



Islander

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MAY 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor



Larisa Svechin
Mayor

As we quickly approach the summer season and the school year comes to a close, our Cultural and Community Services Department is gearing up for Summer Camp. Registration is now open for children ages 5 to 15 to join in the adventure, with activities ranging from field trips to games, and much more. Camp kicks off June 10 and promises weeks of unforgettable experiences.

Registration for summer camp is available online at activities.sibfl.net. You can also register in person at Pelican Community Park, Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (except between 2 -6 p.m.) and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can find a full list of camps and general information by visiting sibfl.net/summercamp.

In addition, there will be some changes to our Adult & Senior programs this summer. Residents ages 55 and older can take part in the Senior Summer Camp themed *A Trip Around the World*. Dive into a global adventure with friends and neighbors with language lessons, cultural culinary classes, and enriching field trips each Friday. The camp also starts June 10 and ends with a two-day Margaritaville Cruise to Grand Bahama Island on July 30 and returning August 1.

Registration is now open to residents. If you would like to invite a friend who does not live in Sunny Isles Beach, registration for non-residents opens May 15.

As we prepare for summer, let's also remember our conservation efforts, particularly during sea turtle season, which runs until October 31. Sea turtles are protected under federal, state, and local laws and are crucial to our ocean's ecosystem.

I encourage residents to contribute to the safe and undisturbed nesting of sea turtles by steering clear of marked sea turtle nests and respecting their natural behavior. A nest will be marked off with stakes, neon tape, and a nest sign. It is against the law to disturb a sea turtle, its nest, eggs, or hatchlings. If you encounter anyone vandalizing a nest, please call our police at 305.947.4440 or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 888.404.3922. I also want to emphasize to keep bright lights from shining on the beach, as this can confuse turtles and lead them away from the ocean. For more information on sea turtle conservation efforts, please visit sibfl.net/seaturtles.

Contact Mayor Larisa Svechin at lsvechin@sibfl.net or 305.792.1753.

Florida Legislative Highlights for 2024

Vice Mayor Alex Lama

The State of Florida concluded another regular legislative session on March 8, and I would like to highlight a few legislative results that affect us at a municipal and personal level.

Residential Building Permits HB 267 (Esposito) and SB 684 (DiCeglie) are comprehensive building permit bills that passed and are awaiting the Governor's signature. If signed into law by the Governor, the bill would put added pressure on municipalities by reducing the number of days an application should be approved. It requires municipalities to determine if an application is complete within five business days; otherwise, the application is deemed complete and accepted. It also determines that if municipalities do not respond to the applicant within 10 days, the application is considered approved. You may reach out to Gov. DeSantis at GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com to express your opposition to this legislation.

Harmful Communication to a Minor HB 1545.

Gov. DeSantis recently signed this bill into law, which creates the criminal offense of harmful communication to a minor.

It specifically prohibits adults from engaging in communication with a minor that includes explicit and detailed verbal descriptions of sexual activity. The bill also increases penalties for child exploitation crimes such as promoting sexual performances or possessing child pornography and establishes this behavior as a third-degree felony, making punishments associated with child exploitation more severe. This bill goes into effect on Oct. 1, 2024.

To learn about state legislation and send messages to legislators, please visit floridaleagueofcities.com



Contact Vice Mayor Alex Lama at seat2@sibfl.net or 305.792.1752.

Safety in Sunny Isles Beach

Commissioner Jerry Joseph

Traffic safety is a number one priority in Sunny Isles Beach. At the April 18, 2024 Commission Workshop, I proposed for immediate action that our SIBPD and Parking Code Enforcement prioritize the elimination of FedEx, UPS, Amazon, Uber, and Lyft drivers from stopping or parking in the right lanes of Collins Avenue going north or south for deliveries or drop-offs. These lanes also serve as bicycle lanes, and when the lane is blocked by delivery vehicles, it dangerously forces bicyclists into the middle lanes. Every driver on Collins Avenue has experienced this type of blockage of the right lanes. I have asked the City Manager to contact these services to demand assistance and have involved County Officials and FDOT in this task.

Regarding scooter usage within Sunny Isles Beach, enforcement of our new Scooter Ordinance is now in full effect. SIBPD continues with its Helmet Giveaways and Scooter Registry drives. I ask all parents of children using scooters to please observe their use and emphasize safety, including adherence to stop signs, red lights and vehicle rights-of-ways. On a daily basis, I personally see so many instances of children

and adults running stop signs and other unsafe practices. Courtesy of pedestrians by scooter riders and bicyclists on sidewalks is something that must be taught by parents and spoken about in our schools. Adults using these vehicles should already know to be considerate or should think it more.

Residents who want to actually see what Commissioners are doing for them can take the time to watch City Workshops at 3 p.m. every third Thursday of the month and Regular Commission Meetings starting at 6:30 p.m. on that same day, by personally being present at City Hall, on Cable TV Sunny Isles Beach Channel, the City website, or Sunny Isles Beach YouTube Commission meetings. You should watch the questions that each Commissioner asks on your behalf and how you are represented.



Contact Commissioner Jerry Joseph at seat1@sibfl.net or 305.792.1754.

CALENDAR

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT sibfl.net/events

Disclosure: Events are subject to change.

MAY

OF EVENTS



May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.



GATEWAY MARKET

EVERY WEDNESDAY

5:30 - 10 PM

Gateway Park

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Gateway Market is taking a break starting in June and will be back in the fall, refreshed and ready to serve you!

Mount Sinai Lunch and Learn

Thursday, May 2

12 - 1 PM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Pre-registration required.

Doc Chats: Mental Health Awareness

Wednesday, May 8

12 - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Pre-registration is required.

Focus Group Meeting: Sunny Isles Beach Vision: Planning for Tomorrow

Wednesday, May 8

6 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center
18070 Collins Ave.

MAY 2024

City Commission Workshop: Heritage Park Design

Thursday, May 9

11:30 AM

First Floor Meeting Room, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

AARP Smart Driver Course

Friday, May 10

9 AM - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration is required.

AARP Member: \$20

Non-Member: \$25

CINCO DE MAYO
COOK-OFF
Friday, May 10
7 - 9 PM
TEENS ONLY
The Spot, 215 185th St.

Beach Cleanup

Saturday, May 11

8 - 10 AM

Ellen Wynne Beach Access,
192 St. & Collins Ave.

City Commission Workshop

Tuesday, May 14

10 AM

Fourth Floor Conference Room, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Teen Talk

Tuesday, May 14

6 - 7:30 PM

The Spot, 215 185 St.

City Commission Workshop

Thursday, May 16

3 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center,
18070 Collins Ave.

Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, May 16

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center,
18070 Collins Ave.

Senior Roundtable

Wednesday, May 22

12 - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration is required.

Full Moon Yoga

Thursday, May 23

7:45 - 8:45 PM

On the Beach by Trump International

Beach Resort, 18001 Collins Ave.

Pre-registration is encouraged.



Memorial Day

Monday, May 27

City facilities closed.

SIBshuttle will not run. Parks open regular hours.

Meditation Garden Grand Opening

Tuesday, May 28

6:30 - 8 PM

Town Center Park, 17200 Collins Ave.

Pre-registration is required.

Open House: Sunny Isles Beach Vision: Planning for Tomorrow

Thursday, May 30

5 - 7 PM

First Floor Conference Room, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Miami-Dade County Sunny Isles Beach Branch

MAY

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Talking is Teaching – Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers
(ages 18 mos. – 3 yrs.)

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Wednesdays | 11 AM - 12 PM

Citizenship Class
(ages 19+)

May 4, 11, 18, 25
Saturdays | 10 AM - 12 PM

Homework Help and Tutoring
(students grades K-12)

May 4, 11, 18, 25
Saturdays | 10 AM - 1 PM
For more information contact
tutoring@mdpls.org or call 305.375.1413.

Chess Club
(ages 9+)

May 7, 14, 21, 28
Tuesdays | 4 - 6 PM

Celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month Through Stories
(all ages)

Wednesday, May 8
4:30 - 5:30 PM

The Kids Reading Club
(ages 6 – 11)

Saturday, May 11
1 - 2 PM

Celebrate Jewish American Heritage – Stories and a Craft
(Ages 6 – 11)

Monday, May 13
5 - 6 PM

Russian Social Club
(ages 19+)

Saturday, May 18
3:30 - 5:30 PM
Commission Chambers,
Government Center

Celebrate Jewish American Heritage – For Teens and Tweens

Monday, May 20
5 - 6 PM

Furry Tales
(all ages)

Saturday, May 25
2 - 3 PM
Read your favorite story aloud to a registered therapy dog!

For more information on Miami-Dade County Sunny Isles Beach Branch Library programs, call 305.682.0726 or email vazquezh@mdpls.org. Unless otherwise noted, classes and programs are held in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Sunny Isles Beach Government Center, 18070 Collins Avenue.



SPOTLIGHT ON...



OCEAN RESCUE WATER & BEACH SAFETY

May is National Water Safety Month and we want to spotlight our Ocean Rescue team. As we gear up for the summer and more beach days, it's crucial to understand the importance of water safety. Our Ocean Rescue team shares some tips to help beachgoers stay safe both on the sand and in the water.

Before hitting the waves, you must check the warning flags daily. These flags are located at each tower and indicate the level of hazard in the ocean.

- Green - low hazard, little current or wave action
- Yellow - caution, medium current or wave action
- Red - high hazard, strong currents, or waves
- Purple - dangerous marine life

If you see double red flags, that means the beach is closed due to severe dangers like rip currents, high waves, or marine life concerns.

It's also important to know your swimming abilities and not to overestimate them. Always stay close to shore and avoid alcohol when swimming, as it impairs judgement and coordination. If you find yourself caught in a rip current, remain calm, and signal for help. You can also swim parallel to shore to escape the current.

The week of May 20-27 is National Beach Safety Week. Our lifeguards will be setting up an informational tent at lifeguard tower #174 (17425 Collins Avenue). Stop by from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on May 23, 24, 28, and 29 to receive tips on how to stay safe while enjoying the beach.

For more information on current conditions, visit sibfl.net/current-beach-conditions.

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2024 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

We want to give a big congratulations to our 2024 College Scholarship Winners! The City awarded four scholarships this year to outstanding high school seniors who demonstrated excellence in service, arts, and athletics.

The selection process is always rigorous and this year's winners exemplify strong passions for their respective scholarship. We are proud of our Sunny Isles Beach high school graduates and know they have bright futures ahead.



Annabelle Ignacio
Service Scholarship



Zahra Ronizi
Service Scholarship



Alex Ivanenko
Chief Fred A. Maas College
Scholarship for Athletic
Accomplishment



Eliana Rurua
Mayor Norman S. Edelcup
College Scholarship for
Excellence in the Arts

For more information on our scholarships visit, sibfl.net/scholarships.



27TH ANNIVERSARY

BEACH BASH

**LIVE MUSIC,
DRONE SHOW,
FOOD &
DRINKS**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2
6 - 10 PM**

*Samson Oceanfront Park,
17425 Collins Ave*

SIB Resident ID Cardholders: FREE
Non-residents: \$50

For more information visit sibfl.net/anniversary.



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