

# SIB islander

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

March 2018

## Spring & Summer Camps



### Spring Break Camps

March 26-30 • Registration now open

Turn off the television and enroll your student in a spring break camp. Camp activities are planned to be a fun way to learn and to keep the kids in motion. This year's choices: Soccer, Volleyball and General.



### Summer Camps

June 11-August 17

Registration dates: Resident March 24,

Non-Resident April 7

The Sunny Isles Beach summer fun for kids begins with General Day Camps grouped by age. Sport and Specialty Camps are offered as diverse as soccer, Junior Lifeguard or musical theater. Mix and match the weeks to fit the interests of your child.

## STATE OF THE CITY 2018



George 'Bud' Scholl  
Mayor

Citizens of Sunny Isles Beach, as we complete the 20th year since the formation of our City, I am pleased to present the 2018 State of the City address.

Much was accomplished this past year and without the tireless efforts of our City Staff, none of it would have been possible. I know I speak for the entire Commission and community in thanking everyone who works to support our City for their dedication and professionalism.

We had two very significant events occur in 2017: one that gave us only a few days' notice and one that took years of planning. In early September we were facing the possibility of a devastating Category 5 hurricane making landfall in South Florida. At the zero hour, the storm, Hurricane Irma, stayed on a slightly greater western trajectory and our City was spared the worst of the impact. However, we still suffered significant damage to our electrical infrastructure, vegetation and traffic signalization systems. With an excellent continuity and cleanup plan in place, we immediately commenced working and within 36 hours we were able to provide safe access for our residents and guests throughout the entire City. This was a massive undertaking on the part of all City departments and several outside contractors. We once again thank all involved in this recovery effort for getting us back up and running so quickly. Secondly, our beach renourishment project commenced in 2017. In total, 200,000 cubic yards of beach sand will be placed from public and private sources with the public portion near completion. The team from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state, county, and city staff, along with a variety of outside contractors, have done a fantastic job of renourishing the narrowest sections of beachfront with minimal disruption to residents.

What would a State of the City Address be without discussing our finances? We can proudly report another year of stellar financial performance. For the sixth year in a row, we once again lowered the millage rate. Out of the 35 municipalities in Miami-Dade County, Sunny Isles Beach now is tied with Pinecrest for the fourth lowest city tax rate.



*continued on page 2*



# State of the City from our Mayor

*continued from cover*

This demonstrates our continuing commitment to delivering a high quality of life through responsible financial stewardship. Our tax base of assessed values continued to grow in 2017 and at the end of the year exceeded \$11 billion. One of the main reasons we were able to recover from Hurricane Irma so quickly was due to our fully funded emergency reserve account. We maintain \$10 million in emergency reserves to cover non-reimbursable costs when recovering from unanticipated events such as hurricanes. Having these funds readily available ensured that we could immediately get out in front of dealing with the aftermath of Irma.

Our City is well known for its abundance of parks and public spaces. In 2017, Samson Oceanfront Park was fully reopened after a major renovation project. With a new solid cover over the enhanced playground and stage pavilion, the importance of this upgrade was confirmed during Hurricane Irma as it was ready for immediate use after the storm passed. The newest jewel in our park system, Gateway Park, demonstrated its appeal as we experienced record turnouts at a number of events, such as our Jazz Fest, teen glow party, and multiple holiday festivals, that were hosted in Gateway Park. With plenty of parking and a pedestrian bridge for an easy walk or bike ride, Gateway's 5 acres accommodated a lot of happy residents and guests in 2017. We look forward to completing our



multiuse activity center, with dedicated senior space, within Gateway Park this coming year.

We have always continued to invest in our infrastructure to create a better quality of life for our residents and 2017 was no exception. The undergrounding of the electrical and utility lines and lighting upgrades along Collins Avenue is one of the biggest projects in the history of our City. This project has caused all of us a lot of disruption but saw substantial progress throughout 2017. All the major undergrounding work has been completed and we are now ready for the Florida Department of Transportation to perform the milling and repaving of Collins Avenue which is scheduled to commence this spring. This project also includes the installation of new street lighting along Collins Avenue. Another multi-year endeavor was also wrapping up by the end of 2017. The emergency pedestrian bridge connecting North Bay Road was substantially completed by year-end. This project has furthered our goal of making the City as accessible as possible for school children, pedestrians and bicycles without the need for utilizing Collins Avenue's

sidewalks. The completion of the North Bay Road pedestrian bridge, along with the opening of our Gateway Park pedestrian bridge, now provides access to over 75% of our City by walking and biking on interior pathways.

Sunny Isles Beach is always growing. 2017 brought us the completion of the Marriott Residence Inn and the Porsche Design building, with its unique car elevators. Nearing completion are the Jade Signature, Muse and Parque Towers condominium buildings. Breaking ground in 2017 was the Turnberry Ocean Club, St. Tropez office complex and Aurora buildings. Under construction during 2017 has been the Residences by Armani/Casa and the Ritz-Carlton Residences. Our City continues to attract some of the top developers and architects in the world as evidenced by the many magnificent buildings throughout Sunny Isles Beach.

This State of the City I want to place some particular emphasis on our continuing utilization of technology to enhance our quality of life. As most of you know by now we have been providing free Wi-Fi in and around nearly every public space in our City except for the beach.

## *State of the City continued*

All that is about to change as a result of a lot of work completed in 2017. We recently piloted our Wi-Fi on the Beach initiative by installing an access point at 178th Street. This serves the beachfront from Samson Oceanfront Park to 183rd Street to add to the existing area at the beachfront surrounding the Newport Pier at Pier Park. The pilot project has been so successful that we are now rolling it out further with the goal to cover our entire beachfront with Wi-Fi free to the public. We are one of the first municipalities in the country to offer such an amenity to our residents and guests. We have also completed the design, and are currently installing interactive touch screen kiosks at two parks in the City. We now have an app and website that can inform riders of when our shuttle buses will arrive at their designated stop. In 2017, we upgraded all of our public parking meters to utilize the popular Pay by Phone system, making payment easy and accessible through a smartphone app. This year, our IT department assisted in building out a computer center in Marian Towers for use by residents thanks to a grant from the City for this low-income residential tower. Additionally, 2018 will bring phase two of our security camera installations throughout our park system.

One of the most important technology projects that will be implemented within our City, at the completion of the utility undergrounding project, is our Adaptive Signalization Technology Initiative. This program will tie together all of our traffic and pedestrian signals along Collins Avenue into a synchronized network that will change dynamically as traffic increases

and decreases. Throughout 2017 we have been working with the traffic engineers in Miami-Dade County to bring this cutting-edge technology to our City. By monitoring and changing the timing and duration of our traffic signals during peak traffic times, we will create better traffic flow and mitigate wait times.

We had a great year in 2017 within our cultural and community services offerings. Initiatives that came out of our Cultural Master Plan continued with the establishment of the Public Art Advisory Committee. Leading up to a weekend of festivities to celebrate our 20th anniversary we hosted tours showcasing the history of our City and region. We completed the twinning process of our fourth Sister City when we hosted the delegation from Punta del Este, Uruguay during our 20th anniversary celebrations. Our first intern from our Sister City of Taormina, Sicily completed her internship within the Planning and Zoning department. Throughout 2017, our Cultural and Community Services department orchestrated festivals, car shows, movie nights, sunny serenades, dances and events celebrating most major holidays. All for the benefit of our residents and guests who have come to expect nothing less!

The dedicated men and women of our public safety teams are second to none. In 2017 we had some incidents that without strong police and fire departments could have resulted in tragic outcomes. Our fire station responded quickly and extinguished a fire in one of our high-rise bayside condominium buildings. This fire had the capability to spread throughout the building and endanger many of its residents. The Fire Department contained the fire and

worked swiftly with our Police Department to evacuate residents to safety. In addition to working tirelessly throughout the year, our Police Department assisted many residents before, during and after Hurricane Irma. Even though we were under a mandatory evacuation order, they provided roving patrols in between hurricane feeder bands to ensure that anyone in need had assistance. I have been very fortunate to have one Chief of Police during my tenure on the Commission. Chief Fred Maas has provided a steady hand and strong leadership not only to our officers, but throughout South Florida during his career. We recently learned that Chief Maas will be inducted into the Florida Law Enforcement Officers' Hall of Fame in 2018. This is one of the highest honors in law enforcement in the State of Florida and only bestowed upon a handful of recipients each year. We are thrilled that our own Chief Maas is being recognized with such a prestigious and well-deserved honor.

Finally, none of these great things can occur without strong leadership, teamwork, dedication and professionalism. I want to once again thank my colleagues on the City Commission for their vision and collegiality. Working together, and supporting our staff of dedicated professionals, has once again kept our City thriving in 2017. We are all blessed to be able to live in and enjoy such a wonderfully diverse community, situated along a beautiful coastline with some of the best weather in the world. Our community is incomparable and the only thing better than living in Sunny Isles Beach in 2017, will be living in Sunny Isles Beach in 2018! Thank you and may God bless you.

## Bridging Our Community

from the desk of Commissioner Isaac Aelion



Since the City's inception back in 1997, the population of Sunny Isles Beach has almost doubled. In addition to this population increase, the commuting needs of our residents have also seen an increase.

To enhance pedestrian safety due to increased vehicular traffic, pedestrian bridges became undoubtedly necessary. To that end, the City has built an overpass pedestrian walkway connecting North Bay Road to Gateway Park. An additional pedestrian bridge has also been built with an emergency vehicular passage on North Bay Road from 174th Street to 172nd Street. In addition to these existing walkways, the City is in the planning stages of an overpass pedestrian bridge across Collins Avenue at the corner of 174th Street.

Sunny Isles Beach continues to be a very attractive destination for new residents and tourists alike, and we may see one or more pedestrian bridges crossing busy Collins Avenue in the future. Our City government is working hard to ensure the continued safety of our residents and improvement in infrastructure as our City continues its urbanization into the future.

The opening of the emergency pedestrian bridge on North Bay Road will create an alternative to Collins Avenue for pedestrians and cyclists to traverse 75 percent of our City. Sunny Isles Beach is well ahead of the curve as our City grows in keeping up with the principle that safety will not be compromised as the population continues to increase.

## The Dedication of Teachers—In and Out of the Classroom

from the desk of Police Chief Fred Maas



Although they will both more than likely be upset with me for the recognition given them, I cannot speak about our "team" without including them. In fact, they are the heart and soul which energizes the rest of us to serve with them. I am referring to Ms. Alissa Tapia and Ms. Leticia Figueroa from your Norman S. Edelcup/Sunny Isles Beach K-8.

Both are Assistant Principals and former teachers that progressed through the ranks to administrative positions. Becoming administrators did not change their dedication, devotion, and love for their students. This is truly exemplified by their daily work ethic at the car pool drop off lane. Myself and Corporal Gonzalez (S.R.O.) work alongside these two and we are energized by their positive attitude and the greetings they deliver to children every morning. Quite frankly, it is oftentimes a "mood changer" for the sleepy eyed, reluctant or anxious young ones who are greeted with smiles, hugs or a kind word. They are also very astute to recognize and address safety issues or observations that may be problematic for a family or student.

I have often spoken about my views that teachers and educators are amongst my favorite people. In my opinion, our school is blessed to have two of the best serving there. Even though they are "administration," they have never forgotten their foundation of a "teacher." Please remember to thank all our teachers and staff at NSE/SIB K-8 and give them the respect and recognition they deserve. You truly have the best of the best.

# CITYwide

government meetings & city calendar

MARCH 2018



## March 1

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

## March 1

Thursday, 5:45 pm  
Full Moon Yoga  
Samson Oceanfront Park

## March 2

Friday, 9:30 am–2:30 pm  
Mini-FLOW  
SIB Govt. Center 1st Floor Meeting Room

## March 2

Friday, 7:00–9:00 pm  
Family Movie Night: Cars 3  
Heritage Park

## March 3

Saturday, 7:00–9:00 pm  
Family Movie Night: Cars 3  
Town Center Park

## March 4

Sunday, 5:15 pm  
Cultural Event: Wicked  
Broward Center for the Performing Arts

## March 6

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

## March 7

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

## March 8

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

## March 10

Saturday, 6:00–9:00 pm  
Spring Fling  
Pelican Community Park

## March 11

Sunday, 6:00–7:30 pm  
Beethoven on the Beach  
Gateway Park

## March 13

Tuesday, 10:00 am–1:00 pm  
Golden Era Movie: 7 Brides for 7 Brothers  
Pelican Community Park

## March 15

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

## March 18

Sunday, 12:45 pm  
Cultural Event: Miami City Ballet  
Broward Center for the Performing Arts

## March 21

Wednesday, 7:30–9:00 pm  
Sunny Serenade: Jersey Wiseguys  
Samson Oceanfront Park

## March 22

Thursday, 4:00–7:00 pm  
Teen Foam Party  
Gateway Park

## March 25

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

## March 28

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

## March 31

Saturday, 10:00 am–2:00 pm  
Egg Scramble  
Pelican Community Park

## March 31

Saturday, 7:15 pm  
Full Moon Yoga  
Samson Oceanfront Park

## 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: March 3–31

10:00–11:30 am

#### Basic Computer Classes for Seniors

Tuesday: March 20

10:00–11:00 am inside the library

#### Russian Social Club

Saturday: March 17

3:30–5:30 pm

### Programs for Children

#### Bedtime Stories

Wednesdays: March 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: March 5–26

10:00–10:40 am

Activities for toddlers and caregivers.

Ages 19 mo. to 3 yrs.

### Family Program

Saturdays: March 3–31

11:00 am inside the library

Activities include the entire family.

### Programs for All Ages

#### Poetry Reading

Saturday: March 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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# CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

18070 Collins Avenue • Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160



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



## Spring Fling

Enjoy delicious food, raffles and live music while making new friends during the season of renewal.

Tickets on sale now!



Saturday, March 10 • 6:00–9:00 pm  
Pelican Community Park • 18115 North Bay Road  
\$10 with SIB Resident ID Card; \$20 without

## Egg Scramble

Beginning promptly at 10:00 am, scramble through an ocean of beach balls to find colorful eggs and afterwards, stay to enjoy rides, games, music, crafts and keepsake photos with the Spring Bunnies.



Saturday, March 31 • 10:00 am–2:00 pm  
Pelican Community Park • 18115 North Bay Road  
Rides: \$5 with SIB Resident ID Card; \$20 without