



# Islander

Follow us @CityofSIB |     YouTube

JULY 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor



Larisa Svechin  
Mayor

As we approach the new budget cycle for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year, I want to take a moment to discuss our budgeting process and emphasize the importance of transparency and resident involvement.

Our fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30, but planning for the budget begins many months in advance. The process kicks off in May with a City Commission Vision Workshop, where the Commission shares their ideas and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. The vision of the Commission is driven by you – our residents. All members of the Commission prepare their top priorities for the budget based on what we learn from speaking with and listening to the citizens of Sunny Isles Beach.

Over the next few weeks, each department works diligently to plan their expenses to align with the vision of our Commission and residents. The goal is always to keep costs low without sacrificing the high level of service and quality the City is known for.

Your participation is a vital part of the budget process. This year, we introduced an event interest form to encourage collaboration and gather proposals from residents. This initiative allows you to propose events for consideration during budget development. Remember, events happening now are planned many months in advance. To see your ideas come to life, they must be proposed and

budgeted for during the budget season, not at the last minute.

Transparency is a core value of our budgeting process and is crucial for maintaining public trust and government credibility. That's why I encourage you to join us during our budget workshops and meetings. The tentative dates for public hearings are:

- September 3 – First Public Hearing
- September 12 – Second (Final) Public Hearing where the Budget is adopted, and tax millage rate is set.

Please note that these meetings are tentative pending the county and school board budget hearing dates. Any changes will be updated on our meeting calendar at [sibfl.net/events](http://sibfl.net/events). I also urge you to sign up for email notifications, download our mobile app My Sunny Isles Beach, and follow us on social media to stay informed.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge our Finance Department. They have been awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 15th consecutive year and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 13th straight year. These recognitions reflect the high standards of transparency and efficiency in our budgeting process.

Contact Mayor Larisa Svechin at [lsvechin@sibfl.net](mailto:lsvechin@sibfl.net) or 305.792.1753.

# International Festival, A Celebration of Everyone

## Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant

On May 29, 2024, our own Norman S. Edelcup K-8 School was transformed into a melting pot of cultures for the third International Festival. Hosting this event was an honor, as we showcased the beautiful tapestry of diversity that defines our community. With over 400 attendees, the evening was a true testament to the power of unity, love, and respect when celebrating different cultures.

Under the leadership of the Parents of SIB Organization, our teachers and families curated captivating displays representing the following countries: Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, India, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, United States, and Venezuela. Each booth was a vibrant tribute to its respective nation's unique customs, cuisines, and cultures. The on-stage songs and dances were mesmerizing.

Local businesses played a key role by sponsoring traditional foods, performances, and donating prizes. Thank you to El

Tayta Peruvian Bistro, El Tropico Restaurant, Megachuzo, Mozart Café, Golden Chariot Indian Restaurant, Impact Computers and Electronics, JKare, and others.

Yet, the true stars of the evening were our families, whose passion and pride for their cultural heritage illuminated the festival. Their dedication to sharing their traditions with others was inspiring, and the joy on the faces of children as they explored each country's booth "traveling" to these far-away lands and getting their "passports" stamped, was a sight to behold.

In Sunny Isles Beach, we are more than just neighbors; we are a diverse and vibrant community united by our uniqueness. From the bottom of my heart, thank you to ALL who made the International Festival a night to remember.



Contact Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant at [seat3@sibfl.net](mailto:seat3@sibfl.net) or [305.792.1751](tel:305.792.1751).

# Hurricane Season: The Time to Get Ready is Now

## Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the 2024 hurricane season (June 1 – November 30) promises above-normal activity in the Atlantic. Not all storms become hurricanes, of course, but strong storms still present their challenges in SIB, particularly with flooding. Therefore, it's important that we all remain alert so that we can make the best decisions for our families.

When a hurricane approaches, the city's Building Department and Code Enforcement will secure city properties, ensuring that equipment and debris do not become dangerous projectiles. Homeowners must take steps to secure their properties. When possible, the city assists by providing sandbags. Condo associations must secure the common areas of buildings and complexes. Check in with your association. It's important to know what you can expect from your HOA. You don't want to make wrong assumptions as your safety may depend on it.

If a hurricane becomes a category 2, Sunny Isles Beach residents will be told to evacuate. Since a storm can quickly increase in intensity, I would not plan to ride out ANY category hurricane in SIB. We can be facing a category 2 or 3 from one day to the next,

leaving you less time to evacuate safely. Please note, it's not about trusting your hurricane windows, but being in a building with no power, no elevators, and NO OPTION to call 911. Emergency services will not come to you in the middle of a hurricane – certainly not when you have been ordered to evacuate.

This is the time to make your plan. If you have friends or family who can take you in for a week, make that plan with them now as hotels may be tougher to book during an evacuation. If you want to pack more lightly, coordinate Amazon deliveries with them -- like inflatable mattresses, etc. Lastly, DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND. They may end up stuck and dehydrated in hot dark apartments due to loss of power. If you are delayed in your return, they may run out of food and water. Include them in your plan (Amazon purchases included) and take them with you.

For information on hurricane resources, you can go to: [Hurricane Readiness Guide \(miamidade.gov\)](https://www.miamidade.gov/hurricane-readiness-guide).



Contact Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra at [seat4@sibfl.net](mailto:seat4@sibfl.net) or [305.792.1750](tel:305.792.1750).

# CALENDAR

## JULY

# OF EVENTS



**July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**  
**Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM**  
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

**Federal Holiday:**  
*Independence Day*

**Thursday, July 4**

*City Facilities Closed*  
SIBshuttle will not run  
Parks open regular hours

### Mini-FLOW

**Tuesday, July 9**  
**10 AM - 1 PM**  
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.  
*Pre-registration is required.*

### Teen Talk

**Tuesday, July 9**  
**6 - 7:30 PM**  
The Spot, 215 185 St.

### Teens Only: *Carnival/BBQ*

**Friday, July 12**  
**7 - 9 PM**  
The Spot, 215 185 St.  
*Pre-registration is required.*

**JULY 2024**

### City Commission Workshop

**Tuesday, July 16**  
**10 AM**  
Fourth Floor Conference Room, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

### City Commission Workshop

**Thursday, July 18**  
**3 PM**  
Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

### Regular City Commission Meeting

**Thursday, July 18**  
**6:30 PM**  
Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

### Full Moon Yoga

**Sunday, July 21**  
**7:45 - 8:45 PM**  
On the Beach by Trump International Beach Resort, 18001 Collins Ave.  
*Pre-registration is encouraged.*

### City Commission Workshop: *SIB Vision: Planning for Tomorrow*

**Tuesday, July 23**  
**11:30 AM**  
First Floor Meeting Room, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

### Senior Roundtable

**Wednesday, July 24**  
**12 - 1 PM**  
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.  
*Pre-registration is required.*

**SENIOR SUMMER CAMP**

**A Trip Around the World**

**June 10 - August 1**  
Register at [activities.sibfl.net](http://activities.sibfl.net)

Embark on a global adventure without leaving Sunny Isles Beach! Join us as we explore different countries each week through workshops, classes, and cultural trips for seniors ages 55+. Registration is available a la carte, so you can tailor your experience to suit your interests.

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT**

[sibfl.net/events](http://sibfl.net/events)

*Disclosure: Events are subject to change.*

# Miami-Dade County Sunny Isles Beach Branch

JULY

# LIBRARY PROGRAMS

## 2024 Summer Reading Challenge “Adventure Begins at Your Library” (All ages)

**June 1 - August 12**

Sign up at [www.mdpls.org/2024SummerReading](http://www.mdpls.org/2024SummerReading) to participate to earn prize entries and win prizes. Pickup a Reading & Activity Log to keep track of your progress.



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

**July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

**Wednesdays | 11 AM - 12 PM**

## Homework Help and Tutoring (students grades K-12)

**July 6, 13, 20, 27**

**Saturdays | 10 AM - 1 PM**

For more information contact [tutoring@mdpls.org](mailto:tutoring@mdpls.org) or call 305.375.1413.

## Citizenship Class (ages 19+)

**July 6, 13, 20, 27**

**Saturdays | 10 AM - 12 PM**

For more information on Miami-Dade County Sunny Isles Beach Branch Library programs, call 305.682.0726 or email [vazquezh@mdpls.org](mailto: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.



# JULY IS PARK & RECREATION MONTH



This July, join the City of Sunny Isles Beach for Park and Recreation Month! Our city is stronger, more vibrant, and more resilient thanks to our parks and recreation programs.

events, diverse programs, activities, and top-notch customer service.

Park and Recreation Month is an initiative by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This year, we celebrate 'Where You Belong,' focusing on the people, spaces, and programs that create a sense of belonging in Sunny Isles Beach. Our dedicated CCS staff works to ensure that everyone has a safe and memorable experience at our 11 parks. They also provide the best

We invite you to visit our parks, snap a picture, and share your moments on social media. Don't forget to tag us and use the hashtag #WhereYouBelong.

To learn more about Park and Recreation Month, visit [nrpa.org/July](http://nrpa.org/July). For a list of our parks, please visit [sibfl.net/parks](http://sibfl.net/parks).



## NEW ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

The City of Sunny Isles Beach is proud to announce the promotion of **Lt. Luke Plesa** to Assistant Chief of Police. Lt. Plesa has been a dedicated member of our Police Department since 2005. We congratulate him on his well-deserved promotion and look forward to his continued leadership.

## New Parking Rates For Non-Residents: Residents Can Register For Discount

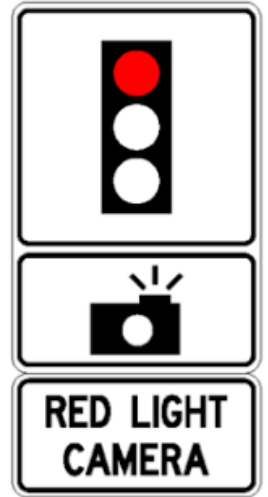
Beginning August 1, parking fees at municipal lots around Sunny Isles Beach will increase by \$2 per hour. Beach parking lots at Ellen Wynne and Pier Park will go from \$3 to \$5 per hour. Other municipal lots, including Gateway Park garage and Heritage Park garage, will increase from \$2 to \$4 per hour.

Sunny Isles Beach residents with a valid City-issued Sunny Isles Beach Resident ID Card can apply for a discounted resident rate. Look for more information coming soon at [sibfl.net/parking](http://sibfl.net/parking).



# INTERSECTION SAFETY CAMERA PROGRAM

The City is introducing the Intersection Safety Camera Program to reduce the number of traffic violations, crashes, and injuries caused by red-light runners. These cameras, placed at various intersections around the City, operate 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. The goal is to change drivers' behavior, ensuring the community's safety as more drivers obey traffic signals and stop on red.



## Camera Locations:

- Sunny Isles Blvd. at the 200 Block
- 183 St. and Collins Ave. (north and southbound lanes)
- 193 St. and Collins Ave. (southbound lanes only)
- 159 St. and Collins Ave. (north and southbound lanes)

## How Red-Light Cameras Work:

The cameras are activated by sensors that detect vehicle movement at the mentioned intersections when the traffic signal turns red. They are activated when a vehicle runs a red light. Each video recording is then reviewed by the Sunny Isles Beach Police Department before the notice of violation is issued.

## Fees and Ticket Information:

The registered owner of the vehicle will receive a \$158 civil violation in the mail. This violation does not add points to the driver's license and will not affect insurance rates.

## Payment Options:

Violations must be paid online at [secure.redlightviolations.com](https://secure.redlightviolations.com), by phone at 877-204-0904, or by mail as indicated on the notice.

## Consequences of Non-Payment:

If the violation is not paid, a Uniform Traffic Citation is issued, and the case is transferred to the Miami-Dade County Clerk of Court, where the fine is increased to \$277. Failure to pay or successfully contest the citation in County Court may result in suspension of driving privileges.

## If You Were Not the Driver:

You can request a hearing to dispute the violation or submit a sworn and notarized affidavit stating who was driving at the time of the violation. The affidavit is available online at [secure.redlightviolations.com](https://secure.redlightviolations.com).

## Warning Period:

The program will start with a warning period from August 1 to August 31. Beginning September 1, violators will be issued a \$158 fine.

ANNUAL SUNNY ISLES BEACH

# Photo Contest



Submit your photos for a chance to be featured in the **2025 SUNNY ISLES BEACH DESKTOP CALENDAR**.

Photos should be at least 300 DPI to be considered. Horizontal photos are preferred. For best resolution, a digital camera should be used.

The photo must be of a scene taken in Sunny Isles Beach, Florida (*between 156 Street and 195 Street and the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway*).

**SUBMISSIONS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

**SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS AT [SIBFL.NET/PHOTOCONTEST](https://sibfl.net/photocontest).**





# Islander

**PUBLISHED BY**  
**CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH**  
**MEDIA DIVISION**  
18070 Collins Avenue  
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

**MAYOR** Larisa Svechin

**VICE MAYOR** Alex Lama

**COMMISSIONER** Jerry Joseph

**COMMISSIONER** Fabiola Stuyvesant

**COMMISSIONER** Jeniffer Viscarra

## ARTICLES & EDITORIAL

**EDITOR** Leah Einwalter

**MANAGING EDITOR** Francesca Constantini

## ART & PRODUCTION

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Elvira Gatina

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**VIDEO PRODUCTION MANAGER**

Vanessa Viera

**VIDEO PRODUCTION SPECIALIST**

Pablo Rodriguez

The views, opinions, representations, information, or statements made or expressed by any individual contributor in this newsletter are those of the individual contributor only and do not represent the views or beliefs of the City of Sunny Isles Beach or those of the broader community. The views, opinions, representations, information, or statements by individual contributors are provided on an "as-is" basis with no guarantees of completeness or accuracy, and the City of Sunny Isles Beach assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omission therein, or for the consequences of any action or inaction on the basis of any views, opinions, representations, information or statements made or expressed by individual contributors.

## STAY CONNECTED



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



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



**FACEBOOK, X,  
INSTAGRAM & YOUTUBE**  
[@CityofSIB](https://www.facebook.com/CityofSIB)



**EMERGENCY  
NOTIFICATIONS**  
Sign up at [sibalert.net](https://sibalert.net)



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
[sibfl.net/events](https://sibfl.net/events)



**SUNNY ISLES BEACH TV**  
Breezeline Channel 662  
Formerly Atlantic Broadband  
Hotwire Channel 1612