

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.

Planning for the Future, Services Expand as Tax Rate Holds

The City of Aventura celebrated its five-year anniversary of providing quality municipal services with the opening of the new state-of-the-art Government Center this past year. Our economic base has grown dramatically in this time. The quality of life for our citizens, businesses and visitors has improved with the creation of our own police force, new and expanded parks and recreation opportunities and citywide beautification projects second to none. This year's budget continues to build upon the solid foundation created in the past with an emphasis on providing quality municipal services that our residents deserve. Notably, it begins to set in motion the implementation of a long term vision which addresses the social infrastructure to establish a sense of community.

The total budget of \$44.9 million is a 6.6% increase compared to the prior year. This is primarily due to increases in capital outlay, CIP reserve and Debt Service. This year, the seventh consecutive year, residents will again see an increase in services and improvements without a tax rate increase, as the City Commission builds toward the future. The City's tax rate of 2.2270 is the second lowest in Miami-Dade County.

In its short history, the City government has gained a reputation for providing quality services in a professional manner while emphasizing a customer service focus. The implementation of the fifth year of the City's Capital Improvement Program will continue the commitment to the community toward

the achievement and maintenance of a desirable quality of life.

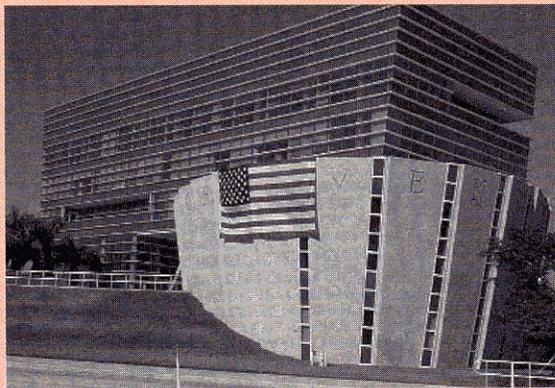
"The residents of Aventura deserve quality municipal services provided in a productive and efficient manner at the lowest possible cost," says City Manager Eric M. Soroka. "I believe this year's budget accomplishes this. By outsourcing services to quality vendors, the City stabilizes costs and puts dollars back into the community, emulating a business-like approach. Special emphasis was placed on establishing facilities such as the Charter Elementary School and Community Recreation Center to plan for the City's future."

Some of the major points emphasized in the budget are as follows:

Continued on p.4

National Tragedy

Stunned Americans watched in horror at the terrorist attacks on our country on Tuesday, September 11, 2001. We mourn for the thousands of victims and their families who have lost loved ones. The City Commission and all City employees wish to express their deepest sympathy to everyone who has been affected by these catastrophic events.



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Department Updates

Community Services

DAY OFF FROM SCHOOL... NEW PROGRAM

Aventura Founders Park will offer a supervised activity for children ages 8 to 12 on Dade County School Teacher Planning Days from 8 AM to 5 PM excluding holidays. Registration is limited. Activities include traveling to local entertainment venues. Pre-registration and permission slips are mandatory. Upcoming days are: Friday, October 19th; Friday, November 2nd, Wednesday, December 26th, Thursday, December 27th, and Friday, December 28th. Please call 305-466-8930 to be placed on the mailing list.



HALLOWEEN SCENE II...

The City of Aventura and the Aventura Marketing Council will offer family activities and entertainment from 4 PM to 8 PM on Wednesday, October 31, 2001 at the Waterways Shoppes – Center Court, 3575 NE 207 Street. This year's Halloween Scene II will feature a youth pumpkin patch, storytellers, live music, costume parade, mimes, treats and Halloween play. Call 305- 932-5334 for further information.

YOUTH SOCCER AND ADULT SOFTBALL OPEN REGISTRATION

Congratulations to the many residents who have enjoyed the seasonal athletic programming at Aventura Founders Park. Call 305-655-0627 to participate in youth soccer for boys and girls ages 6 –12 and adult softball ages 18+.

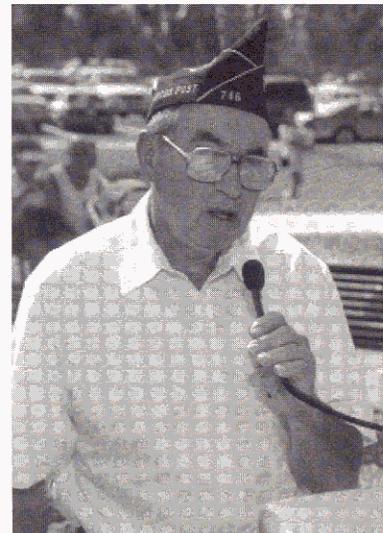
AVENTURA 55+ NETWORK

Future solutions for Aventura residents 55+ who would like to explore the Internet. This intergenerational program pairs students of Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School with Aventura residents 55+ to a totally hands-on Internet workshop to explore websites and familiarize the user. Round trip transportation is provided from Aventura Government Center on alternating Saturdays. Pre-registration is required. Call: 305-652-6808 extension 653. Complimentary refreshments are provided.



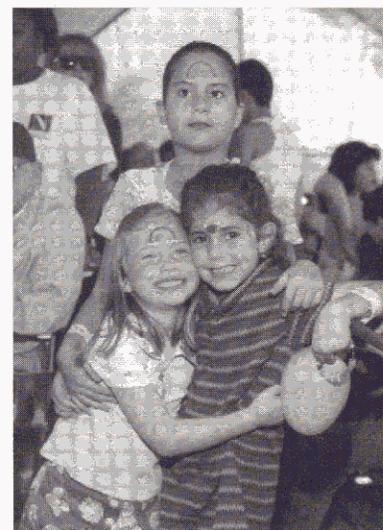
VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

You are cordially invited to participate in the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the Aventura Government Center, 19200 West Country Club Drive on Sunday, November 11, 2001 beginning at 10 AM. Parking is available on site. Covered seating and complimentary refreshments are provided. If your group or organization is interested in performing, please contact the Community Services Department at 305-466-8930.



AVENTURA ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Come on out for a stroll down Country Club Drive... This year's annual arts and crafts spectacular will feature crafts in addition to all our wonderful art vendors. Mark the date: January 26th & 27th, 2002. Parking is available at Aventura Mall. Country Club Drive will be closed beginning 7:00pm Friday, January 25th through 9:00 pm Sunday, January 27th, 2002.



TRIPS & TOURS

The Aventura Community Services Department offers fun for all ages. Trips and Tours offer Aventura residents the opportunity to experience monthly outings to various activities and events happening within South Florida. To be placed on the mailing list, please call 305-466-8930.

WATERWAYS PARK

Waterways Park improvements have been completed. The active portion of the park features a half size basketball court, shelter and chilled water fountain with new decorative fencing. The east end of the park provides a well shaded, maintained leisure area with benches. The park hours are from 8 am to dusk. For more information please call the Community Services Department at 305-466-8930. ♦

Department Updates

Police Department

EDUCATION, HEALTH & FITNESS EXPO

The Aventura Police Department participated in the 10th Annual Education, Health & Fitness Expo recently held at the Aventura Mall.

Among the Department's VIPs present were McGruff the Crime Dog, Copper the Clown, and the unveiling of the newest member of the Department, PC the Patrol Car. PC is a remote control vehicle with a voice modulator that can be utilized to communicate with children on their level and presents an easy, relaxed environment for safety awareness to be conveyed.

The Department fingerprinted over 100 children and distributed 50 Clubs for added vehicle security to residents of Aventura. Brochures and Clubs, together with VIN



etching equipment were supplied under a Grant through the Florida Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Authority. The Grant was awarded for the 2000-2001 year; and, has recently been approved for renewal for the 2001-2002 year.

For more information regarding upcoming VIN etching events, or to schedule one at your condominium, please contact Crime Prevention Specialist, Ernie Long, at 305-466-8962.

SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM AND NEW SCHOOL ZONE

The Tauber School at Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center has hired a full time police officer to increase security and teach classes in drug awareness and child crime prevention techniques. Officer Mabel Navarro was the first to volunteer for the new assignment and became Aventura's first School Resource Officer with the beginning of the new school year. A new school zone was also established on NE 30 Avenue. The speed limit is now 15 mph during school days from 8 AM to 8:45 AM and 2:30 PM to 3:45 PM. Please help keep our children safe and observe the reduced speed limit during these times.

City Commission Action

SIGN REGULATIONS AMENDED

In its efforts to continue to complement the City's ongoing beautification projects, the City Commission recently approved an Ordinance that will require residential properties to bring their monument signs and building wall signs into compliance with the City's signage regulations within the next three years. The signage regulations of the City are intended to preserve the unique aesthetic character of the City and to ensure that signs are compatible with their surroundings.

In 1997, the City Commission adopted signage regulations and required all business and commercial signs come into compliance with these regulations within three years. The business community has complied with these requirements and has made the City a much more beautiful place to live, work and play. The City Commission has now enacted

regulations which will require residential properties to comply with the City's sign regulations on or before October 2, 2004. This ordinance allows for registration of all nonconforming residential signs within 90 days of the date of adoption of the ordinance in order to allow signs to remain until the expiration of the amortization period. Nonconforming residential signs not registered within that 90-day period have to be removed

immediately. All registered nonconforming residential signs are to be completely removed or made to conform prior to October 2, 2004.

If you have any questions as to whether or not signage on your property conforms to the City's signage regulations, please contact the Code Compliance Division of the Community Development Department at (305) 466-8941 to arrange an on-site visit. ♦

GIS/MAPS

The City of Aventura offers a Geographic Information System (GIS) to provide easy-to-use maps of various municipal data. Municipal data has been collected from various sources and is available via interactive GIS maps. As the data is interactive, it may take a few

moments to load the initial GIS map. The following are examples of some of the layers available: zoning maps, hurricane shelters, fire stations and community resources. For more information regarding GIS, please check the City of Aventura Web Site at www.cityofaventura.com.

Budget Information

Continued from p. 1

- For the seventh year, no property tax increase. Adopts 1995 County UMSA millage rate of 2.2270.

- Added 5 police officer positions to response to increased service needs and to meet additional police service agreement requirements. Added one Records Clerk position to expand records operation hours to the public. Added Administrative Assistant position to address growing needs of the Police Department. A total of 102 positions are included. Of that number, 69 are sworn officers.

- Provides funding to construct the new Community Recreation Center and Millennium Park and purchase land for the new charter elementary school.

- Proposes to improve traffic management by integrating video monitoring devices at key intersections throughout the City.

- Includes funding to continue the Citywide shuttle bus public transportation service without imposing a fare and provide for year round Saturday service.

- Provides for \$20,585,522 worth of capital improvements and \$7,442,675 CIP reserve. The City's infrastructure needs are addressed through a broad mix of Capital Improvement projects, which will enhance the City's quality of life, and the attractiveness of the City.

- Continues Lease Book Program to address improvements to the book collections and business materials at the Northeast branch of the Miami-Dade Library system.

- Added Customer Service I position to consolidate cashier operations and recreation registration to better serve the public and add to our "one stop shop" capabilities.

- Continues to implement technology enhancements that develop our "Electronic Government" to allow the public to interact more easily and conveniently with the City and to automate City operations.

- Special Events such as July 4th, Founders Day, Veterans Day, Arbor Day, as well as cultural programs and recreational activities are included.

- Continues contracting most maintenance functions, engineering and inspection services to the private sector.

- Includes \$3,130,000 for beautification and community enhancement projects including landscaping, lighting improvements, road improvements, bus benches/shelters and to address safety concerns.

- Funds are included to assist in the acquisition of additional property to expand Waterways Park to provide more recreational/open space areas.

- Provides funding for increased costs associated with maintaining newly

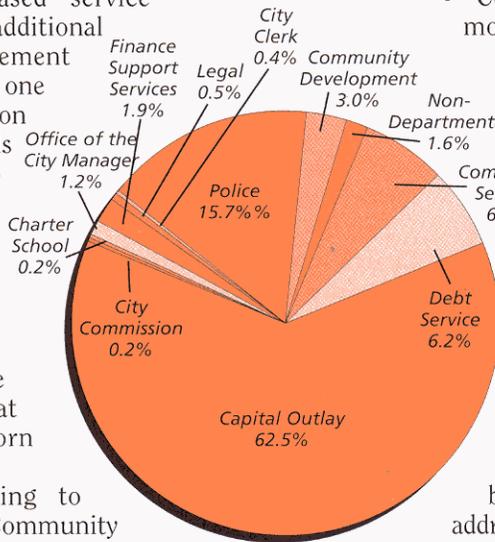
landscaped areas and acquired roadways.

- Funds police equipment needs from laptop computers to new police vehicles in the amount of \$668,122.

- Includes \$2,475,000 to fund drainage and road improvements in the Biscayne Lakes Garden area and NE 188th Street.

- Includes \$110,000 as start-up funding the planning and development of the new charter elementary school scheduled to open in August 2003.

The budget emphasizes a professional and conservative fiscal approach. Over the past 5 and half years, a great deal of progress has been made to accomplish the goals of incorporation and to improve the quality of life for our residents. This budget includes many projects that build the foundation blocks for the next five years toward the goal of developing a sense of community for our City. The addition of a Charter Elementary School, Community Recreation Center and more parks and recreational opportunities will address the changes in demographics toward a younger family oriented population and assist in achieving our goals. ♦



The following represents the pre-established priorities and goals that provided a framework for the preparation of the 2001/02 Budget Plan. In many areas the budget contains resources to address and accomplish the pre-established priorities and goals.

COMMISSION PRIORITIES AND GOALS

- Construct, operate and maintain a Charter Elementary School by 2003, adjacent to the Community Recreation Center of the City to serve the growing school age population of the City.

- Construct and open the Community Recreation Center by fall 2002, to provide additional recreational opportunities for all age groups.

- Continue the Lease Book Program to address improvements to the book collections and business materials at the Northeast branch of the Miami-Dade Library system.

- Expand Police Department

services in order to address service demand requirements.

- Improve traffic management by integrating video monitoring devices at key intersections throughout the City.

- Continue Citywide Shuttle Bus Service and expand ridership.

- Purchase additional park land to expand Waterways Park and provide additional recreational opportunities.

- Provide funding to maintain newly landscaped areas and continue to provide a high quality maintenance program.

- Continue to implement technology enhancements that develop our "Electronic Government" to allow the public to interact more easily and conveniently with the City and to automate City operations.

- Implement and fund the fifth year of the City's first 5 Year Capital Improvement Program.

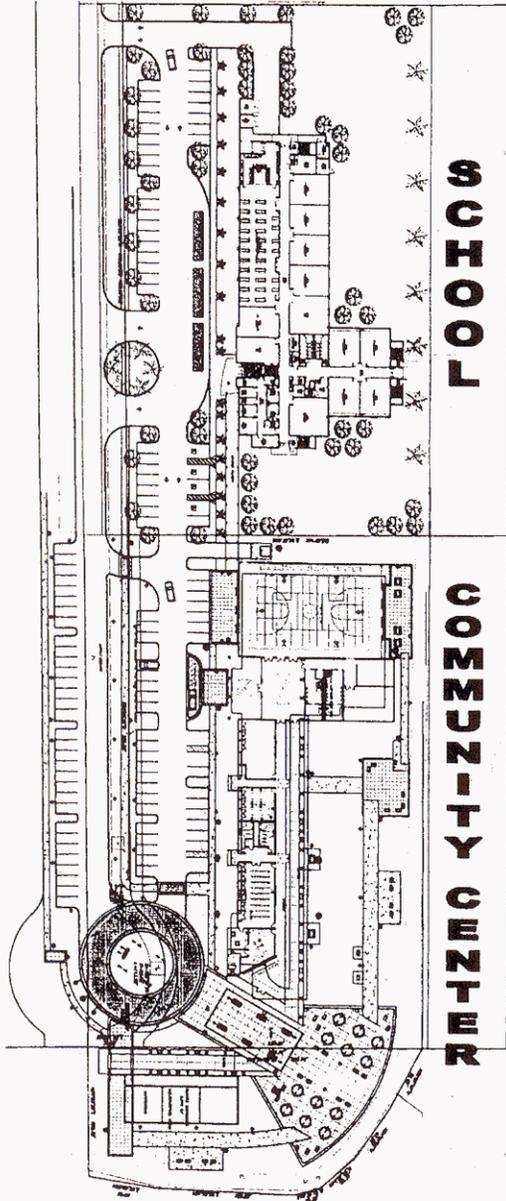
- Continue projects associated with the Citywide Beautification Program.

- Continue to expand recreational and cultural opportunities for all age groups.

Charter School



Charter School Moves Forward



of-the-art school will be built on three acres at 3333 N.E. 188th Street, adjacent to the planned Community/Recreation Center. This was designed to allow the sharing of facilities to reduce costs.

Charter schools are fully recognized as public schools and are funded from the same County and State funds as Miami-Dade County public schools. However, the school will be operated by a private firm (Charter Schools USA) and overseen by the City with the input from a Charter School Advisory Board.

The school will emphasize low student-to-teacher classroom ratios based on high standards with a solid academic foundation for students. Importantly, parents will be required to participate in school activities and the students' learning experience.

The addition of the Charter Elementary School showcases the City's changing demographics, from a predominantly retiree community to one including a growing number of younger families. The opening of the school in the City will also address the problem of school overcrowding and provide a first-class school for the City's children.

A tentative school development time line is included on this page. Registration for students will be announced in future newsletters, public announcements and the City's Web Page. For more information please contact the Office of the City Manager at (305) 466-8910.

AVENTURA CHARTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Key Implementation Dates -Tentative

- Submit "Letter of Intent" to MDCSB
September 4, 2001 - Complete
- Obtain domain name
www.aventuracharter.org
September 2001 - Complete
- Finalize Development Agreement with Charter Schoolhouse Developers, Inc.
September 24, 2001 - Complete

- Finalize Planning Development Agreement with Charter Schools USA
October 2, 2001 - Complete
- City Commission passes motion to accept and Authorize City Manager to file Charter School Application on behalf of City with MDCSB
September 24, 2001 - Complete
- Submit Charter School Application to MDCSB
October 1, 2001 - Complete
- Secure site
October to April 2002
- Construct Website
October to January 2002
- Develop and refine school design
October to March 2002
- Charter School Application voted on by MDCSB
December 2001
- Finalize Management Agreement with Charter Schools USA
April 2002
- Begin construction on elementary school
May 2002
- Hire Principal
February/March 2003
- Review, evaluate and select school furniture, fixtures, equipment and text books
April/May 2003
- Elementary school construction complete
July 2003
- Establish Charter School Advisory Board
August 2003
- Begin first school year
August 2003 ♦

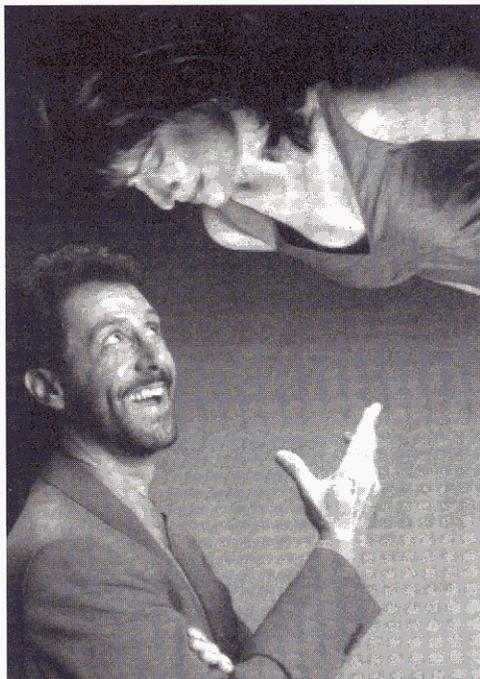
Much progress has been made by the City Commission in establishing the first public elementary school within the City's boundaries. The firm of Charter Schools USA has been selected to design, build and operate a 600-student elementary school that will serve City residents from kindergarten through fifth grade. The Aventura Charter Elementary School (ACES) is scheduled to open in the fall of 2003. The \$5.5 million dollar state-

What's Happening

Founders Day Events on a Grand Scale as Aventura Salutes America

One of Aventura's most memorable celebrations is Founders Day, an annual birthday celebration for Aventura residents... *November 7th, 2001 will mark the city's sixth anniversary of incorporation.*

Join the City of Aventura and Mount Sinai Medical Center & Miami Heart Institute for a full day of family enjoyment on **Sunday, November 4th, 2001** at **Aventura Founders Park**, 3105 NE 190th Street. "Founders Day



grows each year with ongoing community and resident participation", says Eric Soroka, City Manager. "This year the City of Excellence celebrates its sixth year anniversary with a special addition of an outdoor festival concert." The concert will feature musical legend and recording star Roberta Flack. The concert is scheduled to start at 3:15 PM with a performance by master illusionist Gary Goodman with Roberta Flack taking the stage immediately following the opening act. The ticketed concert will be festival type seating; residents may bring lawn chairs and blankets. Coolers and all photographic and video equipment are prohibited. Founders

Day morning kicks off with a 8 AM 5K Fun Walk and 9 AM Founders Day Tennis Tournament. Registration forms can be obtained from Founders Park, 3105 NE 190th Street or by phone 305-466-0183. Beginning at 10:30 AM Founders Park south side will feature live music and dance demonstration by Mantra Sounds, Inc. with a traditional complimentary picnic lunch provided for all festivalgoers. Try your artistic talents as Aventura Salutes America with a hands on patriotic mural. Area pattern feeder schools will present a mock quilt art display depicting the various creatures that live beneath the sea. The Little Theatre School, directed by Joanie Edwards will feature live dance, acts, singing and modeling on the north stage. Throughout the day, families can partake in awesome activities such as, "**What's the Deal**" a game hosted by three entertainers and is reminiscent of the old game show know as "Let's Make a Deal." Chalk walk, circle games, parachute games and sand toys will entertain the young. Adults and youth can try their luck at bingo. Everyone can paint their face and dress up for pictures at **Clown Town**. Try your skill at the juggling and balloon twisting clinics. **Amusements** will feature a Human Foosball and Adrenaline Rush. Children can hop along the **Fun Bus** and experience the thrill of being on a school bus that offers the opportunity to explore obstacles. Throughout the birthday celebration, mimes, stilt walkers and a live Disc Jockey

will have your spirits afloat. The Founders Day Special event will have a free shuttle bus express service to Founders Park from city condominiums beginning at 9:45 AM to 6:20 PM. Area condominiums will be divided in to three routes with pick-ups approximately running on the hour. Maps will be available from Aventura Shuttle bus drivers and/or Founders Park. All complimentary tickets will include a map with the return tickets. Aventura Mall, lot #52 and Loehmann's Plaza, Daisy lot will have continuous service to and from the park. Look for the white tent at each mall location. All vehicles are air-conditioned and wheelchair accessible. Remember, West Country Club Drive East of William Lehman Causeway up to NE 190th Street will be closed. Parking is not available at Founders Park or Government Center during this event. For further information, please call

the Community Services Department at
305-466-8930. ♦



Roberta Flack

What's Happening



Census 2000

Population data derived from the 2000 Census shows that the City demographics have changed dramatically in the last ten years. The City has attracted more families and the overall population has become younger. Residents under the age of 18 have grown from 825 in 1990 to 2,564 in year 2000.

The following represents some of the other changes in the 2000 census data:

- The median age is 52.8 compared to 62 in 1990.
- Number of residents under five years of age is 838 compared to 242 in 1990.
- Number of residents from five to 19 years of age is 1,937 compared to 793 in 1990.

- Average household size is 1.79 compared to 1.6 in 1990.

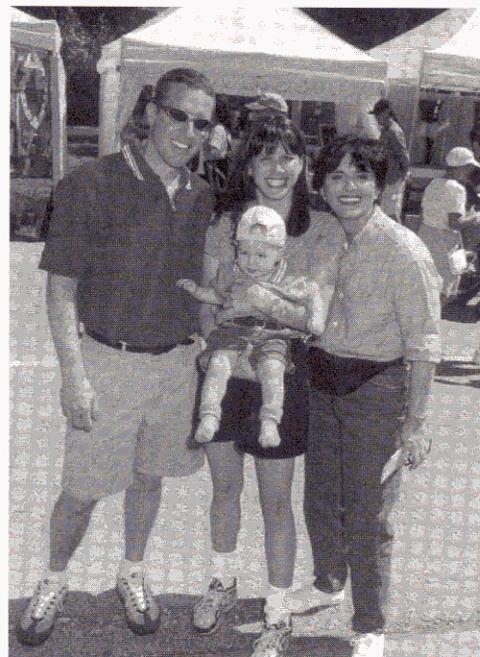
- The total population is 25,267 compared to 14,914 in 1990.

- The 25 - 44 year old age group is 6,692 compared to 2,409 in 1990.

- The 65 and over age group is 8,893 compared to 7,694 in 1990.

- The under 18 age group is 2,564 compared to 825 in 1990.

To address this change the City Commission is proposing a Charter School, Recreation Center and additional parks to meet the needs of the growing number of children in the City. ♦



Commission Meetings on Cable

The City recently began to rebroadcast City Commission meetings to residents on the AT&T Cable Service Channel 49 (former Comcast) and Channel 33 (former TCI) per the following schedule:

Wednesday @ 10:00 A.M. following the Tuesday evening meeting

Wednesday @ 7:00 P.M. following the Tuesday evening meeting

Saturday @ 10:00 A.M. following the Tuesday evening meeting

The City is in the process of making arrangements with the City's other cable provider, to rebroadcast the meetings to complete the service for all cable television customers. ♦

NPDES Information Available

As part of our commitment to excellent public service, the Community Services Department continues maintaining and cleaning the city's storm drainage system as required to be in compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination

System (NPDES). Free brochures are available to Aventura residents that are specifically related to pollution prevention and are available at the Aventura Government Center or by phoning the Community Services Department at 305-466-8930.

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 <i>Brenda Kelley, Director</i>
Police Department	8989 <i>Thomas E. Ribel, Police Chief</i>
Human Resources	8929
Job Hotline	8955

✂ PLEASE CLIP & SAVE



Calendar of Events

BLIZZARD BASH!

Sunday, December 16, 2001

Put on your favorite winter gloves and stroll on over to Aventura Founders Park, 3105 NE 190th Street from 10:00am to noon to play in the snow and ice that will be providing holiday fun for thousands of youngsters. There will be exciting events and activities to keep the little ones busy. It's free to Aventura residents with ID cards. Non-residents can join in the fun by paying park admission. For more information call 305-466-0183.

**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, November 6, 2001

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 8, 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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