

SIB islander

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

February 2019

Family Fun Fishing Tournament



Sunday, February 10
9:00 am–noon
Newport Fishing Pier
16501 Collins Avenue

Bring your family and friends for a morning of fishing fun while competing for your chance to win great prizes! Entry fee is \$10, or \$5 with valid City-issued SIB Resident ID Card. Entry fee includes one line in tournament. Fishing poles are available to rent with pre-registration only. Pre-register in person at Pelican Community Park or SIB Government Center. For complete rules visit sibfl.net/fishing.

Free parking is available at Gateway Park garage.



from our Mayor



George 'Bud' Scholl
Mayor

The City of Sunny Isles Beach College Scholarship Program was first initiated in 2010 during my time as a Commissioner.

For the last nine years, deserving high school seniors have been granted more than \$100,000 to put toward their higher education expenses.

The idea for a scholarship program originated in June 2010. The Commission realized the value and importance in investing in our youth, and the program's application process began in January 2011. The first group of scholarship winners were awarded in May 2011. Since then, more than 30 scholarships have been distributed, celebrating the achievements of our deserving high school seniors.

Scholarships have always been awarded primarily on their commitment to the community. This opened the door to hard working volunteers who may not have otherwise been eligible for scholarships that were based primarily on grades. Applicants are encouraged to volunteer for the City and are required to write an essay on how their volunteer work impacted the community.

The previous scholarship winners have gone on to accomplish greatness both in and outside of our community. Our winners grew up in our community, participating in our first programs, becoming volunteers and continuing to return to our City. Previous winners have attended prestigious universities in our community and around the country, including, Florida International University, Mount Holyoke College, Cornell University, and Princeton University.

Our winners have started non-profits, their own companies, and are working for Fortune 500 companies. Many winners are even still working for us. Our first scholarship winner worked several different jobs with the City and was recently hired as the City's first Media Manager. Three scholarship winners have gone on to join our current special events team.

We now award four \$2,500 scholarships each year in April. The 2019 application process is currently open. Though we have a limited amount of scholarships, I encourage all Sunny Isles Beach high school seniors to apply. Awards are distributed based on residency, merit, volunteer work, and financial need. You can read more about the scholarship requirements inside this issue. Good luck!

SIBlife

AARP Tax Return

Beginning February 6, trained volunteers will be at the SIB Government Center on Wednesdays to aid residents with their tax return preparation and filing. From 9:00 am to 3:00 pm each Wednesday until April 10, visit the first floor meeting room to receive help from AARP Tax-Aid Foundation volunteers. Arrive early to ensure your spot in line. This service is intended for adults ages 60 and over, but all are welcome.

Lighting Enhancement Progress Report

The Collins Avenue Street Lighting Enhancement Phase of the Utility Undergrounding Project has progressed on the west side of Collins from 192 Street south to the SIB Government Center. Work continues with pole replacement block by block. Stay alert for daily closures in the right lane, southbound Collins Avenue, as the work area continues to progress through this phase.

New Year, New Mini-FLOW Time and Location

The State of Florida Licensing on Wheels has committed to return and service driver license and state issued identification card renewals for Sunny Isles Beach residents every first Friday of the month in 2019. Please take note of the new location at Pelican Community Park and the earlier start and finish times, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Service is limited to a maximum of 30 or until noon, on a first come, first serve basis.

Scholarship Opportunities

High school seniors who have completed their 100 hours of service to the City of

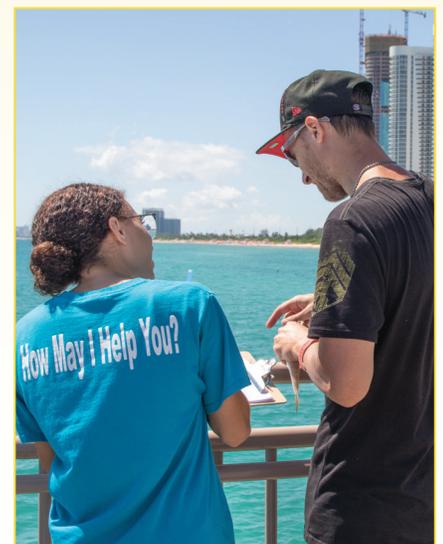
Sunny Isles Beach and have met all other criteria, including Sunny Isles Beach residency one year prior to January 1, 2019, are reminded that the deadline to submit their 2019 College Scholarship application is March 1. Applications and details can be found at sibfl.net/scholarships. Students may begin working toward the 100-hour goal in their freshman year by volunteering with the City. Volunteer opportunities could include counselor-in-training positions and assisting with special events or weekly programs. In addition to earning service hours, volunteers gain experience at the same time they are helping their community. Complete a volunteer application at sibfl.net/volunteer.

Tax Fraud Phone Scams

Around this time of year, unscrupulous people may be calling to try and take advantage of residents by threatening them with fines and jail time for money they supposedly owe the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Everyone should be aware that the IRS does not call you at home with threats. The agency will communicate via the U.S. Postal Service with a letter regarding any tax owed or refund due. Never give out personal information to these callers nor offer to pay. Make note of the caller ID, hang up and go online to report the incident at treasury.gov.

Teens Only Event

Stars Wars: The Last Jedi will be screened on Friday, February 22 at 7:00 pm at Gateway Park. Teens, ages 13–18, must present a school ID or driver's license to enter. The film is rated PG-13 and not suitable for younger children.



A Message from the City Manager

by Christopher J. Russo



When we would think about vacations or time away from home, it used to be about getting settled into a hotel room or maybe a relative's beach house if budget was tight. Nowadays, the game plan is completely different. Some years ago, a couple of friends sharing a house in San Francisco saw an opportunity renting airbeds in their house to be able to pay their rent; that's how "Airbnb" was born. Let's fast forward to 2019 and we have a 25 billion-dollar industry that has spread worldwide.

As you may know, our City gets its share of this new industry; the Airbnbs, or short-term vacation rentals, because we are a very attractive place to live and visit. This phenomenon in Sunny Isles Beach is not unlike other places in South Florida and many other highly sought after destinations. We started to notice an increase in rental activities and received sporadic feedback and complaints around the City. In 2009 we implemented an ordinance to protect the single-family residential areas by limiting the number of times a home could be rented. At that time, the City trusted that condominium associations would regulate themselves regarding this type of activity and therefore did not include language in the ordinance to

target condominium and apartment units.

However, by 2017 the situation started to become problematic at certain buildings. The City recognized it had to take action by regulating the rental activities of condominium units to maintain the quality of life our residents had come to value. By 2018, the City learned that approximately 2,000 residential condominium units were actively being advertised as short-term vacation rentals. These condominium short-term rental regulations were not easy to implement since the State of Florida had already superseded local City authority and left us with fewer options to approach the situation. The revised ordinance of 2018 (Ordinance 2018-522) requires that any condominium unit wanting to rent for six months or less must register with the City of Sunny Isles Beach. This registration requires the approval of the Condominium Association, and registration with the Florida Department of Revenue and Miami-Dade County Tax Collector. In addition, liability insurance and basic safety requirements such as fire extinguishers and smoke detectors are needed to complete the City's registration process.

As of this month, we have received almost 600 registrations and we are working

with external companies to identify all units in the City that actively rent for short-term. You can get information about short-term rentals and register online at sibfl.net/short-term-rentals or you can call 305.792.1740 for more details about the process. Remember, if you decide to run a short-term rental from your property, you are basically starting a business! Then, there are several aspects that could affect the way you use your property. Besides registration, the implementation of the ordinance also contains an enforcement component that continuously evaluates the compliance rates of this program. If you have a complaint about short-term rental activities, you can submit it online at sibfl.net/codecomplaints or call at 305.792.1760. The City constantly implements tools and techniques for the safety and welfare of all its residents and visitors. In this case, these regulations require residential property owners to conduct their short-term vacation rentals in an orderly and safe manner. I hope that you proactively register your property with the City before embarking on the short-term rental market so that you remain compliant with our code and so your guests can safely enjoy their stay in our City.

New Year, New Opportunity

from the desk of Vice Mayor Larisa Svechin



Each New Year is an opportunity to live a more fulfilling life. It could be a commitment to living a healthier lifestyle, possibly becoming a volunteer or devoting more time to your family. It is sparked with an idea. Recently, my daughter was passionately writing an essay protesting smoking; the glint was visible. She pledged to never smoke and encourage others not to (she is in 5th grade). I marveled at her enthusiasm. How can we as adults arouse that sort of passionate dedication? What would it take to wake your passion? It starts with a single humble step.

Our City activities facilitate those small steps to begin; and many for free. Start on that healthy path with pickleball, yoga on the beach, or martial arts in the park. It can lead to quitting smoking, eating healthier, and making friends. Consider volunteering at school; you do not need to have a child in the school. The City also hosts a free weekly oil painting club. There are programs at the SIB Public Library. Enjoy a family program every Saturday. Living in a sunny city means that weather is rarely a barrier to enriching your life. There is a plethora of opportunities: beach cleanup, book drives, hurricane relief efforts, helping seniors, feeding the homeless, and free learning opportunities.

Venture out of your comfort zone. "Never discourage anyone who continually makes progress, no matter how slow," Plato.

I welcome you to reach out to me directly, let's talk, at 305.792.1754 or by email lsvechin@sibfl.net.

Here to Help Our Community

from the desk of Commissioner Alex Lama



I am very thankful and happy to be able to serve our community. I have been living in Sunny Isles Beach for over 30 years and have a lot of family members in this city. This city is very dear to me as I have spent the majority of my life here and it's the city where I grew to become an adult. I graduated high school from North Miami Beach Senior High and then attended Florida International University where I majored in advertising and minored in marketing.

I now have a family of my own and my main goal is to be able to continue living in a city that has a great standard of living and where residents of all age groups enjoy a high quality of services.

My professional experience is in media and advertising. I have been fortunate to work for some of the major media and telecommunications companies in the world where I gained great knowledge managing national and international markets. As your commissioner, I will work hard and apply my experience in advertising and media research as well as the knowledge I've gained as a member of the City Advisory Committee (CAC) for the benefit of the community. I will ensure that we continue to live in a city that provides its residents with exceptional amenities, services and safety.

Please contact me at alama@sibfl.net or 305.792.1752.

SIBinformation

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 and 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 City Clerk
Mauricio Betancur,

In person or via mail:

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, or by
visiting www.sibfl.nextrequest.com.



February 1

Friday, 9:30 am–1:30 pm
Mini-FLOW
Pelican Community Park

February 2

Saturday, 7:30 pm
Chinese Acrobats of Hebei at Gateway LIVE!
Gateway Park

February 6

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

February 7

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

February 8

Friday, 7:00–9:00 pm
Family Movie Night: *The Little Mermaid*
Heritage Park

February 9

Saturday, 7:00–9:00 pm
Family Movie Night: *The Little Mermaid*
Town Center Park

February 10

Sunday, 9:00 am–noon
Family Fun Fishing Tournament
Newport Fishing Pier

February 11

Monday, 10:00 am–12:30 pm
Modern Era Movie: *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves*
Pelican Community Park

February 14

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

February 14

Thursday, 6:15 pm
Cultural Event: Florida Panthers
BB&T Center

February 18

Monday, Presidents' Day
Federal Holiday: Government offices closed
Shuttle bus runs holiday schedule: Blue Line only

February 19

Tuesday, 5:45–6:45 pm
Full Moon Yoga
Samson Oceanfront Park

February 20

Wednesday, 7:30–9:00 pm
Sunny Serenade: Stereo Mix
Samson Oceanfront Park

February 21

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

February 21

Thursday, 6:45 pm
Cultural Event: *Fiddler on the Roof*
Broward Center for the Performing Arts

February 22

Friday, 7:00–10:00 pm
Teens Only Movie Night: *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*
Gateway Park

February 24

Sunday, 4:15 pm
Cultural Event: Jungle Queen Dinner Cruise
Ft. Lauderdale

February 27

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. Unless otherwise noted, classes and programs are held in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Sunny Isles Beach Government Center, 18070 Collins Avenue.

Programs for Adults

Basic Computer Classes for Seniors

Tuesday: February 19
10:00–11:00 am inside the library

Citizenship Classes

Saturdays: February 2–23
10:00–11:30 am

Poetry Reading

Saturday: February 9
4:00–5:00 pm
Share your original poetry or all-time favorites.

Russian Social Club

Saturday: February 16
3:30–5:30 pm

Programs for Children

Bedtime Stories

Wednesdays: February 6–27
7:00–7:30 pm
Share stories and music.
Ages 3–5 yrs.

Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers

Mondays: February 4–25 *except 18th*
10:00–10:40 am
Activities for toddlers and caregivers.
Ages 19 mo. to 3 yrs.

Creative Corner Family Program

Saturdays: February 2–23
11:00 am inside the library
Activities for the whole family.

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CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH
CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

18115 North Bay Road
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160
305.792.1706
February 2019



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.

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

18070 Collins Avenue • Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

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



Chinese Acrobats of Hebei at Gateway LIVE!

These masters of agility and grace combine an outstanding performance with authentic Chinese props, stunning costumes and a beautiful soundtrack.



Saturday, February 2 • 7:30 pm
Gateway Park • 151 Sunny Isles Boulevard

Tickets are \$10 online at sibevents.ticketleap.com or at our two ticket locations. With a valid City-issued SIB Resident ID Card, you may pick up free tickets. Parking at the Gateway Park garage is free or ride the free SIBshuttle within City limits.

Sunny Serenade

Jam out with Stereo Mix. Relax and enjoy high energy classic rock songs in this breezy oceanside park.



Wednesday, February 20 • 7:30–9:00 pm
Samson Oceanfront Park • 17425 Collins Avenue

Free parking is available on the north side of 174 Street, the municipal lot behind Walgreens on 175 Terrace and the SIB Government Center. Ride the free SIBshuttle within City limits.