



# SIB *islander*

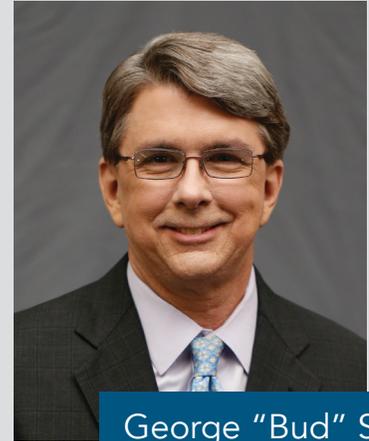
CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

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JULY 2020

## A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ Hurricane season has officially begun, and this year is projected to be particularly busy. During the last two years, we were lucky to experience only minor conditions from hurricanes Michael and Dorian. But now with three named storms already developed and a pandemic still looming, we must adjust accordingly. Preparation is even more important this year than ever before. ”



George "Bud" Scholl  
Mayor

If you do not already have an emergency plan and supply kit, do not delay. The time to prepare is before a storm is approaching. Waiting will only cause supply shortages and crowding during a time when there are already product scarcities and social distancing guidelines in place.

Our beautiful oceanfront view renders us vulnerable to storm surge, and there is a likelihood that our city will be evacuated if a strong storm is projected to make landfall. It is always recommended that you make plans to stay with family or friends who live inland in a non-evacuation area. If you must stay in a County evacuation center, you will be asked to follow the guidelines set by the Center for Disease Control and Florida Department of Health, spend the majority of your time in an assigned space, wear a facial covering, and you can expect to be screened before entering. I recommend having a plan in place now before we are required to evacuate to limit those inconveniences.

As you are preparing, so is the City. Resiliency is top of mind for us, like most coastal communities in Florida. Flooding is a significant consequence of major storms, but we have plans and projects in place that are working to mitigate the effects of flooding. We are conducting studies to identify flood vulnerabilities and the adaptive measures that will be most effective and determine if and how the stormwater holding capacity of our retention areas can be increased. We are also studying the potential for additional

drainage structures, deep or injection wells, which all would provide a higher capacity to hold stormwater, thus alleviating flooding on our streets quicker. As you can understand, these projects require long term projections and planning. And though they will not be ready overnight, there is a contingency plan to mitigate reasonable flooding when it occurs by moving the water with the use of portable pumps where possible.

In the event of a major hurricane, our beach is at risk of erosion due to strong waves and tidal surge. To lessen this potential consequence, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a beach renourishment project adding about 120,000 cubic yards of sand along the beach in 2018. Also in 2018 and 2019, three private developments completed renourishment projects adding 60,000 cubic yards of sand to the beach, with an additional 24,000 cubic yards added at the beginning of this year. The Army Corps of Engineers is in the planning stages of a federal renourishment that is anticipated to place sand along the entire length of Sunny Isles Beach in 2021. Concurrently, the Army Corps will also be rehabilitating the submerged breakwater structures that were installed at the north end of the city in the early 2000s.

Our city is prepared for hurricane season, are you? Visit [sibfl.net/hurricane](http://sibfl.net/hurricane) for more resources and information. Also make sure you are signed up for emergency notifications; visit [sibalert.net](http://sibalert.net) today to register. Let's continue to stay safe this summer.

# Message from the City Manager

Christopher J. Russo



On June 9, we lost a true legend in our community, Senator Gwen Margolis. At the request of Mayor Scholl, former Sunny Isles Beach Mayor Norman S. Edelcup, who knew Senator Margolis best, wrote a tribute honoring her legacy and impact to our city.

## Honoring a Legend

Former Mayor Norman S. Edelcup

It was with great sadness that I received a phone call on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 from Edward Margolis notifying me of the death of his mother, Senator Gwen Margolis. This was not only the passing of a dear friend and mentor; it was the loss of an iconic political figure in the history of Sunny Isles Beach. If not for her efforts, we may never have become the world class city that we are today.

Senator Margolis served in the Florida Senate for 10 years before becoming the Senate President in 1990. At that time, she was the first woman to lead any state senate in the United States! Senator Margolis left the Florida Senate in 1992 and was elected to the Miami-Dade County Commission. There, she was elected by her peers to be the first woman to ever chair the Miami-Dade County Commission.

It was during her time on the Miami-Dade County Commission when Gwen Margolis became a champion for Sunny Isles Beach. Back in the 1990s, Miami-Dade County had many communities in its unincorporated area that wished to form local governments that would be more responsive to their specific needs than the distant county government. County officials were not necessarily happy with that idea as it meant giving up tax dollars and certain controls over these communities.

In 1996, a group of citizens led by our first mayor, David Samson, headed the effort to create the City of Sunny Isles Beach. To accomplish this goal, they needed the permission of the County Commission to allow our residents to vote for city incorporation. At the time, there was a lot of County political pushback because of the potential loss of County tax revenue. This had already played out with the incorporation of three new cities. There was even talk of a County moratorium to prevent any new incorporations.



To our rescue came Gwen Margolis. She was a believer in the idea that the best form of government for the people was government closest to the people, i.e. local city government. She was determined to help us in our effort to gain the County Commission's approval. She succeeded! Our residents overwhelmingly voted in favor of becoming a separate city. Gwen appointed the members of our Charter Commission and on June 16, 1997, the City of Sunny Isles Beach was incorporated.

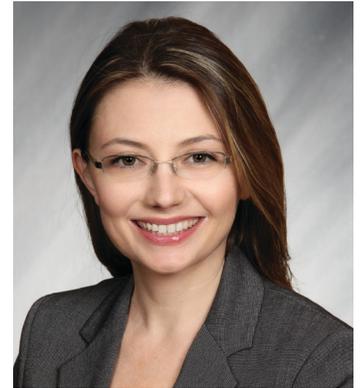
In a December 2001 ceremony, the City of Sunny Isles Beach honored Gwen by naming its second major park "Senator Gwen Margolis Park," located at 17815 North Bay Road. She became known by many of our residents as the "Mother of Sunny Isles Beach," a title well deserved as she inspired our community to reach for greatness.

Senator Gwen Margolis will always have a place in our hearts and memories. She will always inspire in us the best principles of government by doing what is right for the people. That is how we will continue to honor her memory.

Thank you, Senator for making it all possible. Our fondest wishes to your family.

# Sunny Isles Beach Police Department: *Comfort Found in Consistency*

*Vice Mayor Larisa Svechin*



The last three months have felt like a decade as the world changed so much. Everyone has been impacted by the pandemic and the subsequent decisions made by law makers. It is therefore comforting to know that a constant remains for the residents of Sunny Isles Beach. A constant force that is strong, patient, vigilant, professional, generous, and gracious.

The Sunny Isles Beach Police Department is that constant. They are exemplary, and have been since the department's former chief, Fred Maas, instituted the culture of caring for the community as a top priority. The commitment and professionalism of these women and men is known throughout the State of Florida as one of the most respected and admired police departments in Miami-Dade County.

The high standards and love of community come from the top, Chief Dwight Snyder, Captain Grandinetti and Captain Santiago. I am personally honored to know these fine gentlemen and to have the opportunity to thank them for all they do for our city. At a time when we need civility, community, comfort, and care the most, we are blessed to have the Sunny Isles Beach Police Department consistently looking after us day and night. This great legacy was built on a deep love of our community and respect for our residents.

Perhaps our fortitude will be challenged again in the next several months. Know that you have the strength and dedication of our exceptional police department standing with you, gracefully and diligently.

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## Congratulations to the Class of 2020

*Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra*



A lot was asked of families and communities as we turned our homes into offices and classrooms as a result of COVID-19. A lot was asked of children who had to quickly adapt to schooling through a laptop. A lot was asked of parents who had to learn alongside their kids while making professional and personal adjustments of their own.

To complicate matters, many of our comforts were restricted in an effort to keep our residents healthy and safe. In recent weeks we have also experienced civil unrest as people all over the country exercise their right to protest. Amidst this chaos, our students persevered. As a result, we have many graduates to congratulate!

Our school and PTSA did an amazing job celebrating our kindergartners and 8th graders via drive-through graduations. In addition, the City hosted a

Grad and Go graduation for 8th and 12th graders at Gateway Park where students were able to drive up in decorated cars, see their names and photos on stage, and proudly pose for pictures with their families, friends, and even puppies.

Now that we are all experts in Zoom and other online gatherings, I'm sure many had their own more private celebrations with loved ones all over the world. Yes, there are still big, important issues to contend with, but let's take a moment to praise our graduates and their families. A lot was asked of them this school year, and they delivered. May your strength and resilience light your way in all your future endeavors!



# SIBshuttle



Good news! Our free SIBshuttle service has resumed seven days a week. Both orange lines have resumed their regular schedule and patrons may schedule transportation to Mount Sinai Miami Beach by visiting [sibshuttle.net](http://sibshuttle.net). Beginning Monday, June 29, all three lines will resume their regular schedules, including two orange lines and one blue line.

For everyone's safety, facial coverings are required on the shuttle and certain seats will be closed to ensure social distancing between non-household members.



To have the most accurate arrival times at your fingertips, download the SIBshuttle app from the App Store or Google Play to your phone. Or, you may call the SIBshuttle hotline at 305.741.0907.

## COVID-19 RESOURCES

**City COVID-19 Information and Updates:**  
[sibfl.net/coronavirus](http://sibfl.net/coronavirus)

**City Reopening Information and Updates:**  
[sibfl.net/reopening](http://sibfl.net/reopening)

**Florida Department of Health (FDOH)**  
24-hour hotline for questions concerning the Coronavirus: **1.866.779.6121**

**Miami-Dade County COVID-19 Information and Updates**  
[miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/home.page](http://miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/home.page)

**Individuals in Miami-Dade County who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should call the FDOH at 305.470.5660.**

## Renew or Apply for your SIB Resident ID Card



Now is the time to apply for or renew your SIB Resident ID Card before we are in peak hurricane season. Having a Resident ID Card will help expedite your entry back into Sunny Isles Beach if we have a mandatory evacuation during a storm.

*Be prepared, apply online now!*  
[sibfl.net/residentid](http://sibfl.net/residentid)

## City Commission Meetings

### July Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, July 16 | 6:30 PM

*More details will be posted at [sibfl.net/events](http://sibfl.net/events).*

# MAKE YOURSELF COUNT

Sunny Isles Beach currently has one of the lowest Census response rates in the County.

**Respond to the 2020 Census today!**  
**Help shape your future.**

Shape your future  
START HERE > **United States®**  
**Census 2020**

[2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov)



# SUNNY ISLES BEACH IS **ECOMMITTED**

Let's continue to be **ECOMMITTED** this summer. We are staying home more, frequenting the beach, and preparing for hurricane season. There are many ways we can make eco-friendly adjustments throughout our daily lives.

[READ MORE AT SIBFL.NET/ECOMMITTED.](https://www.sibfl.net/ecommitted)

## SHARING OUR SHORE

We now share our shore with sea turtles until October 31. These creatures are protected by federal, state and local laws and all sea turtles are either threatened or endangered. As you are returning to the beach, keep in mind that pollution, plastic ingestion and entanglement with fishing gear all threaten the sea turtle population. Be mindful when on the beach to avoid sea turtle nests, throw all trash in a designated bin, and properly discard of your fishing gear.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SEA TURTLE SEASON AT SIBFL.NET/SEATURTLES.](https://www.sibfl.net/seaturtles)

## FLUSHING

As we spend more time at home and increase our cleaning efforts, we must be mindful when disposing of wipes and other objects. Though they may claim to be flushable, no wipe should be flushed down the toilet. This only obstructs our pipes and can cause our pump station to overflow.



[LEARN MORE AT SIBFL.NET/FLUSHING.](https://www.sibfl.net/flushing)

# Mosquito Safety

We are in peak mosquito season and there are several measures you can take to curb the mosquito population in your area. Drain standing water wherever it collects, cover your bare skin with clothing and repellent, and cover doors and windows with screens. Miami-Dade County conducts bi-weekly mosquito control treatments around the City targeting breeding areas and reducing the mosquito population. The City also treats our parks for mosquitoes monthly.



[LEARN MORE AT SIBFL.NET/MOSQUITOCONTROL](https://www.sibfl.net/mosquitocontrol)

# PARK & RECREATION MONTH



July is Park and Recreation Month! This year looks quite different from all others, but there are still many ways to celebrate.

## SIBeHEALTHY ONLINE WELLNESS SERIES



Our recreation staff put together a series of at-home wellness and workout videos for a variety of youth, adult and senior programs, such as Tai Chi, youth soccer drills, yoga and much more. Check out our YouTube page to see the entire playlist!

[youtube.com/CityofSIB](https://youtube.com/CityofSIB)

## SELECT PARKS ARE OPEN!

Gateway Park

Heritage Park

Intracoastal Parks

Pier Park

Samson  
Oceanfront Park

Senator Gwen  
Margolis Park

Town Center Park

Visit [sibfl.net/parks](https://sibfl.net/parks) for details.



## THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF!

Part of Park and Recreation Month this year is redefining the field as an essential, vital necessity. This has never been truer as our parks and recreation professionals have been frontline staff, confronting our most pressing health, environmental and social challenges. Thank you to all of our staff who are out in our parks, beach and city promoting a safe and healthy return to recreation.