

AVENTURA UPDATE

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.

Aventura Charter Elementary School

Excitement is building as the kick-off for accepting applications for enrollment in the City of Aventura's new Charter Elementary School has begun. The City of Aventura, in conjunction with Charter Schools USA, held the first Parent Information Night in May. Representatives from Charter Schools USA were on hand to answer parents' questions about operations, education, class size, staffing and curriculum. Another Parent Information Night will be scheduled sometime late summer or early fall.

Parents can obtain enrollment applications several ways:

- Call 1-866-KIDSUSA (543-7872)
- Fax 1-866-866-6188
- Apply on line at www.aventuracharter.org

- Applications are available at City of Aventura Government Center

Aventura residents will have preference in registering their child for the school. Proof of residency will be required at the time of formal registration next year. Applications will be accepted until March 2003.

The City of Aventura, in its attempt to address the growing number of school age children and to help ease the over crowding in the surrounding schools, decided to build its own Charter Elementary School. After years of searching to identify a school site, the Aventura City Commission selected the property at 3333 N.E. 188th Street. The Charter School will be adjacent to the City's

Community/Recreation Center that will allow the sharing of facilities between the Charter School and Community/Recreation Center. The school is expected to open the fall of 2003.

The \$5.5 million state-of-the-art Charter School will house 600 students in grades K-5th and will be an independent, tuition-free, public school operating under a performance contract with the Miami-Dade County School Board.

Interested parents are encouraged to visit the City of Aventura's web site: www.cityofaventura.com or stop in the Government Center at 19200 West Country Club Drive and pick up an application and brochure. ♦

REPLY

For more information and to receive an enrollment application for the 2003 school year, complete this form, cut along dotted line and return to the address below.
APPLY ONLINE at www.aventuracharter.org or call toll-free: 1-866-KIDSUSA (543-7872).

PARENT NAME: _____ FIRST _____ LAST _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS: _____ STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER: (_____) _____-_____. EMAIL: _____

YOUR CHILD'S NAME: _____ FIRST _____ LAST _____ PHONE _____

YOUR CHILD'S BIRTHDATE: _____

YOUR CHILD'S GRADE LEVEL IN 2003-2004: _____

www.aventuracharter.org • 1-866-KIDSUSA (543-7872)

*Charter Schools USA
 6245 North Federal Hwy., 5th Floor
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308
 Toll-free: 1-866-KIDSUSA (543-7872)
 Fax: 1-866-866-6188

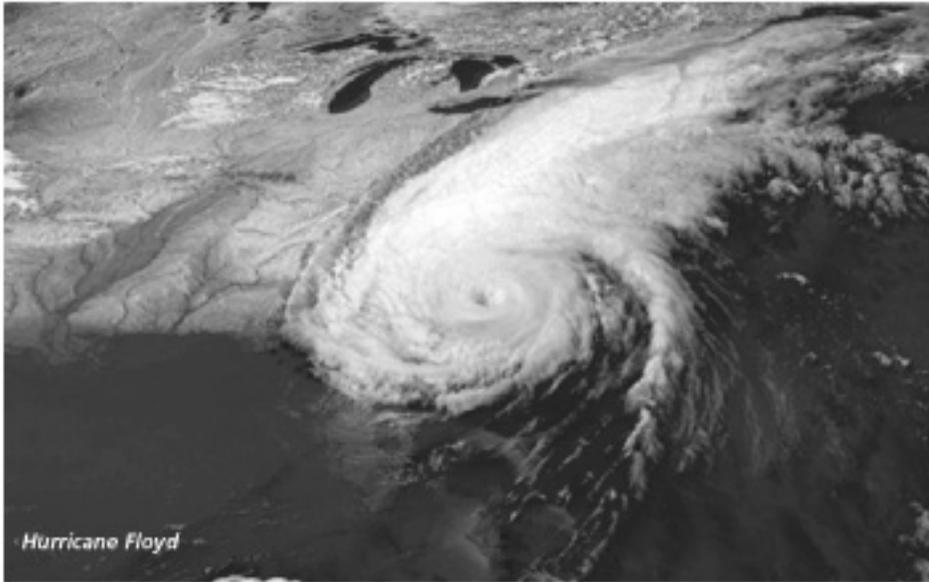
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What's Happening

Hurricane Season 2002



Hurricane Floyd

Those of you who live in Florida are well aware that Hurricane Season begins June 1st of each year and extends through November 30th. Unlike many natural catastrophes that strike without warning, residents can plan for what they will do if a hurricane threatens the area. The time to plan and get ready for a hurricane is now, at the beginning of the season, and not when it appears likely that the storm will strike the Aventura area. Here are the answers to frequently asked questions about what to do if a hurricane threatens the area.

WHAT IS THE BEST THING I CAN DO IF A STORM IS THREATENING SOUTH FLORIDA?

The best thing to do if a storm approaches is to stay informed. Listen to local newscasts for updates regarding evacuation orders and shelter openings. Even though there are shelters in Northeast Dade, not every shelter opens for every storm, or they may open at different times based upon demand. Information regarding shelter openings will be broadcast on local television and radio stations.

IF AN EVACUATION ORDER IS GIVEN, HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO LEAVE MY RESIDENCE?

An evacuation order may provide you with only a few hours notice or you may have more than a day. While hurricane forecasts have improved in recent years, it is still not an exact science. Once an order to evacuate has been given, you should plan on leaving as soon as possible. Keep in mind that thousands of people will be leaving from the barrier islands as well. Traffic jams may occur or roads may become impassable due to stalled cars, debris on the road, flooding or downed wires.

WHY SHOULD I EVACUATE INSTEAD OF STAYING IN MY HOME OR CONDO?

Pictures of damage that has occurred in other storms should provide you with all the incentive you need to evacuate. Hopefully, your home or condo will not be damaged at all and you will just be inconvenienced for a short time. There is the chance that your building could suffer significant damage and serious injury or death could result. Should an emergency occur, assistance may

not be available right away. Keep in mind that emergency services will cease when storm winds become severe and depending upon the extent of damage and road conditions, it could take awhile before help does arrive at your particular location after a storm passes. You may also be without electricity and other utilities.

I HAVE HEALTH PROBLEMS. DO THEY HAVE SHELTERS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS?

Yes, but you must pre-register with the Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management. The phone number for special needs registration is 305-513-7700. You will be sent a form for your doctor to complete that must be returned to the County.

IF A STORM'S APPROACHING, WHO CAN I CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION?

The Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management maintains an ANSWER CENTER that you can contact at 305-468-5900. This year, the City of Aventura will also have an Emergency Information Number that you can call at 305-466-8001. This line will provide recorded updates when a storm could present a problem to South Florida. If the storm appears to pose a significant threat to Northeast Dade, the phones will be staffed by City personnel to answer your questions.

WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO HAVE SOMEONE SPEAK BEFORE MY GROUP OR HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION?

Contact the Aventura Police Department at 305-466-8999 and you will be directed to the appropriate location. ♦

Department Updates

CLEAN WATER:

Doing a little on your part saves a lot of water

Here are some simple things you can do to save our most precious natural resource, water.

- Wash with phosphate free or low phosphate biodegradable soaps, detergents and shampoos. Phosphates can suffocate fish and other aquatic life in our waterways.
- Keep paints, oils, solvents and other household chemicals out of drains, sinks and toilets.
- Recycle and dispose of all trash properly.
- Use non-toxic household products.
- Repair all leaky toilets and sinks.
- Use fertilizers sparingly in your terrace garden.
- Identify and report polluters immediately.

In addition, please do your part in keeping your parks, waterways and streets clean and litter free!

NEW BUS SHELTERS

Three new bus shelters have been completed on Biscayne Boulevard. The new shelters are located at NE 178 Street, NE 191 Street and NE 195 Street. They will provide shelter from the summer sun and rains for those who use public transportation.

JULY 4th AVENTURA-STYLE!

SALUTE THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE IN 2002!

It was all sunshine, at this year's 4th annual Splash Bash at Aventura Founders Park on Thursday, July 4th, 2002. Over 1200 celebrants enjoyed the many activities scheduled from 11 am to 2 pm. Aventura residents, friends and visitors enjoyed riding the patriotic dressed ponies, tie dyeing patriotic t-shirts, arts and crafts, sand art designs, inflatable water slides, kiddy water area, live D.J. and outrageous field activities. Many families came dressed for the occasion, wearing red, white and blue. Hot Dogs, cold watermelon and beverages cooled down the day.



July 4th Balloon Toss

At 9 PM, the City of Excellence lit up the sky with a "Salute to the Red, White and Blue". Fireworks were seen anywhere along West Country Club Drive. Looking from the ground up, many Aventura residents were celebrating the spectacular display of fireworks from their condominium balconies. Five complimentary stations were set along West Country Club Drive where viewers could obtain a free American flag and 3-D glasses, as well as purchase a cold beverage. The City of Aventura wishes to thank those residents who called and let us know that the Splash Bash and Fireworks finale were the best thus far. Call 305-466-8930 for information on upcoming events.

"THOSE LAZY, CRAZY, HAZY DAYS OF SUMMER!"

We are once again hosting the extremely popular and successful 4th annual What-A-Wednesday Summer Program at Founders Park!

Starting on June 19 and ending on August 7, be sure to come to Founders Park to enjoy theme programs each and every Wednesday during the summer from 10 AM – 12 Noon. Themes include "Carnival Day", "Sports Day", and of course, "Patriot Day", so be sure to join us for the fun and friendship of summer.

This program is free to Aventura residents 5 – 12 years old with a valid resident ID card. Please call Founders Park at 305-466-0183 for more details or email jayl@cityofaventura.com

WHEN IS THE LAST TIME YOU VISITED FOUNDERS PARK?

We have a full complement of recreational programs from tennis to fitness for all ages. Youth and adult sports leagues are held year round. Outdoorfit, meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00am and 6:15pm to incorporate cardio and strength training and flexibility exercise into your week. Stop by the park or call 305-466-0183.

NEW ID CARDS NEEDED BY AUGUST 1, 2002

The City of Aventura will be offering a new service to all of our residents starting this summer. We are introducing a new software program that will allow you to register for all of your favorite programs from the comfort and convenience of your own home, either by telephone or your computer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In order for you to use this new service, it is necessary for you to obtain a new resident ID card with your own personal identification number. This card is free and will be needed to register for all of the City's programs. Please call Founders Park at 305-466-0183 to schedule your appointment.

Department Updates

FALL TRIPS 'N TOURS

This very popular program is entering its 6th year. A full slate of informational, educational and cultural programming starts in July and runs through December. Our programming this year includes:

The Lion King

Florida Stage Door Dinner Theatre

1-MAX Theatre

Sea Escape Day Cruise

For complete details of all trips 'n tours, please call 305-466-8930 or email fishmang@cityofaventura.com. ♦



Trips & Tours - Sugar and Rice Plantation

Police Dept.

On April 11, 2002, the Aventura Police Department honored two members of their team for outstanding accomplishments during the 2001 calendar year. Selected by their peers were Officer Charles Carlantone, as Officer of the Year; and, PSA Aldo Alfonso, as Civilian Employee of the Year. The presentations were made during the Annual Awards Ceremony & Fifth Anniversary Banquet of the Aventura Police Department held at Porto Vita. ♦



Officers Alfonso and Carlantone

Office of the City Clerk

TOUCH-SCREEN VOTING

Eligible voters in Miami-Dade County are invited to "Touch the Future" by stopping by the Aventura Government Center for a hands-on demonstration of the new touch screen voting technology.

Aventura City Clerk and Municipal Supervisor of Elections Teresa M. Soroka will offer a presentation of this new iVotronic equipment that will be used to record votes in coming local, state and national elections.

The new system is the size of a laptop computer – but don't associate the word "computer" with the new equipment. If you can operate a microwave oven or an ATM machine, you can easily cast your ballot on this new equipment.

After you have checked in at your local polling place, a poll worker inserts an activator into the iVotronic and selects your ballot.

Use only your finger (no other objects such as pen or pencil) to make your selections. Only the same pressure used on a microwave or an ATM machine is required. Choose a language. Once the Ballot Screen appears, make ballot selections.

If you wish to change a selection, retouch your first choice to cancel it and then touch your new choice. You even have the option of a "Write-In" selection, by pressing the alphabet to spell out your choice.

Review your final ballot selections on "Review Screen."

Once you are satisfied with your choices, press the

"VOTE" button. You have just cast your ballot! (If you leave the booth and forget to push the "VOTE" button, two poll workers will cast the votes you selected.)

In the 2001 Florida legislative session, an election reform act was passed that decertified paper and punch card ballots effective September 2, 2002, at which time electronic or electromechanical voting systems must be used.

Miami-Dade County selected a touch screen system to prevent voters from over voting and gives them the ability to choose which language they wish to have their ballot displayed, either English, Spanish or Creole. Touch screens have been successfully used in a number of states including California, Michigan and New Jersey. Voters with disabilities that would preclude them from touching or seeing the screen will have the opportunity to vote in an ADA booth using special equipment to meet their needs.

The County has placed one new voting system in each Government Center/City Hall in Miami-Dade County and is offering demonstrations and presentations in various locations throughout the County. For more information, contact Aventura City Clerk Teresa M. Soroka at 305-466-8901, visit Government Center at 19200 West Country Club Drive between the hours of 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., or call the Miami-Dade County Elections Department at 305-375-3155. ♦



Flood Prevention & Safety

LOCAL FLOODING FACTS

Flooding is an act of nature which respects no boundary lines. In the City of Aventura, flooding is generally caused by heavy rainfall that occurs in short periods of time, as is common during summer thunderstorms, tropical storms and hurricanes. The City is vulnerable to flooding from storm water runoff and coastal storm surges. Due to this flood risk, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has designated most of the City as a Special Flood Hazard Area on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). This map designates areas susceptible to the 100-year flood and for safety purposes, establishes minimum elevations for construction.

A 100-year flood is the equivalent of 10 or more inches of rain within 24 hours. A 100-year flood has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. However, it can occur more than once in a given year or in successive years. The potential for loss and damage in the City of Aventura during a heavy storm or hurricane does exist. Residents and property owners should be aware of this potential risk and be prepared to deal with flooding when it occurs.

FLOODPLAINS ARE ESSENTIAL

Although flooding is a nuisance, floodplains are an essential part of the natural cycle in South Florida. The Everglades, which is one expansive floodplain, and the Biscayne Aquifer which lies underneath, are South Florida's

only source of drinking water. They need large quantities of water to be replenished. Occasional floods are, and always have been, essential



sources of fresh water to replenish the Biscayne Aquifer.

FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Developers wishing to build in designated floodplain areas (including the City of Aventura) must use proper design techniques and structural requirements to ensure that new developments are floodproof. All new developments in the City of Aventura must be reviewed by City officials to ensure the designs meet the City's Floodplain Development Regulations in order to receive a permit for construction. The City has adopted Floodplain Development Regulations that require that all new construction have a lowest floor elevation 12" above the base flood elevation or 18" above the crown of the road, whichever is highest.

Before beginning a project, check with the Community Development Department for all codes and regulations that apply to your property.

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA DISCLOSURE

It is a requirement in Miami-Dade County that any purchase of improved real estate located in a Special Flood Hazard Area or Coastal Flood Hazard Area include a full disclosure to the buyer that the property lies in either of those zones. This requirement alerts potential buyers to the threat of flooding in the area, so they can make an informed purchasing decision.

IMPROVEMENTS TO PROPERTY

For properties located in Special Flood Hazard Areas, it is required that improvements to properties be done in a manner which meets the current Floodplain Development Regulations. This requirement applies to:

- Any structure which has incurred damage estimated at more than 50% of its market value
- Any structure where improvements are

planned where the cost of improvements is more than 50% of its market value

- Any combination of the above two



FLOOD PROTECTION METHODS

When constructing a new or improved structure in a floodplain area, any combination of these methods may be employed to reduce the flooding potential. These methods must be approved by the City, and must not negatively impact surrounding properties.

RELOCATION: Perhaps the only technique for completely preventing future flood damage. This method involves moving a house out of a flood area to a new location where there is no threat of flooding.

ELEVATION: This method consists of raising a house on an elevated support structure to place it above future flood waters.

LEVEES: Also known as a berm, this is a method of creating a barrier of compacted soil to keep the water away from a property.

FLOODWALLS: Similar to a levee, floodwalls are designed to keep the water away from the house but are constructed of permanent materials such as concrete.

CLOSURES: Used in conjunction with other techniques such as floodwalls and levees, closures provide protection for gaps that are open for frequent usage such as sidewalks and driveways.

FLOOD MITIGATION STEPS

Even if you are not doing major improvements to your property, there are steps you can take to make your property more flood-proof, including:

- Grading your property to facilitate stormwater run-off

Community Development

- Elevating major appliances such as air-conditioning units and water heaters to prevent damage during flooding
- Using flood-proofing materials such as paints and sealants
- Checking sewer trap valves to prevent backup flooding
- Cleaning gutters and storm drains around your property to permit free flow of water
- Keeping a stockpile of sandbags and construction materials available



FLOOD INSURANCE

One of the best ways to protect your investment is to insure it. Standard homeowners insurance and windstorm policies DO NOT cover losses from flooding (rising waters)! The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 requires the purchase of flood insurance as a condition of receiving any federally related loan for purchase or construction of any building or mobile home located in any Special Flood Hazard Area.

The City of Aventura is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Federally guaranteed flood insurance is available to City residents in AE Flood Zones at a discount of 10% because of the City's participation. NFIP policies are sold through licensed insurance agents and companies. You should buy flood insurance before the storm season, as there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage takes effect.

Federal flood insurance can protect homes, businesses and belongings from damage caused by flooding, including:

- Structural elements: such as walls,

floors, equipment and fixtures.

- Contents: such as furniture, appliances and carpeting
- Personal items: such as clothing, stereos and televisions

You do not have to live in a special flood hazard area or a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) designated flood zone to purchase flood insurance. In fact, if you live in a low-risk area, you may be eligible for a low-cost preferred risk policy.

Even if you rent, do not have a mortgage or do not live in a Special Flood Hazard Area, you should still purchase flood insurance!

FLOOD WARNINGS

Flood, hurricane and severe weather warnings are issued by the Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service.

In the case of a hurricane, an Evacuation Order will be given by the Mayor of Miami-Dade County and will be broadcast on local TV and radio stations. The City of Aventura is located in an Evacuation Zone for any storm of Category 2 force or greater. This means all residents are required to leave the City when an Evacuation Order for a Category 2 storm is given. Aventura condominiums and property managers will also be notified of the Evacuation Order by a fax from the Office of the City Manager.

Residents should stay tuned to the local TV and radio stations for updates on storms, and should evacuate as soon as an Evacuation Order is issued.

TV Stations

- WFOR (Ch. 4)
- WTVJ (Ch. 6)
- WSVN (Ch. 7)
- WPLG (Ch. 10)
- WLTV (Ch. 23) Spanish
- WSCV (Ch. 51) Spanish

Radio Stations

- WIOD (610 AM)
- WINZ (940 AM)
- WFTL (1400 AM)
- WAQI (710 AM) Spanish
- WCQM (92 FM) Spanish

FLOOD SAFETY TIPS

These are important tips you can follow when flooding threatens, whether you are staying in your home or evacuating.

Before the Flood

- Learn and practice the safest route from your home or business to high ground in case you must evacuate.
- Listen to local news for Evacuation Orders and shelter openings. Evacuate
- Turn off water, gas and electric service to your home and plug drains with large corks to prevent sewer backup.
- Keep a disaster kit on hand with a portable radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, drinking water, batteries, first aid supplies, money, canned foods and sturdy shoes.
- Develop and practice an emergency communication plan with your family. Designate an out-of-state friend or relative to serve as the "family contact."
- Fill your car with gas and move it to the highest point on your property.
- Flood-proof your home by utilizing the improvement and mitigation steps outlined in this pamphlet.
- Buy flood insurance to cover the value of your home and its contents.
- Take pictures or videos of your home and valuables and keep them in a safe, dry place with your insurance policy.



Community Development



During the Flood

- Keep a battery-powered radio tuned to a local station for emergency information.
- Elevate valuables or move them to higher floors.
- Do not drive, walk or play in flooded areas. Strong currents, broken objects, wild animals and raw sewage pose serious health and safety threats.
- Stay away from downed power lines. A downed power line in a puddle of water may electrify the entire puddle.

After the Flood

- Before entering a building, check for structural damage.
- Inspect for fire, electrical or gas hazards and submerged appliances BEFORE turning utilities back on.
- If you smell gas in or around your

home, call your utility supplier immediately.

- Use tapwater for consumption only if it has been declared safe by officials. Use bottled water instead.
- Dispose of everything, including food, that has come in contact with flood waters. The flood waters could be contaminated with raw sewage and poisonous chemicals.

FLOOD ZONE INFORMATION

Local flood zone information is located at the Northeast (Aventura) Branch of the Miami-Dade Public Library and at the City of Aventura's Community Development Department. The Community Development Department can provide you with detailed information from the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) including:

- Whether your property is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area
- The community number
- The panel number and suffix
- The date of the FIRM's index
- The FIRM zone
- The base flood elevation

For surveyors, architects and engineers, the City has the latest form of elevation certificates available to you for completion.

For lenders, insurance agents and real estate agents, elevation certificates are kept on file for all buildings permitted by the City.

For more information, or to receive a Flood Insurance Rate Map determination for your property, contact the Community Development Department at (305) 466-8940. ♦

Flyover Beautification Project

Adopted as one of the City's budget priorities and goals was the Citywide Beautification Program that addresses median and right of way landscaping throughout the public areas within the City. As part of the City's ongoing beautification program is the impressive

landscaping project now underway on the flyover on Biscayne Boulevard to conceal the massive concrete structure. The \$1,363,375 landscape design includes the planting of

an assortment of palm trees, royal palms, queen palms, live oaks and seasonal groundcover in the medians of Biscayne Boulevard and the westbound access ramp and 203rd Street. The project was partially funded by the Florida Department of Transportation.



Government Center Directory

ALL PREFIXES BEGIN (305) 466-

Main Number	8900
Main Fax Number	8939
Mayor and City Commission	8901
City Manager	8910
<i>Eric M. Soroka</i>	
City Clerk	8901
<i>Teresa M. Soroka, CMC</i>	
Finance Support Services	8920
<i>Harry M. Kilgore, Director</i>	
Community Services	8930
<i>Robert M. Sherman, Director</i>	
Community Development	8940
Police Department	8989
<i>Thomas E. Ribel, Police Chief</i>	
Human Resources	8929
Job Hotline	8955

✂ **PLEASE CLIP & SAVE**



What's Happening

Better Place - New Online Citizen Request Service

Aventura citizens can now contact the City directly at www.cityofaventura.com, the home page of the City's website by selecting the "Better Place" icon for Citizen Service Requests.

The City recently implemented the new Internet-based customer service request system called "Better Place". It uses the Internet to connect residents to the City via the City's website. Residents can enter their own requests for service and information and check on the status of their request. Citizen requests are automatically routed to the proper department or point of contact to resolve the issue. Once action is taken, follow-up to the initial inquiry is completed via the Internet, email or phone call to the resident.

Routing of inquiries and complaints is done internally through email notification. City staff can track, manage, and create reports and monitor action taken to citizen inquiry requests. ♦

**Visit Us
on the Web!**

WWW.CITYOFAVENTURA.COM

City Commission Meetings

Commission Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m.:

Aventura Government Center
Commission Chamber
19200 West Country Club Drive

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, July 2, 2002

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

No August Meeting

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, September 3, 2002

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.

Aventura Update

Published by the Office of the City Manager

Government Center
19200 West Country Club Drive • Aventura, Florida 33180

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