

SIB islander

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

March 2019

Spring & Summer Camps



Spring Break Camps

March 25–29 • Registration now open

Enroll in camp and stay active while having fun with friends during the school break. This year's choices are:

- Soccer
- Volleyball
- General

Summer Camps

June 10–August 16

General day camps, sport and specialty camps from soccer, to science or musical theater provide summer fun for kids. Mix and match the weeks to fit the interests of your child.

Registration Dates

Residents with a valid City-issued SIB Resident ID Card, March 16.

Non-Residents, March 30.

For more details, visit sibfl.net/ccs or call 305.792.1706.



from our Mayor



George 'Bud' Scholl
Mayor

STATE OF THE CITY 2019

Citizens of Sunny Isles Beach, I am pleased to present the 2019 State of the City address.

First, I would like to convey how humbled I am by your faith and confidence in the office of the Mayor, which was demonstrated by my reelection without opposition this past November. Thank you for that outcome and I promise to continue to do my best in moving our great City forward. However, nothing is accomplished individually, and our City is only as strong as its people. Our residents make their voices heard, your elected officials translate those voices into a vision, and our City staff turns that vision into reality. This year I want to start my State of the City address by focusing on some of our elected officials, past and present, and some of our key City staff members.

2018 was a year of farewells. Police Chief Fred Maas retired in the summer and, due to the Chief's cultivation of the next generation of leaders, Captain Dwight Snyder was promoted to Chief. The transition was seamless for our Police Department that turned 20 years old in 2018. Also retiring, due to term limits, Commissioners Isaac Aelion and Jeanette Gatto served to the end of 2018. We wish them well and look forward to their participation in our community as private citizens. Sadly, we said our final farewell to former Commissioner Gerry Goodman who passed away on May 30, 2018. Gerry remained an active and respected voice in our community right up until the time of his passing. We also welcomed in Commissioners, Jeniffer Viscarra who ran unopposed and Alex Lama who made history by winning one of only two runoff elections in our 21 years. In December 2018, Commissioner Larisa Svechin was appointed as Vice Mayor. We congratulate them all and look forward to the next four years of working together. More recently, our City Attorney, Hans Ottinot, announced that he was leaving for the private sector. After serving over 13 years as our City Attorney, we wish him well in his new endeavors.

We have accomplished a great deal in 2018 and once again, this is due to the actions of our dedicated people. Our finances remain strong with our finance department winning another financial excellence award. Our City's assessed taxable value increased by 1.84% from \$10.9 billion to \$11.1 billion with \$31.4 million coming from new construction being added to the tax rolls. I am proud to report that our millage rate is the fourth lowest municipality in Miami-Dade County at 2.2 mils or \$22 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The City continues to carry a Hurricane/Emergency and Disaster Recovery Operating Reserve of \$10 million and a Fiscal Stability Reserve of 25% of

continued on page 2

State of the City from our Mayor

continued from cover

the general fund operating expenditures, which for this year is budgeted at \$8.9 million. These, along with our unassigned fund balance of \$6.3 million, provide for more than \$25 million in fund balance. We are always hoping we can avoid disasters, however if one strikes, we are prepared financially.

One of the most visible and difficult projects for our residents has been the Utility Undergrounding and Streetlight Enhancement Project. After over a year of uneven road surfacing, the Florida Department of Transportation completed the Collins Avenue repaving project in 2018 and now the City has resumed the undergrounding project. All the underground conduit has been laid and the conversion for FPL lines from above ground has commenced at the south end of the City. This is the first step in getting all of the electrical and utility distribution lines off of the overhead poles. Simultaneously, the City is installing new decorative street lights, starting at the north end of the City. This is still a long process that will require some inconveniences to the public, but all will benefit greatly once this work is completed. You can expect this project to continue throughout 2019 and into 2020.

The Emergency Pedestrian Bridge at North Bay Road opened in February 2018 with little fanfare but tremendous appreciation. After years of controversy over the construction of the bridge, upon opening, the neighborhoods on both sides were using the bridge to visit friends and family, travel to and from school and our parks, and also to just sit, relax and enjoy the view. With this success in mind, we identified three locations for pedestrian bridges across Collins Avenue. In 2018 we commenced on the design of a pedestrian bridge that would connect the east side with the west



side of Collins Avenue at the Government Center. Walking or biking from the north or south, this location is situated to offer the best crossing to get to our most frequented city and county services. The conceptual design is complete and 2019 will see the design finalized after satisfying all of the various federal, state and local permitting agencies requirements. Also in 2018, we launched a planning study for a bridge at the intersection of 174 Street and Collins Avenue to link the community on the west side and Samson Oceanfront Park on the east side. The study is scheduled to be completed in early 2019 with preliminary designs and permitting to follow. Our third pedestrian bridge on Collins will be integrated into a new project at the northwest corner of the intersection at westbound Sunny Isles Boulevard and Collins Avenue. The number of pedestrians crossing combined with multi-lane turns and convergences, make it a priority for enhancing pedestrian safety. Pedestrian safety has been, and will continue to remain, one of our highest priorities. In 2018 our Police Department commenced new multi-faceted enforcement initiatives along our three major roadways, which have yielded very positive results. Additional pedestrian mobility improvements continue with the addition of a lighted crosswalk at 172 Street and North Bay Road to be completed in 2019.

One of the most important amenities of our City is our beach. Early in 2018, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a beach sand nourishment project from our northern border to 184 Street and areas both north and south

of the Pier. This project, along with a private developer project completed in April 2018, brought in approximately 150,000 cubic yards of sand. Beach sand will continue to be on our project list for the next several years as the City is scheduled to receive more than 80,000 cubic yards of sand in 2019 from private development projects. In an effort to keep as much new sand in place as possible, the Army Corps of Engineers will assess the condition of submerged breakwaters in April 2019 as the City pursues the viability of a structure under the pier to maintain sand. Our Information Technology (IT) department was busy on the beach in 2018 with the addition of free WiFi coverage along the shoreline, an amenity few other cities provide. IT also provided security camera upgrades in our parks, and free WiFi coverage on our community shuttle buses. Our Building Department received approval from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to move forward with a plan to add some much-needed shade on the Pier. This project will now move forward to the design and procurement phase.

Our infrastructure improvements are ongoing. The engineering design of the Golden Shores Undergrounding project will begin in 2019. The bid for the Golden Shores Pump Station renovation design will be awarded in 2019 with the work expected to commence by the end of 2019. We are systematically going through the drainage system citywide and making improvements to better prepare it for 10, 50, and even 100-year storm and flood events. These improvements include cleaning

State of the City *continued*

out and upgrading wells and pump stations, investigating storm drainage outflows into the bay while making improvements as needed. The Central Island drainage project is well underway with completion anticipated in early 2019. A more innovative piece of an often-misunderstood subject is our Stormwater Facility Retention Capacity Study that will analyze all of the stormwater retention areas in the City to assess capacity, adding wells, making existing wells deeper, and implementing more innovative techniques as a result of the study.

A few years ago we embarked on the completion of a community Cultural Master Plan (CMP). Many of the goals of the CMP are being met and it continues to guide our decisions as to the events and initiatives that best meet the needs and interests of our residents. The events component included the addition of the annual fireworks show from the Pier at the City's anniversary celebration, seasonal fishing tournaments, the Gateway LIVE! performance series, as well as the bridge building that was accomplished through the SIB Sand Angels event. With the 2018 establishment of the Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC), the City has tasked them with long-term projects related to creative placemaking and community bridge building. In 2019 we can expect them to work toward the City's first Art Park in Town Center Park. Recognizing the need for multigenerational programming, the Cultural and Community Services Department added programs for all ages such as Tai Chi for seniors, an adult basketball league, a youth recreation volleyball league and fitness program just to name a few. The City is also engaging more teens with the monthly teen only events in our parks.

The community center at Gateway Park completed its approval and design phase processes in 2018. Build out will occur in 2019 and is expected to conclude by the end of the year. It will be a quality multifunctional facility, unlike any space the City owns, with programming and entertaining spaces. It will be a special place and provide a central hub for our seniors for activi-

ties and socializing. As a continuation of our cultural exchanges between our sister cities, our second international intern, as part of our Sister City internship program, joined us in 2018. Karol Malamed from Punta del Este, Uruguay, with education and experience in tourism and marketing, taught us a great deal in 2018 and she will continue to learn our city government in 2019 as she finishes out her term.

Our Media team has been working hard to connect our community through all media formats this year. In August 2018 they launched the SIBAlert emergency notification system, which communicates critical and time-sensitive information to all registered users. They upgraded the audio-visual system to provide closed captioning to the City Commission meetings and workshops. We continue to achieve new levels of reporting, accessibility and transparency, which is directly attributed to the great work of our Media team.

Citywide development is the economic engine that continues to provide many of the resources for creating and maintaining our quality of life. In 2018 three projects were completed; Publix Market and Jade Signature and Muse oceanfront condominium buildings. Both Parque Towers and Ritz Carlton are slated for completion in 2019. Projects under construction throughout 2019 and 2020 are the Turnberry Ocean Club, the Aurora, the St. Tropez office building, the Armani/Casa, and the Estates at Acqualina.

Short-term vacation rentals have been a difficult issue for many buildings to manage, often-times eroding the quality of life in certain buildings and creating unfair competition with our hotels. After several months of studying this complex issue and receiving many complaints from our residents, in May 2018 the City Commission adopted a sweeping ordinance to regulate short-term rentals. Our preliminary research discovered more than 2,000 unlicensed rental units out of the roughly 18,000 total condominium units within our City. Registration with the City opened in October and enforcement commenced in December. To date, ap-

proximately 600 applications have been received. Early results have provided us with some solid indications that our approach to regulation is working.

Safety in our schools became a national headline in 2018. We were reminded that we must stay vigilant in our training and proactive outreach. We continue to train our professionals on all levels of safety concerns and all City projects are evaluated from the strictest safety standpoint at the design phase for the safety of our employees and patrons. There has been a deep working relationship between our Police Department and our K-8 community school since the day it opened. This special relationship is evidenced every day by the number of our men and women in uniform assisting at the school. In addition to maintaining one of the finest police forces in Florida, our City's continued relationship with the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue continues to strengthen. They have increased their community outreach to improve safety and detection systems for all condo dwellers, whom are encouraged to take advantage of their offers. We thank all our first responders for their continued dedication and service to our community.

This State of the City address started with a few words about the people who live, work and serve within our great community. The multitude of activities and accomplishments described above are all possible because of the individuals involved in bringing excellence every day to the tasks at hand. I want to thank my colleagues on our City Commission, past and present, and once again welcome our newest members and wish them success. I also want to thank each and every member of our City staff who work tirelessly to turn our collective visions into reality. In the end, our community is made up of and supported by our residents and guests. Many of whom come from throughout our nation and the world bringing a culturally rich environment to our City that makes us all better people. We are all thankful for the opportunity to live in such an extraordinary place. Thank you and may God bless you.

Sun, Sand and Safety: Thanks to our Ocean Rescue Division

from the desk of Chief Dwight P. Snyder



The City of Sunny Isles Beach is a community which offers many outstanding amenities to our residents and guests such as an abundance of parks, social activities and an outstanding quality of life for everyone. But the crown jewel of our community will always be our beach. Keeping our community safe is the top priority of our police department, and with regard to beach safety, this responsibility falls to the dedicated men and women of our Ocean Rescue Division.

Along the two miles of beautiful white sandy beach and clear ocean water you will find 10 fully-staffed ocean rescue towers, evenly spaced along the entire beachfront for maximum coverage and visibility. Each tower is staffed and equipped with the latest rescue and first aid equipment, as well as an all-terrain vehicle, which is available to quickly respond to any beachside emergency.

Our Ocean Rescue lifeguards are well-trained and extremely dedicated to the safety of our beachgoers regardless of the weather or water conditions. Throughout the year they make countless rescues and thousands of preventions, which ultimately keeps our beach safe for all to enjoy. So, the next time you visit the beach, say thank you to a lifeguard. They are there for your safety!

For more beach or ocean rescue information, visit our website at sibfl.net/ocean-rescue.

Combating Condo Corruption: The Battle Continues

from the desk of Commissioner Dana Goldman



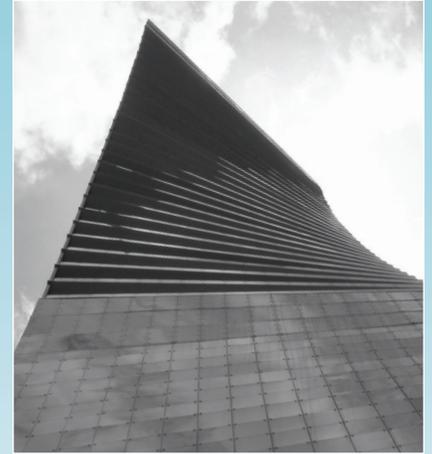
Shining a spotlight on condo corruption at the recent Miami-Dade County League of Cities Best Practices Seminar has yielded results. Directly resulting from a condo corruption panel I moderated and in conjunction with the League of Cities, State Senator Jason Pizzo has introduced important new condo reform legislation for criminal acts under the Florida Condominium Act, Senate Bill 610 ("SB 610"). If adopted, this new law will strengthen or provide new criminal penalties related to kickbacks, official and accounting records abuse, unlawful use of debit cards and fraudulent voting activities relating to condominium association elections. Let's work together with Senator Pizzo and others to ensure the State's adoption of SB 610, giving our enforcement agencies important new tools in prosecuting condo-related crimes.

Also, the Division of Condominiums has adopted its new Condominium Resolution Guidelines for Unit Owner Controlled Associations (the "Final Rule"), imposing disciplinary guidelines upon affected parties who are guilty of violating the Florida Condominium Act and the rules promulgated thereunder. The Final Rule features penalties for, among others, violating a fiduciary duty, using special assessment funds for other purposes, failing to include required documents on the association's website and failing to properly disclose a conflict of interest.

Check sibfl.net/calendar for the date of the next popular quarterly Condo Clinic series. For a copy of SB 610, the Final Rule or new Condo Clinic updates, my email is dgoldman@sibfl.net or call me at 786.512.6364. Our residents need and deserve more reforms.

SIBiInformation

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE
BUILDING DEPARTMENT



MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION WHEN HIRING A CONTRACTOR

Hiring unlicensed contractors may provide a quick fix in the short term, but it can result in serious and lasting consequences. Keep these tips in mind when hiring a contractor:

- Ask to see a state-issued license.
- Ask for references.
- Beware of contractors who claim to be the fastest or cheapest.
- Make all payments by check to the company contracted to do the work. Do not make checks out to "cash," or to an individual's name.
- Get proposals or contracts in writing.
- Do not make a final payment until all work is finished correctly and all permits are cleared via a final inspection and/or a Certificate of Completion from the building department.

Remember, the first step in adding value to your home is hiring the right contractor to complete the project. For additional information please contact Paola Villa, Building Services Manager for the Sunny Isles Beach Building Department at 305.792.1790.



March 1

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

March 1

Friday, 7:00-9:00 pm
Family Movie Night: Disneynature's Oceans
Heritage Park

March 2

Saturday, 7:00-9:00 pm
Family Movie Night: Disneynature's Oceans
Town Center Park

March 4

Monday, 6:45 pm
Cultural Event: Paul Anka
Broward Center for the Performing Arts

March 5

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

March 6

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

March 7

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

March 9

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

March 12

Tuesday, 10:00 am–1:00 pm
Golden Era Movie: *Arsenic & Old Lace*
Pelican Community Park

March 14

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

March 19

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

March 20

Wednesday, 7:30-9:00 pm
Sunny Serenade:
Sunny Isles Beach Orchestra
Samson Oceanfront Park

March 21

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

March 22

Friday, 7:00-10:00 pm
Teens Only Foam Party
Gateway Park

March 24

Sunday, 4:00-6:30 pm
Beethoven on the Beach
Gateway Park

March 27

Wednesday, 10:00 am
Special Magistrate Hearing:
Code Enforcement Violations
SIB Govt. Center Commission Chambers

March 27

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

March 30

Saturday, 5:45 pm
Cultural Event:
Disney On Ice presents *Frozen*
BB&T Center

March 31

Sunday, 11:00 am-1:00 pm
Wiggle and Paint
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

Basic Computer Classes for Seniors

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

Citizenship Classes

Saturdays: March 2–30
10:00–11:30 am

Poetry Reading

Saturday: March 9
4:00–5:00 pm

Share your original poetry or all-time favorites.

Russian Social Club

Saturday: March 16
3:30–5:30 pm

Programs for Children

Bedtime Stories

Wednesdays: March 6–27
7:00–7:30 pm

Sharing stories and music.
Ages 3 to 5 yrs.

Talking is Teaching:

Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers

Mondays: March 4–25
10:00–10:40 am

Activities for toddlers and caregivers.
Ages 19 mo. to 3 yrs.

Creative Corner Family Program

Saturdays: March 2–30
11:00 am inside the library
Activities for the whole family.



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

IS PUBLISHED BY THE
CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH
CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

18070 Collins Avenue • Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

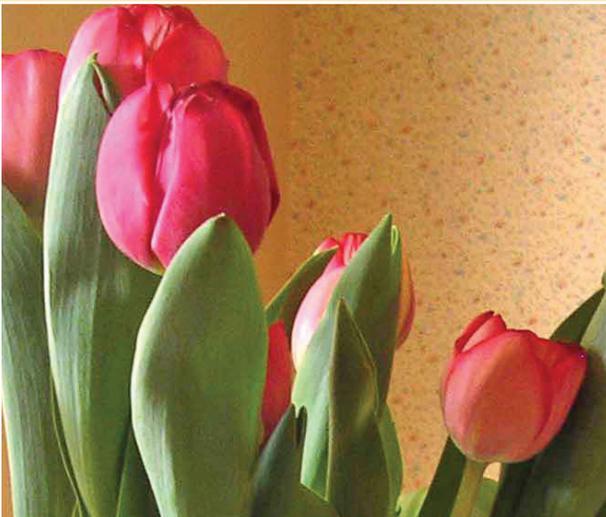
SIB *islander*

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



Spring Fling

March into the spring season at our annual spring dinner-dance. Gather with friends and neighbors to enjoy food, raffles, live music and dancing.



Saturday, March 9 • 6:00–9:00 pm
Pelican Community Park • 18115 North Bay Road
\$20 per person or \$10 with valid City-issued SIB Resident ID Card.

Beethoven on the Beach

Orchestra Miami presents an all-Beethoven classical repertoire that will bring this music genre to life for all ages.



Sunday, March 24 • 4:00–6:30 pm
Gateway Park • 151 Sunny Isles Boulevard
Admission and parking are free. Park at the Gateway Park garage or ride the free SIBshuttle within City limits.