

# SIB islander

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

February 2018

*Gateway Park Grand Opening  
presented by Solé on the Ocean*



## featuring Cassadee Pope

Join us as we celebrate the grand opening of the City's newest park. This exciting event features platinum selling artist and Grammy-nominated singer Cassadee Pope. The event will also feature fun activities, giveaways and food and beverages for purchase.

**Saturday, February 24 • 7:00 to 10:00 pm**

Admission is \$5 with valid SIB Resident ID Card and \$15 without. Parking in the garage is free of charge with overflow parking at Bella Vista Bay Park. The SIBshuttle is also providing free transportation for residents within the City.



*from our* **Mayor**



George 'Bud' Scholl  
Mayor

**W**hen you think of Sunny Isles Beach, the first thing that may come to mind is the pristine beach spanning across the eastern coastline of our magnificent city.

**W**hat might not come to mind is the extensive planning, lobbying for funding and regulation changes, and labor it takes to maintain the beach in the highest quality. This is where the United States Army Corps of Engineers' beach sand renourishment project came to fruition.

Beginning in October of last year, the first batch of the 140,000 cubic yards of new sand was placed on our beach, thus initiating SIB's coastal restoration. Additionally, private development projects will be placing sand to fill in some areas that were not covered in this project. Upon completion, our beach and namesake will be restored and rejuvenated, providing a more pleasant beach experience for all. Both the public and private sand nourishment will exceed 200,000 cubic yards of sand added to our beach.

Throughout the past couple of months, you may have seen flagmen in neon-colored safety vests and hard hats along the beach. These workers were stationed in various locations throughout the project limits to ensure the safety of pedestrians entering the beach and restrict pedestrian access into the hazardous construction area.

And while parts of the beach might have been closed for a period of time, disrupting a walking route or favorite sun spot, this unpopular decision was made out of the necessity to complete the project on time while maintaining the highest level of pedestrian safety.

Project managers endeavored to keep as much of the beach open to the public as possible, however, there were some locations in which maintaining both the safety of the project and beach goers was impossible, thus calling for certain restrictions. When undertaking a construction progress on the beach, the safety of the workers and pedestrians is always the number one priority.

With approximately 75 percent of construction complete, we are currently in the final stages of this project. I am happy to say the beach renourishment project is on track to be completed by early March, nearly three months before the original completion date.

# SIBlife

## AARP Tax Return

Beginning February 7, trained volunteers will be at the SIB Government Center on Wednesdays to aid low to middle income taxpayers with their tax return preparation and filing. From 9:00 am to 3:00 pm each Wednesday until April 11, visit the First Floor Meeting Room to receive help from AARP Tax-Aid Foundation volunteers. Be sure to stop by early to ensure your spot in line. This complimentary service is intended for adults aged 60 and over, but is open to everyone. For more information, call 305.792.1706.

## SIB College Scholarship Program

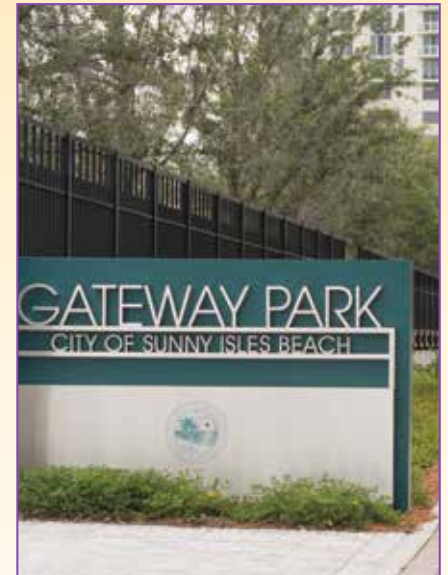
Calling all high school seniors! The deadline to apply to the 2018 College Scholarship Program is Wednesday, February 28 at 5:00 pm. Applicants must be a graduating senior enrolled in a public school or accredited private school and must be accepted into an accredited college or university. Applicants must also be a current resident of the City of Sunny Isles Beach for a minimum of one year prior to January 1, 2018; copy of parent/legal guardian's valid SIB Resident ID Card is required to complete the application. A minimum of 100 hours of community service with the City of Sunny Isles Beach must also have been performed by January 1, 2018. Additional requirements include a 200-300 word essay and two letters of recommendation. Applications are available in the SIB Government Center, Pelican Community Park, and online at [sibfl.net/scholarships](http://sibfl.net/scholarships).

Winners will be notified no later than March 30. Although there are only a limited number of scholarships available, we encourage all students to apply. Questions regarding the application process may be directed to [bvalera@sibpd.net](mailto:bvalera@sibpd.net).

## Gateway Park Grand Opening

Grammy-nominated singer, Cassadee Pope takes the stage on Saturday, February 24, at the Gateway Park Grand Opening presented by Solé on the Ocean. The event, which takes place from 7–10 pm, features live music, activities, giveaways and fun for the whole family. Special emcee for the evening is none other than Kiss Country morning personality, U-Turn Laverne. Opening acts include local South Florida bands, Curbstone and Higher Ground. Tickets are \$5 with a valid SIB Resident ID Card and \$15 without. Purchase your tickets today at the SIB Government Center, Pelican Community Park or online at [sibevents.ticketleap.com](http://sibevents.ticketleap.com).

Each month following the Gateway grand opening we are hosting a different musical event at Gateway Park, bringing a diverse array of cultural activity to Sunny Isles Beach. Coming up, don't miss Beethoven on the Beach in March, our Russian Heritage Showcase in April and a special Cinco de Mayo event in May. For more information about the Gateway Park Grand Opening and other City events, visit [sibfl.net](http://sibfl.net) or call 305.792.1706.





# A Message from the City Manager

by Christopher J. Russo



One of the least acknowledged, but quite important, departments in the City of Sunny Isles Beach is the Information Technology Department. Leading the IT Department is Chief Information Officer, Derrick Arias, who boasts more than 25 years of experience in this industry, starting with IBM and later founding his own web services company in California. In 2003, Derrick returned to his native Miami and joined us in Sunny Isles Beach. This was just in time to help plan and assemble our systems in the newly constructed Government Center, while also developing a citywide Wi-Fi service. His vast knowledge, experience and leadership are the main drivers moving the City into the 21st century digital era.

Derrick carefully assembled a very talented team, and developed a strategic plan with a collective mission: to provide excellent information and technology services designed to increase both employee productivity and the comfort and security for our residents and visitors.

When Mayor Scholl entered office, he challenged the department to bring our City into the municipal forefront from a technological standpoint. After many discussions among the Mayor, department

members and myself, we arrived at seven innovative projects. The past two years have seen the completion of several of the Mayor's technology initiatives.

The first project was the deployment of Soofa smart benches. I am proud to say Sunny Isles Beach was the first city in Florida to install these benches. They feature solar-powered charging stations for mobile electronic devices. There are currently 10 benches located across our active City parks.

The second completed project was the implementation of the SIBshuttle mobile application. This app can locate both you and the nearest SIBshuttle. It allows for real-time tracking of the City's shuttle buses, finding the estimated time of arrival to any shuttle bus stop, and route information. This information is available through a mobile application, a telephone number, or using a web browser.

Recently, the City launched PayByPhone parking, and is expanding free Wi-Fi coverage to include the whole beach. Additionally, the City Commission approved the installation of informational touch-screen kiosks that will be located at Samson Oceanfront Park and Gateway Park. These kiosks will provide an interactive

map of the City, details about current and upcoming events, SIBshuttle services, and much more. Another recently completed project was the installation of a 20-seat computer training facility at Marian Towers for our residents.

Acknowledgement of the amazing ways in which this Department has enhanced our City would not be complete without mentioning a little about Derrick's team. Humberto Martinez, Assistant CIO, has been with the department for over six years. His expertise in research and implementation of cost and time saving programs display an essential role as the department is always seeking to stay ahead of the ever-growing technology field. Ely Greenspan and Marco Sanchez joined us in 2015 as IT Analysts, both having worked at the City of Miami. Cheryl Williams joined the IT Department in the Business Intelligence implementation while administratively assisting other departments as needed. Yaroslav Lavitskas has been working for the City since November 2015 as an IT Analyst and represents the future generation of IT professionals.

Needless to say, I am very proud to have this extremely talented and hard-working group in my professional administration.

## Practicing Good Citizenship

from the desk of Commissioner Larisa Svechin



As residents and visitors of this magnificent City, who take pleasure in the natural beauty, the parks, and amenities, it is incumbent on each of us to practice good citizenship. Civilly monitoring public areas, sharing valuable information, or picking up a piece of trash every day, are just some examples of good citizenship.

The City of Sunny Isles Beach endeavors to raise the quality of life by both actively communicating to the residents as well as listening to resident needs. Often, residents ask me about park maintenance, street cleaning, garbage removal, and other quality of life questions. We are fortunate to have multiple departments that are each charged with their respectful specialty. Have you witnessed a street that needs cleaning, a messy construction site, or potentially hazardous situation? Did you know that street sweepers clean all our main streets three times a week? With so many parks and thousands of sprinklers, we have the sprinklers checked weekly—in Gateway Park we are testing a monitoring system that allows remote shut off if a sprinkler malfunctions. But sometimes, something breaks; debris falls off a truck on the road; or garbage is left on a private or public lot—immediately following an inspection. It is our task to call in or email concerns and comments. Some questions can be answered on the website [sibfl.net/askcityhall](http://sibfl.net/askcityhall).

The best way is by email [sibfl.net/email-us](mailto:sibfl.net/email-us) or by calling the Code Enforcement hotline at 305.792.1760. Active good citizenship is the cornerstone of a solid community.

## A New Home for Our Senior Community Center Part 2

from the desk of Vice Mayor Dana Goldman



I mentioned in my last article that we found a home for our new Senior Community Center at our newest park, Gateway Park. I am confident this 16,000 square foot space is the ideal location to provide a comfortable and safe center where our senior residents can enjoy programs and events specifically designed for their demographic. In order to design the highest quality center for our seniors, we have begun researching our surrounding neighborhoods' best practices.

We recently conducted site visits of other community centers in the South Florida region. We met with City Officials of neighboring municipalities who are currently executing successful senior programs. These visits were extraordinarily educational as I learned that good planning is a necessity when it comes to developing a successful and enduring program. Before we “build out” and begin implementing new classes or events, we must first assess the needs of our community, the limitations of the space, and discover the optimal features that will appeal to the target audience while reaping the most benefits for all.

Additionally, our site visits opened my eyes to the essentialness of a banquet space. The design and implementation of this new space, which will provide for a flexible, multifunctional space to best serve our community and improve the quality of life for all of our residents, is at the top of my 2018 New Year's resolutions and priorities. Please feel free to contact me at [dgoldman@sibfl.net](mailto:dgoldman@sibfl.net) or 305.792.1700.

# SIBiInformation



## Traffic Safety

Winter is a busy time in South Florida and our streets are seeing increased levels of traffic. With more cars on the road and people on the streets, there is a heightened risk of accidents. We want to make sure you are safe whether you are driving your child to school, walking to the market, or biking to the park.

### Vehicle Safety:

Always remain vigilant while driving. Distracted driving kills and injures thousands of people each year.

Remember pedestrians have the right-of-way.

Use caution when turning right. Always look both ways, including the exit of driveways.

### Pedestrian Safety:

Walk on sidewalks and do not leave the curb suddenly.

Cross at intersections with traffic lights and crosswalks only. Crossing midblock is unsafe and unlawful.

Do not rely on drivers seeing you. Never assume a vehicle will stop for you.

### Bicycle Safety:

A bicycle is a vehicle and you are a driver.

When riding in the street, obey all traffic signs, signals and lane markings.

Just because you are on a bicycle, does not mean you can run a red light.



**February 1**

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

**February 2**

Friday, 7:00–9:00 pm  
Family Movie Night: *Moana*  
Heritage Park

**February 3**

Saturday, 7:00–9:00 pm  
Family Movie Night: *Moana*  
Town Center Park

**February 3**

Saturday, 6:45–10:30 pm  
Cultural Event: Paul Anka  
Broward Center for the Performing Arts

**February 6**

Tuesday, 6:15–10:30 pm  
Cultural Event: Florida Panthers vs. Vancouver Canucks  
BB&T Center

**February 7**

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

**February 8**

Thursday, 9:00 am–12:00 pm  
Blood Pressure & Glucose Screening  
SIB Govt. Center Commission Chambers

**February 10**

Saturday, 10:30 am–5:00 pm  
Cultural Event: Schnebly Redlands Winery Tour  
Homestead, FL

**February 12**

Monday, 10:00 am–12:30 pm  
Modern Era Movie:  
*The Pursuit of Happyness*  
Pelican Community Park

**February 15**

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

**February 19**

Monday, Federal holiday  
Govt. offices closed  
Shuttle bus runs holiday schedule

**February 21**

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

**February 24**

Saturday, 7:00–10:00 pm  
Gateway Park Grand Opening  
Gateway Park

**February 25**

Sunday, 11:00 am–1:00 pm  
Wiggle and Paint  
Samson Oceanfront Park

**February 28**

Wednesday, 3:00 pm  
Bingo  
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****Citizenship Classes**

Saturdays: February 3–24  
10:00–11:30 am

**Basic Computer Classes for Seniors**

Tuesday: February 20  
10:00–11:00 am inside the library

**Russian Social Club**

Saturday: February 17  
3:30–5:30 pm

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

Wednesdays: February 7–28  
6:30–7:15 pm  
Sharing stories and music.

Ages 3 to 5 yrs.

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

Mondays: February 5–26, except 19th  
10:00–10:40 am  
Activities for toddlers and caregivers.

Ages 19 mo. to 3 yrs.

**Family Program**

Saturdays: February 3–24  
11:00 am inside the library  
Activities include the entire family.

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

Saturday: February 10  
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  
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160  
305.792.1706  
February 2018

# 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!*



### *Sunny Serenade*

The tradition continues with the second installment for 2018 of our original free concert series at Samson Oceanfront Park.

Wednesday, February 21 • 7:30–9:00 pm  
Samson Oceanfront Park • 17425 Collins Avenue



Free parking is available at the municipal lot behind Walgreens on 175th Terrace, on the north side of 174 Street, and at the SIB Government Center. Within the City, ride the free SIBshuttle to and from the concert.

### *Taste of SIB*

Sample foods from neighborhood restaurants at this outdoor event.

Visit [sibfl.net](http://sibfl.net) and see Calendar of Events for latest updates  
Heritage Park • 19200 Collins Avenue



This event has free admission. Free parking is available in the Heritage Park garage or under the William Lehman Causeway. Within the City, ride the free SIBshuttle to and from the event.