



# SIB islander

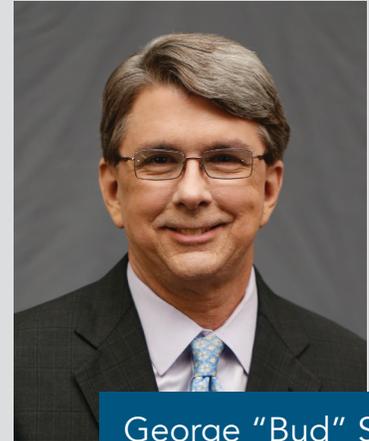
CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

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JUNE 2021

## A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ Summer is here and, fortunately, we are seeing a return to our more normal daily lives. The vaccine rollout has provided hope after a long year of isolation and limitations, and with this comes the easing of many restrictions. ”



George "Bud" Scholl  
Mayor

The most notable change as a result of the vaccine and CDC guidance is the rescindment of the facial covering requirement. First for businesses and private property by the Governor's Executive Order 21-102, and most recently by CDC recommendation for those vaccinated. According to the CDC's new guidance, fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing. On May 13, Miami-Dade County announced that facial coverings are no longer mandated on County property, and after careful consideration we followed suit on May 22.

City operations have also been revised due to the State, County, and CDC's new direction. We suspended health screenings for visitors and employees, and visitors are no longer required to wear a facial covering at City facilities. However, we still strongly encourage our visitors, whether vaccinated or not, to remain vigilant and be considerate of those who may not yet be vaccinated by wearing a facial covering. We are also reinstating some activities that were previously restricted, including returning to in-person Commission Meetings, expanding program offerings, and increasing the frequency of our special events.

As stated in the Governor's Executive Order, we cannot enforce any previous guidelines and restrictions for local businesses. It is now up to the business to determine how

they will enforce COVID-19 safety measures such as facial coverings and social distancing. But we encourage and expect all businesses to continue being conscientious in their practices. Please take note of business regulations prior to visiting their establishment as many may still require facial coverings and social distancing.

Though requirements and enforcement may not be in place anymore, we continue to promote best practices to keep our community safe. We strongly encourage the entire Sunny Isles Beach community to remain vigilant in your safety practices because the threat of COVID-19 is still real and present. We must be conscious of those in our community who may not feel comfortable returning to normal and those who have not yet been vaccinated.

If you have not received the COVID-19 vaccine and are eligible, get vaccinated. The vaccine is our best shot at curtailing the risk of COVID-19 and completely returning to our normal lives. For more information and to find the nearest vaccination site, visit [sibfl.net/vaccines](https://sibfl.net/vaccines).

Much like the past year has been, this situation remains fluid and we will continue to provide regular updates. I ask all residents, businesses, and visitors to be responsible, do your part, and help keep our city safe.

Contact Mayor George "Bud" Scholl at [mayor@sibfl.net](mailto:mayor@sibfl.net) or [305.792.1751](tel:305.792.1751).

# Message from the City Manager

Christopher J. Russo

Our most important capital projects have, for the most part, remained on track even though we scaled down some and delayed others due to the coronavirus pandemic. As we head into the summer season, I want to share some updates on our most prominent projects with you.

## Golden Shores Street Lighting and Utility Undergrounding Project

Underground conduits and the bases for new decorative streetlights are currently being installed throughout the Golden Shores neighborhood. The work is taking place from north to south, with conduits completed on North Bay Road and the majority of side streets.

We anticipate finalizing the plans for the Golden Shores Utility Undergrounding and going out to bid this summer. This project will remove all overhead wires that are above ground, many of which are in home's rear yards. Not only will this result in a much safer and reliable power system, but the neighborhood will see a general aesthetic improvement.

## Collins Avenue Undergrounding

Now in Phase 2, Florida Power & Light (FPL) is in the process of energizing the electrical circuits from 163 Street to 175 Terrace. Once FPL has removed the remaining overhead wires in Phase 2, we will continue with the decorative street lighting. Approximately 142 streetlights are installed and operational, with about 20 more projected to be installed, dependent on the progress of FPL.

## Central Island Stormwater Project

Sunny Isles Beach's Central Island consists of the area north of 174 Street to 183 Street. Over the years, this area has seen some intense flooding during particularly strong storms, and our several attempts at accelerating the removal of stormwater have not resolved the problem. We plan to install stormwater pumps, utilizing existing outfalls, which should eliminate flooding in this area. The City has engaged the same engineering firm that successfully completed the stormwater project on 174 Street approximately five years ago. We anticipate the planning, bidding, and commencement of this project before the end of this calendar year.

## Beach Renourishment Has Begun!

From the north to the very south end of the City, our entire beach is getting more sand this year. This is a federally funded project, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and executed in coordination with the State and County. Please note that the Ellen Wynne beach access and parking lot will be closed for staging during the majority of the project. The renourishment project should be completed by the end of 2021.

## Future Home of the Building Department

The Building Department will be relocated to the former Tony Roma's restaurant site on the south side of the Government Center this year, pending final approval of the plans by the City Commission. Owned by the City, the site will be refurbished and allow us to develop permanent safer distancing and

office procedures. We have learned much from the COVID-19 pandemic about social distancing, increasing precautions and security measures, and this relocation will offer just that for our Building Department and patrons.

## Traffic and Pedestrian Safety

The City of Sunny Isles Beach, along with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), continue to address traffic and pedestrian safety throughout the city. FDOT recently installed flashing lights, a radar speed sign on westbound Sunny Isles Boulevard, and pavement speed limit markers on each eastbound lane on Sunny Isles Boulevard, just west of the pedestrian signal light. Our Police Department initiated a substantial zero-tolerance program, and also purchased six solar-powered, FDOT-approved radar speed signs to remind drivers of the speed limit and warn them of their own speed. They will be deployed at strategic locations throughout the City. One future safety measure we asked FDOT to consider is the installation of rumble strips coming off the bridge eastbound on Sunny Isles Boulevard to alert and slow down inattentive drivers.

## Government Center Pedestrian Bridge

The design plans for the Government Center Pedestrian Bridge have been submitted to FDOT, and financial support is tentatively approved for the upcoming budget year and awaiting final approval. We expect to advertise the bid for construction in the upcoming months so that work may commence in late 2021.

## 174 Street Pedestrian Bridge

We are in the review process for a professional engineering and architecture services consultant for the new pedestrian bridge at 174 Street and Collins Avenue. We anticipate the design will be finalized and approved by mid-2022.

## Gateway Center

The construction of the new Gateway Center at Gateway Park is complete with only a few final punch list items underway. Once open, the Gateway Center will be a state-of-the-art facility home to a 3,600 square foot ballroom, 1,500 square foot fitness room, social alley, catering kitchen and visitor center. The Center will offer a curated selection of programs and events, and be available for high-end rental opportunities. We expect the Center to be ready for a world class grand opening in the upcoming months.

After a year of hardship, we are finally getting back to some semblance of normal. I am optimistic about our current and upcoming projects, and the quality-of-life solutions that their completion will offer.



Contact City Manager Chris Russo at [crusso@sibfl.net](mailto:crusso@sibfl.net) or [305.792.1701](tel:305.792.1701).

# Sustainability Practices and Procedures

## Past, Present and Future

Commissioner Dana Goldman

Over the past few years, Sunny Isles Beach has been making great strides with our sustainability practices and procedures. Since the ECOMMITTED program began, we have implemented prohibitions on single-use plastics and polystyrene, expanded our recycling measures citywide, and increased our event initiatives.

Most recently, the City hosted a Collection Day where nearly 100 people brought items to our shred-a-thon, DEA drug takeback, and electronics recycling. The City Commission also adopted April as Water Conservation Month and participated in the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. Water resources, supply and availability are great environmental issues of the coming generations, and it is important we posture and understand the importance of water conservation efforts while supporting these efforts at the municipal level.

At the April Commission Meeting, I led a discussion about taking our sustainability practices and procedures one important step further by putting together a coherent

written plan and platform. In an incremental move we will now codify our existing practices on sustainable procurement and put on paper what else we can be doing to be more green and more sustainable.

How can we further our policies to elevate our social and environmental consciousness? Working with the City Manager's Office we will continue this trend of thought and action by incorporating even more sustainability measures in our policy and procedures. By remaining cautious about our carbon footprint and developing an action plan, we can strive toward new measures that will bring our city to the forefront of sustainability practices.

We are taking the right step in the right direction at the right time. And this is the best next step in the evolution of our commitment to sustainability.

Contact Commissioner Goldman at [seat3@sibfl.net](mailto:seat3@sibfl.net) or call [786.512.6364](tel:786.512.6364).



# Crime Prevention is Everybody's Business

Chief Dwight P. Snyder

June is the start of the summer season, the kids are out of school, and it's a time for that well deserved vacation or just enjoying time at the beach. But as our summertime temperature rises, so does our crime rate, especially involving property crimes. Usually these are crimes of opportunity, which can easily be prevented by using some very basic security strategies we should all be familiar with.

Unscrupulous criminals are always searching for unsuspecting victims who make for an easy target, as they leave their valuables unsecured or forget basic home and vehicle security measures. A current crime trend we are seeing more often involves criminals who enter neighborhoods during the overnight hours and simply pull on car door handles looking for any left unlocked. Only residents who forgot to lock their vehicles become victimized. Even more disturbing, in some instances, the vehicle key fob is left inside, which gives the criminal access to steal the vehicle.

Criminals know what they are looking for and this gives them the upper hand at identifying their next victim. Just one example, in many modern vehicles, the side mirrors automatically retract when the doors are locked, but when an unoccupied vehicle's mirrors are extended, it now becomes a target for burglary.

In closing, I want to share a few tips.

- Always lock your home. The safety of your family depends on it.
- Lock your vehicle and never leave the keys (fob) inside for convenience.
- Secure personal property at all times.

Stay safe and have a great summer!



# June Meetings & Activities

## City Commission & Public Arts Advisory Committee Joint Workshop

Tuesday, June 15 | 5 PM

Meeting will be held in person at the SIB Government Center.

## Blood Drive

Thursday, June 17 | 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM

SIB Government Center

Presented by OneBlood. Appointments are required.

## Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, June 17 | 6:30 PM

Meeting will be held in person at the SIB Government Center.

## Special Magistrate Hearing

Wednesday, June 30 | 10 AM

Meeting will be held in person at the SIB Government Center.

For complete meeting and activity details, visit [sibfl.net/events](http://sibfl.net/events).



# TEEN MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, June 18 | 7 PM  
Pelican Community Park  
*Pre-reservation required.*  
For more information, visit [sibfl.net/events](http://sibfl.net/events).



# CONCERT IN THE PARK

Saturday, June 26  
7:30 - 9 PM  
Samson Oceanfront Park  
For more information, visit [sibfl.net/events](http://sibfl.net/events).

## INSIDE THE *Isles*

Summer is just beginning and with it brings the start of hurricane and the rainy seasons. Our unique coastal location means we are susceptible to flash flooding if hit with a particularly strong storm. To find out if your home lies in an area susceptible to flooding, please call the Building Department at [305.947.2150](tel:305.947.2150).

### *Fighting the Flood*

While the City works to prevent severe flooding, there are many ways you can help.

- Avoid dumping and throwing trash and debris in drains and ditches.
- Regularly check and clean gutters.
- If you see dumping or debris in ditches or streams, please call the Public Works department at [305.792.1711](tel:305.792.1711).

### *Flood Insurance*

If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, Sunny Isles Beach participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, and you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have been flooded.

## FLOOD PROTECTION

### *Flood Safety Tips*

If you know a flood is coming, you should shut off the gas and electricity and move valuable contents upstairs or to a higher place. It is unlikely that you will get much warning, so a detailed checklist prepared in advance will help ensure that you don't forget anything.

- Do not walk through flowing water.
- Do not drive through a flooded area.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Electrical current can travel through water.
- Have your electricity turned off by your power company.
- Look out for animals, especially snakes.
- Look before you step.
- Be alert for gas leaks.
- Evacuate if mandated.

### *Keep in Mind*

Even if the last flood missed you or you have done some flood-proofing, the next flood could be worse. Flood insurance covers all surface floods. Do not wait for the next flood to buy insurance protection. There is a 30-day waiting period before National Flood Insurance Program coverage takes effect.

For more information about protecting your home from flooding, visit [sibfl.net/flood-protection](http://sibfl.net/flood-protection).

# CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH HURRICANE *PREPAREDNESS*

## JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

Hurricane season begins on June 1 and ends November 30. Sunny Isles Beach is in the Zone B floodplain where a hurricane may cause a storm

surge, high winds, tornadoes, flooding, or loss of utility services. The time to prepare for hurricane season is now, before a storm is announced.

## BUILD YOUR SUPPLY KIT

- **Water**  
*One gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation*
- **Food**  
*At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food*
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Prescription medications
- Extra batteries
- Manual can opener
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

## ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES TO CONSIDER:

- Soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes
- Pet food and supplies for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- Wrench or pliers  
*To turn off utilities*
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket and change of clothing for each person
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Books, games, or other activities for children

## STAY CONNECTED

 **EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS**  
Sign up at [sibfl.net/notifyme](http://sibfl.net/notifyme)

 **WEBSITE**  
[sibfl.net](http://sibfl.net)

**NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER**  
[@NWSNHC](http://nhc.noaa.gov)

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**  
**MDC Alerts**  
[miamidade.gov/alerts](http://miamidade.gov/alerts)

 **SIBALERT EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS**  
[sibalert.net](http://sibalert.net)

 **FACEBOOK AND TWITTER**  
[@CityofSIB](https://www.facebook.com/CityofSIB) / [@SIBPD](https://twitter.com/SIBPD)

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
[@NWSMiami](http://weather.gov/mfl)

**MDC Website:**  
[miamidade.gov/emergency](http://miamidade.gov/emergency)

 **BEFORE THE STORM**  
[sibfl.net/hurricane](http://sibfl.net/hurricane)

 **AFTER THE STORM**  
[sibfl.net/emergency](http://sibfl.net/emergency)

**MDC App:** ReadyMDC

**MDC 311:** for shelter, pet, & EAP special needs pre-registration; special needs pick-up.

# CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH HURRICANE *PREPAREDNESS*

## BEFORE THE STORM

- Assemble Your Supply Kit
- Prepare a Family Emergency & Evacuation Plan
- Know Your Zone (Sunny Isles Beach is in Zone B)
- Pre-Register for the Emergency & Evacuation Assistance Program  
*Call 305.513.7700 for more information.*
- Apply for an SIB Resident ID Card  
*This will help your family reenter the City in the event of a mandatory evacuation and lockdown.*



**SIBAlert**

Sign up for storm alerts and City updates delivered straight to your phone or inbox at

[SIBALERT.NET](http://SIBALERT.NET)

## AFTER THE STORM

- Assess the damage of your property
- Stay informed, alert and safe
- Let us know if your property has power, when your business reopens, and if there is debris or downed power lines. Email [info@sibfl.net](mailto:info@sibfl.net).

## DURING THE STORM

- Secure Your Home & Bring in All Outside Items
- Follow Instructions by Local Officials
- Watch for Flooding & Outages
- Know Your Evacuation Route and Hurricane Evacuation Center locations

## APPLY FOR A RESIDENT ID CARD

A Sunny Isles Beach Resident ID Card allows residents access back into the City if a lockdown has occurred, as well as access to sandbags before a storm is anticipated to make landfall. Apply early; Resident ID Cards will not be processed once a tropical storm or hurricane watch is issued.



Apply online at [sibfl.net/residentid](http://sibfl.net/residentid).