

AVENTURA UPDATE

More Parks on the Way

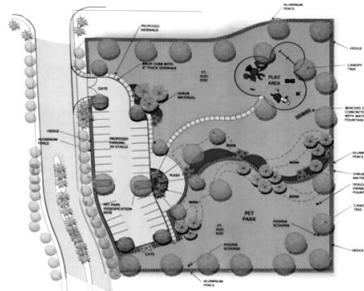
As the City's demographics change toward a younger and family oriented community, the City Commission has tuned its sights on developing more park sites in the City.

In 1995 when the City incorporated there was no public park land designated in the City. Today, over 21 acres have been developed for park purposes. In the next two years, 2 new parks consisting of another 8 acres will be developed.

NE 31ST AVENUE PARK IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN MAY 2004

This project consists of developing the 2 acre park site on NE 31st Avenue. Planned

facilities and amenities include: 30 space parking lot; 1.5 acre open playfield area; playground facilities; landscaping with shade trees; decorative fencing separating the pet park from the play areas; separate entrance for visitors with pets. 25,000 square foot pet exercise area; drinking fountains for pets and people; several "pooper scooper" stations; trash receptacles and security lighting.

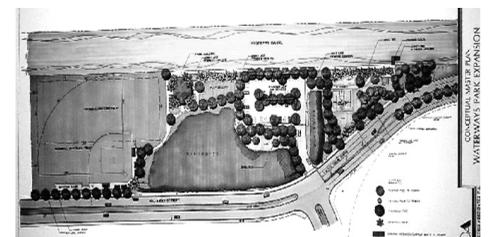


PET/PLAY PARK
CITY OF AVENTURA



be lit at night to expand the hours of operations. Park construction should be completed in 2 years.

At our other park locations, Founders Park, Country Club Drive Jogging Trail, and the Community Recreation Center, attendance is high as the City has continued to expand recreational programming for all age groups.



CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN
WATERWAYS PARK EXPANSION

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WATERWAYS PARK TO EXPAND BY 6 ACRES

The City recently approved a purchase agreement with the owners of the Gulfstream Race track to purchase 6 acres. This will allow for the expansion of the current Waterways Park. The park would include a multipurpose sports field, playground, basketball court, fitness trail and preservation of 1.5 acres of mangroves. This will provide needed recreational facilities in the northern portion of the City and ball fields that will

A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The City of Aventura's newsletter represents the City Commission's continued commitment to keep the community updated on important issues, including city government and services. This newsletter is published on a quarterly basis and your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Notice of Special Election

Pursuant to a citizens' initiative petition filed with the City Clerk's office, a special election will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2004 to allow the voters of the City of Aventura to determine whether or not the City's Charter should be amended to extend the length of service of the offices of Mayor and City Commissioners from two 4-year consecutive elected terms to three 4-year consecutive elected terms.

The exact language of the Charter amendment question which will appear on the ballot for City of Aventura residents, in conjunction with the presidential

preference primary, is as follows:

TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF SERVICE

The City Charter currently limits City Commissioners to no more than two consecutive elected terms and prohibits any person from serving as a combination of Mayor and Commissioner for more than eight consecutive years. City electors have petitioned to amend the Charter to enable Commissioners to serve for three consecutive elected terms and to allow service for up to twelve consecutive

years as a combination of Mayor and Commissioner.

SHALL THE CHARTER AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED?

YES

NO

Questions should be directed to Teresa M. Soroka, CMC, City Clerk and local supervisor of elections at 305-466-8901 or via email at sorokat@cityofaventura.com. 🗳️

2004 Early Voting Sites

March 9th (Presidential Preference) • February 26th through March 7th

| <u>COMMISSION DISTRICT</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>SITE NUMBER</u> |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------|
| District 1 | North Dade Regional Library • 2455 NW 183 Street | Site #1 |
| District 2 | North Central Library • 9590 NW 27 Ave | Site #2 |
| District 3 | Model City Library • 2211 NW 54 Street | Site #3 |
| District 4 | Northeast Library • 2930 Aventura Boulevard | Site #4 |
| District 5 | Stephen P. Clark Center • 111 NW 1 Street (Lobby) | Site #14 |
| District 5 | Miami Beach Library • 2100 Collins Avenue | Site #5 |
| District 6 | Victor Wilde Park • 5405 West 18 Avenue | Site #6 |
| District 7 | Coral Gables Library • 3443 Segovia Street | Site #7 |
| District 8 | Homestead Library • 700 N. Homestead Boulevard | Site #8 |
| District 9 | South Dade Library • 10750 SW 211 Street (D8) | Site #9 |
| District 10 | West Dade Regional Library • 9445 SW 24 Street | Site #10 |
| District 11 | West Kendall Regional Library • 10201 Hammocks Blvd | Site #11 |
| District 12 | Elections Department • 2700 NW 87 Avenue | Site #12 |
| District 13 | Miami Lakes Public Library • 6699 Windmill Gate Road | Site #13 |

City of Aventura residents may cast their ballots early at any of the above-listed locations on the dates set forth above. The ballot question for the City of Aventura will be available at each of the above sites. 🗳️

Polling Place Re-Locations

Precincts Nos. 102, 184 and 186 have been permanently re-located to the Aventura Community Recreation Center at 3375 NE 188th Street beginning with the March 9, 2004 presidential preference primary election.

Registered voters who cast their ballots at Biscayne Lake Gardens Community Room and at the Aventura Fire Station will now be voting at the Aventura Community Recreation Center.

Voting Precincts

| <u>PRECINCT NUMBER</u> | <u>AREA COVERED</u> | <u>POLLING PLACE</u> |
|------------------------|---|--|
| 102* | Waterways Biscayne Lakes Gardens | Aventura Community Recreation Center 3375 NE 188th Street |
| 103 | Del Vista; Country Club Drive West of NE 34th Avenue and South to Lehman Causeway; West side of East Country Club Drive (Country Club Estates and Promenade) | Aventura Library 2930 Aventura Boulevard |
| 109 | Turnberry Yacht Club Area Mystic Point; Bay Club | Aventura Government Center 19200 West Country Club Drive |
| 111 | Commodore Plaza; Admirals Port; Biscayne Cove; Lincoln Point | Commodore Plaza Tower II 2750 NE 183rd Street |
| 112 | Plaza Del Prado | Plaza Del Prado 18051 Biscayne Boulevard |
| 113 | Point East | Point East 2895 Point East Drive |
| 184* | North Country Club Drive East of NE 34th Avenue and East of East Country Club Drive to Lehman Causeway; Yacht Club | Aventura Community Recreation Center 3375 NE 188th Street |
| 186* | Single family Homes East of FEC Railroad | Aventura Community Recreation Center 3375 NE 188th Street |

Please note change in location for Precincts 102, 184, 186.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to join with our community to make Aventura a city of the highest quality and a city of excellence. We do this by providing RESPONSIVE, COST EFFECTIVE and INNOVATIVE local government services.

Community Services Department

ARBOR DAY: FRIDAY APRIL 30, 2004 10 AM

The City of Aventura will be holding its annual Arbor Day Celebration at the Aventura Charter Elementary School, located at 3333 NE 188th Street. This year the City of Aventura will be recognized as a TREE CITY USA for the seventh consecutive year. The program includes the presentation of the prestigious Aventura Beautification Awards to recognize the "Properties of Excellence" and features activities that teach about the importance of planting trees. Join us to celebrate this very important occasion. For more information on Arbor Day, please contact 305-466-8930.



A NEW AVENTURA PARK IS COMING SOON

Located on NE 31st Avenue between NE 183rd and NE 185th Streets, this new park is currently under construction, scheduled to open in the summer of 2004. This two acre park will have separate areas for children and pets. The park will have a playground, open play area, parking, and a separate play area for your pet to exercise and socialize. Programming will include pet health and obedience, pet registration and vaccination programs, and special events just for you and your puppy!

AVENTURA COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

The Community Recreation Center opened its doors in February, 2003. In the past year, over 2,400 members have enjoyed the benefits of the programs,

activities, and events that the Center offers. Programming has been expanded for all age groups and offers a variety of programs in computers and technology, cultural and dance programs, as well as life-long learning seminars and fitness programs. The 25,000 square foot Center offers quality programs for you and your family. Please drop by for a personal tour.

UPCOMING EVENTS: TEACHER PLANNING DAYS AND SPRING BREAK CAMP

Register for Teacher Planning Days and Spring Camp programs at the Community Recreation Center. The registration fee includes activities, lunch, snacks, and field trips. For further details, please call 305-466-3883, e-mail crcenter@cityofaventura.com or visit the City's website at www.cityofaventura.com.

Upcoming Teacher Planning Days:
Friday March 26 and Friday April 9
Spring Break Camp:
Monday, March 29 – Friday, April 2, 2004

AVENTURA ROTATING ART EXHIBITION: COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

The second season of the City of Aventura Rotating Art Exhibition is in full swing at the Aventura Community Recreation Center in the main lobby and west reception area. The art is appreciated by Center members, guests, and Aventura Charter Elementary School children. Upcoming exhibits include Art Across Florida, Photography Across Florida and Art by Aventura Children. Each exhibit will have an Artist's Reception where the general public can meet and greet the artists. Exhibits are open for viewing to the public during normal operating hours.

Art Across Florida Exhibit:
February 19 – March 25, 2004
Artists' Reception:
Thursday, March 11th at 5 PM
Photography Across Florida Exhibit:
March 31 – April 27, 2004

Artists' Reception:
Thursday, April 8th at 5 PM
Aventura Children Arts Exhibit:
May 1 – 27, 2004
Artists' Reception:
Sunday, May 16th at 1 PM

FOUNDERS PARK OFFERS FUN IN THE SUN!

In addition to the fitness course and world class playground, Founders Park offers programming for all ages that allows you to get active in the South Florida sunshine. Programs offered for adults throughout the year include softball leagues and tennis activities. Youth programs include tennis lessons and camps, as well as soccer, t-ball, softball, and flag football leagues.

A variety of fitness programs have been added for children ages 3 and up for a healthy start. For up-to-date information on the athletic programs offered at Founders Park, please call the sports hotline at 305-466-0491.

AVENTURA'S SUMMER CAMP

The City of Aventura is pleased to offer summer camp. The program is filled with eight weeks of fun, activities, and friendship in a safe and structured environment. Campers will enjoy the summer with a variety of planned and supervised activities. All campers will go swimming and enjoy a field trip once per week that is included in your inclusive registration fee.

Summer Camp starts on June 14 and runs through August 6, 2004. Registration for Aventura residents starts March 1, 2004. Please register early as space is limited. A one-week extended camp session will also be offered from August 9 through August 13, 2004.

If you would like more information on the Aventura Summer Camp, or becoming a counselor-in-training if you are between the ages of 13 and 15, please call the Community Recreation Center at 305-466-3883, e-mail crcenter@cityofaventura.com or visit the City's website at www.cityofaventura.com.

Holiday Toy Drive

Thanks to the generosity of many people, the City's Community Development Department collected over 500 gifts this holiday season. The toys and gifts were distributed to five needy families and five charities which assists homeless, abused and/or underprivileged children and their families. Fourteen bicycles were collected and delivered to some surprised and happy children. 🎁



Residential Monument Sign and Wall Sign Amortization ends October 2, 2004

When the City Code was enacted in July of 1999, all existing residential wall signs and monument signs that did not comply with the new regulations were allowed to continue, provided that no structural or text alterations were made to those signs.

In its efforts to continue to complement the City's ongoing beautification projects, the City Commission approved an ordinance in September of 2001 that requires all residential properties to bring monument signs and building wall signs into compliance with the City's signage

regulations by October 2, 2004.

The following types of signage are allowed in a residential district:

One stone, masonry or stucco monument sign per street frontage or a sign mounted on a perimeter wall, indicating the name and address of the complex. These signs must be set back 6 feet from the right of way and 15 feet from side property lines. The sign area cannot exceed 32 square feet in total area and 8 feet in height, with external illumination only.

Wall signs are no longer allowed on residential buildings and must be removed by October 2, 2004.

Directional signs throughout the residential development cannot exceed 4 square feet in size and 3 feet in height.

A building permit from the City's Community Development Department is required for all new signs and for removal of existing signs.

Contact the Community Development Department at (305) 466-8940 for further information. 🎁

GOVERNMENT CENTER DIRECTORY

| | |
|---|----------------|
| MAIN NUMBER | (305) 466-8900 |
| MAIN FAX NUMBER | (305) 466-8939 |
| MAYOR AND COMMISSION | (305) 466-8901 |
| CITY MANAGER | (305) 466-8910 |
| Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM | |
| CITY CLERK | (305) 466-8901 |
| Teresa M. Soroka, CMC | |
| COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | |
| Joanne Carr, Planning Director | (305) 466-8940 |
| Noe Martinez, Building Dir/Official | (305) 466-8937 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| COMMUNITY SERVICES | (305) 466-8930 |
| Robert M. Sherman, Director | |
| FINANCE SUPPORT SERVICES | (305) 466-8920 |
| Harry M. Kilgore, Director | |
| POLICE DEPARTMENT | (305) 466-8989 |
| Thomas E. Ribel, Police Chief | |
| CHARTER SCHOOL | (305) 466-1499 |
| Dr. Katherine Murphy, Principal | |
| COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER | (305) 466-3883 |
| JOB HOTLINE | (305) 466-8955 |

Aventura Police Officer Honored

On November 15, 2003, Aventura Police Department's Officer Elricco Barnes traveled to Daytona Beach, Florida, where he was bestowed the honor of Outstanding Young Public Safety/Law Enforcement Officer (Cooper-Taylor-Moon Memorial Award) by the Florida Jaycees. Barnes had been nominated locally by the Aventura Jaycees for this award which is presented to a Florida citizen who has done the most to promote safety, including any area of human activity.

Officer Barnes joined the Aventura Police Department in 1998 as a Police Service Aid. While working full time in that capacity he attended the police academy at night and became a full-time police officer in October

of 1999. Since that time, he has been named Officer of the Month twice and received 15 commendations. He is a single parent and often spends his free time fundraising for charitable causes.

Recently, Ofc. Barnes was confronted with a life or death situation. He was able to respond to that threat and do what was necessary to bring the situation to a successful conclusion. Although he used deadly force, he showed compassion by risking his own life to drag the subject to safety, for which Barnes received the Officer of the Month Award from the Aventura Police Department, as well as being the recipient of the Dade County Association Chiefs of Police Officer of the



Month Award on January 7, 2004.

The Aventura Police Department is proud to have such a humble, professional among the ranks of its men and woman of law enforcement. 🍀

What's a Segway?

With a speed of up to 12.5 mph, a range of 11 miles and weighing only 95 pounds, the Segway is the latest avenue of transportation that will allow foot patrol officers within Aventura more effective control in patrolling parks, schools, special events and the Mall areas, both inside and out.

A self-balancing unit, controlled by the turn-grip of the left hand, the Segway presents a multitude of benefits for the officer. It affords added height, not only to obtain an overview of an area, but the



ability to be seen, as well. The Segway unit invites approachability by members of the community and allows the officer ease in engaging in conversation on or off the unit. The Segway is easily equipped with a cargo bag that can carry the officer's ticket book, rain gear, laptop and first aid supplies and allows quicker and easier accessibility to areas that would otherwise not accommodate a full-sized vehicle.

The Segway has been well received by officers and civilians alike as a proactive approach to Community Policing. 🍀

Aventura Police Provide Holiday Cheer

The Aventura Police Dept. along with Whole Foods Market teamed together to provide three families a complete Holiday Dinner the season. This is the third consecutive year, in hopefully a long term tradition, that assistance was given to special families. The dinner consisted of a fully cooked 15 pound turkey, trays of stuffing, vegetable dishes, along with

assorted pies. The employees of whole foods were also generous enough to provide gifts to the children of the families.

The families were very appreciative of the unexpected dinner and gifts. They had neither the means or the plans for such a dinner. So, they were overwhelmed by the generosity of the Police Dept. and of Whole Foods Market.

OVERVIEW OF THE FAMILIES:

Family #1 was a single mother with two boys.

Family #2 was a elderly blind women who lives by herself.

Family #3 is our own Lissette in dispatch. her and her children were very grateful for all the foods and gifts. 🍀

Permits for Special Events

The City's Noise Ordinance requires any business or private property planning a special event with music, fireworks, tents, signs, banners or food to apply for a Special Event Permit through the City Manager's Office. Applications should be submitted a minimum of ten days prior to the event. Special Event Permit applications are available on the City's website under E-Government at www.cityofaventura.com. There is no fee for the permit. The City may place conditions on the permit to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City prior to granting approval.

FILM PERMITS

Any person wishing to film still photos, live or motion picture productions within the City must apply for a Film Permit from the City Manager's Office. A permit fee in the amount of \$100 is due and payable at

the time of the permit application. The applicant must also provide proof of public liability insurance. The City Manager may impose certain conditions on the film permit activities. Anyone interested in obtaining a Film Permit should contact the City Manager's Assistant at (305) 466-8911.

TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

In accordance with Section 3.0 of the Noise Ordinance, anyone wishing to do construction work during prohibited hours of the Noise Ordinance shall apply for a Temporary Construction Permit through



the City Manager's Office. The applicant must show justification that after hours work would expedite the completion of construction activities and not endanger the health, safety and welfare of the community. 🗣️

Swale Parking Prohibited

The recent beautification along Country Club Drive which included median landscaping, new sod, tree plantings, decorative street light fixtures, bus shelters

and newsracks continues to make the City of Aventura one of South Florida's most beautiful cities.

So as not to disrupt the new plantings

and irrigation system, swale parking will no longer be allowed. Condominiums must make prior arrangements for off-site parking when a special event is planned. 🗣️

City to Launch Radio Station

Residents soon will be able to hear city information broadcasted on 1650 AM radio station. General information announcements, special events, traffic reports and weather are just a sampling of what you will be able to hear.

The City is in the final stages of preparing for its debut. Stay tuned.

AVENTURA UPDATE

Published by the Office of the City Manager • Government Center • 19200 West Country Club Drive • Aventura, Florida 33180

MAYOR Jeffrey M. Perlow

COMMISSIONERS

Zev Auerbach • Jay R. Beskin • Ken Cohen
Bob Diamond • Manny Grossman • Harry Holzberg

CITY MANAGER Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM

CITY CLERK Teresa M. Soroka, CMC

CITY ATTORNEY

Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Guedes Cole & Boniske

EDITOR

Judy Appelgren, Assistant to the City Manager

Applications for Aventura Police Pension Board of Trustees

The City of Aventura is accepting applications for the Aventura Police Pension Board of Trustees. The board shall be responsible for the proper, effective operation of the Retirement Plan and for implementing the provisions of the Ordinance.

Applicants should have expressed interest and/or experience in finance, investments and/or familiarity with pension plans.

The Board will consist of five members. Two Board members shall be appointed by the City Commission and must be legal residents of the City of Aventura. Two members shall be Police Officers elected by a majority of active members of the Plan. A

fifth member will be chosen by a majority of the other four members whose name will be submitted to the City Commission for appointment.

Members will serve for a term of two years. Applications may be obtained from the City Manager's Office (305) 466-8910 or on line at www.cityofaventura.com. Application deadline is March 1, 2004. ♣

City Commission Meetings

Commission Meetings are held at 6:00 pm:

Aventura Government Center
Commission Chambers
19200 West Country Club Drive

City Commission Meeting

Tuesday, March 2, 2004

For information on upcoming Commission meetings and workshops and to confirm all meeting dates, times and locations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (305) 466-8901.

Applications for Community Services Advisory Board

The City of Aventura is accepting applications for the City's Community Services Advisory Board. The board provides advice and recommendations to the City Commission on matters concerning City beautification projects, cultural arts, special events, youth programs, senior citizen programs and recreational facilities.

Board members shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to approval of the City Commission. Board applicants must have an expressed interest and/or experience in landscape design and architecture, beautification projects, youth and/or

senior citizen programs, recreation activities, culture and the arts. Board members must be registered voters who have resided in the City of Aventura for a consecutive six (6) month period prior to appointment to the Board. Members nominated by the City Commission shall serve for a term of one year and may be re-appointed. Members approved through the application process shall serve for a two-year term and may be reappointed.

Application deadline is March 1, 2004.

Applications may be obtained from the City Manager's Office (305) 466-8910 or on line at www.cityofaventura.com. ♣

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Office of the City Manager
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