the City's need for programming space. Regardless of what direction we take, I can assure you it will be high quality and focused on meeting the needs of our residents first.

The rehabilitation of Collins Avenue by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is underway. This work followed the placement of underground conduits for the undergrounding of the overhead utility wires on Collins Avenue. As soon as FDOT completes its work in 2018, the City will install decorative streetlights and complete the Sidewalk Brick-Paver Streetscape Plan. Once this phase is completed, the Florida Power & Light (FPL) contractor will commence work, along with other telecommunication providers, placing the wiring underground. This is the most complicated capital project undertaken by our City. The benefits are numerous but mainly resulting in a more hardened system less susceptible to hurricane damage and power outages, while being more aesthetically pleasing. We will then be able to provide lighted holiday decorations on Collins Avenue.

As you read this newsletter, a long awaited project is about to begin; beach sand renourishment. This project, controlled by the US Army Corps of Engineers, is expected to start within the next couple of months and last for about six months. Sand will be trucked into the City from sand mines in the middle of the State. The majority of the sand will be placed from the Newport Fishing Pier north to the border of Golden Beach. The access points for hauling the sand will be at the Ellen Wynn Beach Access, which will be closed for the duration of the project. A secondary access point will be the closed Monaco Motel site at the 175th block of Collins Avenue. The South access will be Haulover Park for sand placed south of the Newport Fishing Pier.

Stay tuned to City email blasts, social media, and other announcements for the details of the project, most importantly the details of the progress along the Beach itself, and the safety precautions being taken while people enjoy the beach.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, but be aware of your surroundings to stay out of harms way.

# SIBlife

## Resort Living

Many of our local resorts along our beach have amazing restaurants and spas, and they welcome residents to enjoy them. Where else can you live like you are on vacation all year round? Hotel restaurants are listed in *Sunny Isles Beach Living* on pages 42 and 43 as well as other local favorite places to dine. August and September are a great time to try them during participation in Miami Spice; a countywide promotion of special menus at a set price for a delectable savings. Search Miami Spice in your web browser for participating restaurants.

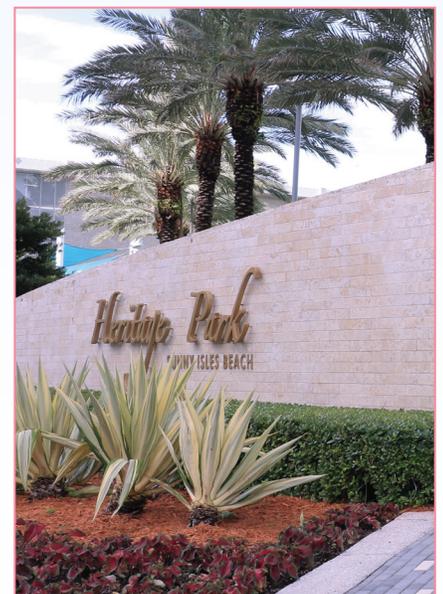
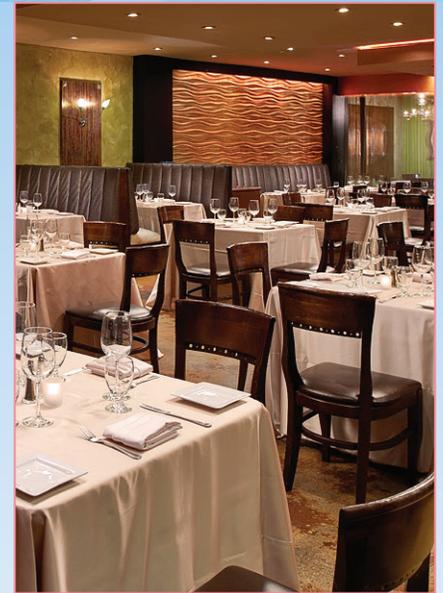
## Beach Rules to Stay Safe

Many people live in Sunny Isles Beach for the actual beach. As year-round residents, we need to be the caretakers of this beautiful backyard. Although maintenance is provided by Miami-Dade County, the City has certain jurisdiction for enforcing the Code but can't be everywhere at all times. We need you to be the eyes and ears; encouraging compliance and reporting misconduct. Some basic rules include: no fishing from the shoreline, no pets, no glass bottles, no cooking or open flames and no fireworks. In July, due to some careless acts by others, an incident occurred that could have been avoided; a fire in the dune at Samson

Oceanfront Park. Fortunately no one was injured but it could have been tragic. There is a 24 hour Code hotline that you can call to report misconduct. The hotline is 305.792.1760 or submit a complaint online at [sibfl.net/codehotline](http://sibfl.net/codehotline).

## Resident ID Update

The CCS Department extends a warm thank you to all 2,400 plus of our residents that have graciously come into compliance with the new Resident ID card requirements in the past 2 months. Working together, with your extra effort and ours, we have greatly increased the value of this free card. With nearly 17% of applications being found fraudulent, we have weeded out those that have taken advantage of your tax dollars. Our CCSD team also deserves a note of gratitude. They have worked diligently to process all of these new applications in record time! When you visit a Customer Service station at either the Government Center or Pelican Community Park, you may not realize that they have served dozens of residents with the same questions right before you. They continue to do so patiently, politely and professionally. A great round of applause to all of you on both sides of the counter!



## Empowering Condominium Owners

from the desk of Commissioner Jeanette Gatto



Don't let anyone tell you that the residents of the City of Sunny Isles Beach are not civic minded. On June 29th the City scheduled a Town Hall meeting featuring State Senator Rene Garcia. Senator Garcia is responsible for co-writing FL State Bill 1682, the new condominium law. This bill directly addresses many of the complaints our citizens have expressed to the Commission over the years. It was refreshing to see about 150 residents in attendance, many armed with questions for the Senator. What's unique about this bill is that violations of the new law can be subject to criminal prosecution, which finally provides recourse to the tens of thousands of condo owners across the state.

Senator Garcia spent significant time clarifying the highlights of the bill. One major benefit of the law is that condo associations with 150+ units must publish all financial reports online. This not only provides easy access to the information but also establishes a historical trend. Other important elements of the bill include enforcing the law against board members who accept kickbacks and those who conduct election fraud. Term limits are now established and taking a salary or hiring relatives for services is prohibited.

I'd like to extend many thanks to the citizens of Sunny Isles Beach for their interest and participation for what turned out to be an informative meeting.

## Check Your SIB Resident ID Card

Beginning July 1, 2017, a valid SIB Resident ID Card is required to receive any resident benefits. This includes but is not limited to After School Program registration, child and adult programs and Cultural Event trips. The City will be enforcing stricter requirements to obtain the SIB Resident ID Card as stated below.

### RESIDENCE QUALIFICATION

In order to receive the resident rate, you must obtain a Sunny Isles Beach Resident ID Card. A government-issued photo ID must be presented for identification purposes, in addition to at least THREE of the following documents:

**Current deed or lease.** A lease must be accompanied by a letter from condo/management office stating who resides in the unit.

**Utility bill** i.e. electric, phone, or cable dated within the last 3 months.

**Current car registration and insurance.**

**Credit/Debit card statement** dated within the last 3 months.

All documents must be valid and include the residential address used on registration form. All document addresses must match address on Resident ID Card application. Also, please note that all SIB Resident ID cards issued moving forward will be effective for only 1 year from the date of issue.

# SIB Information



## Behind the Scenes with Code Compliance

### Local Business Tax Receipts & Certificates of Use Renewals

The City notifies all taxpayers to renew both by October 1 yearly.

Delinquent charges apply if not renewed by October 1, or the first work day thereafter.

Renewals of Receipts and Certificates are not issued until delinquent payments, fees, liens, special assessment lien, and/or other debt or obligation due to the City, has been paid in full.

Receipt renewals not issued by October 1 are delinquent and subject to a 10% penalty for October, plus a 5% penalty for each month thereafter, until paid. The total penalty shall not exceed 25% of the tax due.

Any Certificate renewal with changes in use of the premises—physical or structural changes—must be processed as a new application.

Current Local Business Tax Receipt and Certificate of Use may be renewed each year by the City License Officer.

### Department Statistics

April 1 to June 30

### Code Enforcement Case Stats:

New cases opened 77

Total cases closed 38



## August 2

Wednesday, 3:00 pm

Bingo

SIB Govt. Center

Commission Chambers

## August 4

Friday, 9:30 am–2:30 pm

Mini-FLOW

SIB Government Center

## August 8

Tuesday, 9:30 am

Cultural Event: Seminole Casino

Coconut Creek, FL

## August 10

Thursday, 9:00–noon

Blood Pressure, Glucose & Cholesterol Screening

SIB Govt. Center, 1st Floor Meeting Room

## August 12

Saturday 10:00 am–1:00 pm

Back to School Picnic

Pelican Community Park

## August 13

Sunday, 1:00 pm

Cultural Event: SIB Historical Bus Tour

SIB Government Center

## August 14

Monday, 10:00 am

Modern Era Movie

SIB Government Center

## August 20

Sunday, 10:30 am

Cultural Event: Schnebly Redlands Winery,

Tour and Tasting

Homestead, FL

## August 23

Wednesday, 3:00 pm

Bingo

SIB Govt. Center

Commission Chambers

## August 26

Saturday, 5:00–8:00 pm

End of Summer Beach Bash

Samson Oceanfront Park

## August 27

Sunday, 11:00 am–1:00 pm

Wiggle & Paint

Samson Oceanfront Park

## August 30

Wednesday, 10:00 am

Special Magistrate Hearing

Code Enforcement Violations

SIB Govt. Center

Commission Chambers

## August 31

Thursday, 6:00 pm

Beach Sand Renourishment Project

Information Meeting

SIB Govt. Center Commission Chambers

## 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: August 22

10:00–11:00 am inside the library

## Programs for Children

Bedtime Stories

Wednesdays: August 2–30

6:30–7:15 pm

Sharing stories and music.

Ages 3 to 5 yrs.

Talking is Teaching:

Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers

Mondays: August 7–28

10:00–10:30 am

Activities for toddlers and caregivers.

Ages 19 mo. to 3 yrs.

Family Program

Saturdays: August 5–26

11:00 am

Activities include the entire family.

## Programs for All Ages

Poetry Reading

Saturday: August 26

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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18115 North Bay Road  
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305.792.1706

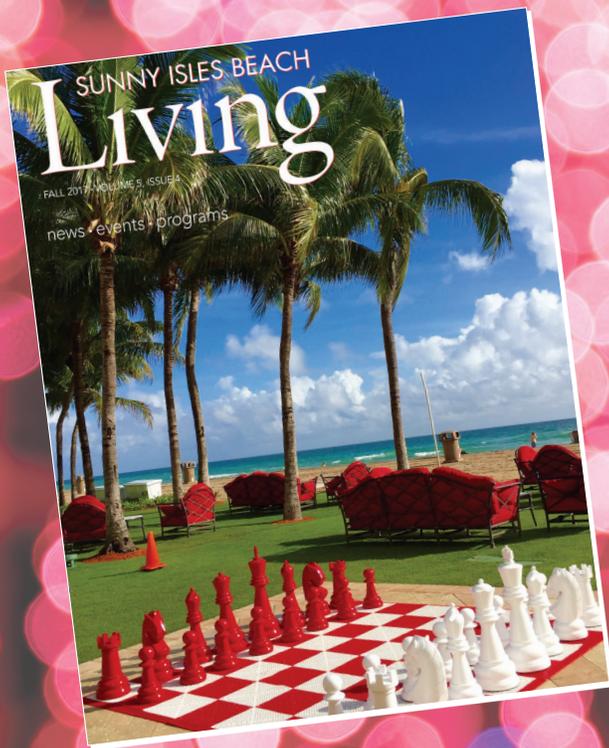
August 2017

# 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!*



The fall 2017 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.

## *End of Summer Beach Bash*



End summer the right way at our FREE evening event open to the public. Catch a live performance by *Curbstone*, sample some of Miami's best food trucks, enjoy crafts for kids, have fun with beach balls, and so much more.

Saturday, August 26 • 5:00—8:00 pm

Samson Oceanfront Park • 17425 Collins Avenue

The SIB shuttle bus provides free transportation for SIB residents, or free parking is available on 174th Street, north side and the municipal lot behind Walgreens, and at the Government Center.