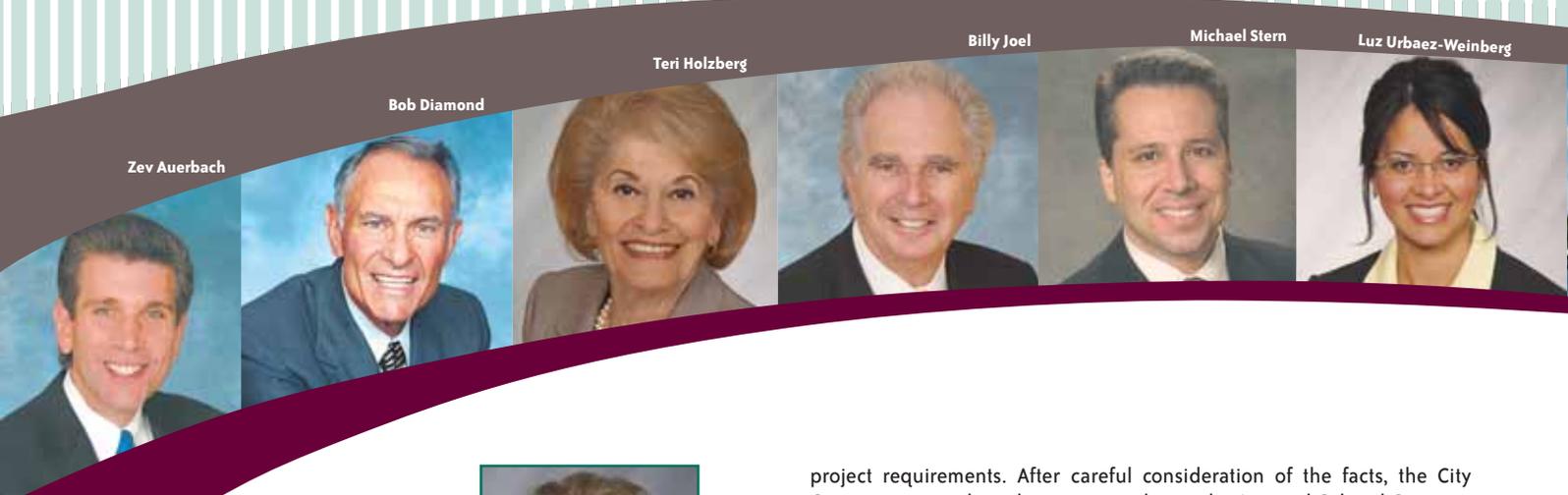


# CITY OF AVENTURA | 2007 | ANNUAL REPORT





**city commission**



Mayor Susan Gottlieb

Dear City of Aventura Resident:

It is my pleasure as your Mayor to present the City's Annual Report for 2007. It has been almost three years since you elected me to the Office of Mayor. Much has been addressed during that period of time in response to your concerns and continues on an ongoing basis.

This past year, your City Commission and I adopted a "Go Green" campaign in order to save energy, conserve precious natural resources and reduce our impact on climate change. These initiatives include environmentally preferable purchasing which is the procurement of goods and services that have a reduced impact on human health and the environment; expansion of City Government operations recycling programs, implementation of paperless technology which has allowed the City operations to reduce the amount of paper; review of energy efficient vehicles (hybrids and flexible fuel) for possible replacement of the Community Services and Code Enforcement operation fleet; and the use of environmentally responsible replacements for light bulbs and other building materials which has been in practice over the past year. These initiatives over time will also reduce our annual operating costs and impacts on the environment.

Traffic and safety improvements completed this year include the completion of the Miami Gardens Drive Extension project, new street lights on NE 29<sup>th</sup> Street and the new turning lane on Biscayne Boulevard providing safe access to the medical facilities. The recommendations that were made by our Citizens Traffic Advisory Board last year have been adopted in the Capital Improvement Plan and will be implemented in a timely manner over the next few years in cooperation with the County and State.

The Aventura Charter School operated by the City obtained an "A" rating again from the State and we had a successful addition of the eighth grade this past August. We are proud of their accomplishments.

It has been over eighteen months since the County and City tentatively agreed to authorize the City to manage the reconstruction of the library and to develop a combined library and performing arts center. Despite the best efforts of all involved the concept of constructing an Arts and Cultural Center on County owned land in conjunction with the rebuild of the County Library branch become too complicated and bogged down in red tape and County

project requirements. After careful consideration of the facts, the City Commission voted to take action to relocate the Arts and Cultural Center to City land adjacent to the Community Recreation Center on NE 188<sup>th</sup> Street. A 300 seat facility that will provide a variety of performing arts and cultural programming for all age groups is currently in the design phase and is scheduled to open in early 2010. This would provide opportunities for our residents to enjoy a variety of events within our community and expand drama and arts programming provided by our Charter School. The majority of funding for the proposed 13,000 s. f. facility will be provided from the County's GOB Program

As outlined in the City Manager's letter, this past year has also been a very difficult one for the City Commission in responding to changing and new property tax reform legislation and its impact on the City's budget. Your City Commission and I are committed to providing quality services to the community at the lowest possible cost.

As we begin 2008, I want to take this opportunity to thank the community for its valuable support during the past year as we addressed many difficult and important issues on behalf of the future of Aventura.

Sincerely,

Susan Gottlieb  
Mayor

**directory**

**City of Aventura Government Center**  
19200 West Country Club Drive  
Aventura, Florida 33180

Main Number	.....305-466-8900
Main Fax Number	.....305-466-8939
Mayor and Commission	.....305-466-8901
City Manager	.....305-466-8910
City Clerk	.....305-466-8901
Finance Support Services	.....305-466-8920
Community Services	.....305-466-8930
Community Development	.....305-466-8940
Police Department	.....305-466-8989
Charter School	.....305-466-1499
Job Hotline	.....305-466-8955
Customer Service (Office of the City Manager)	...305-466-8911

*"Our mission is to join within 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."*

*—City of Aventura Mission Statement*



## office of the city manager



**Eric M. Soroka**  
City Manager

To the Residents of Aventura:

Each year as we prepare this annual report to the citizens of Aventura, we reflect on and seek to communicate with you the achievements of the past and our plans for the upcoming year.

Due to the property tax reform legislation adopted by the State Legislature in special session and its impact on the City's revenue structure, the process to prepare the budget in 2007 was more complex than in the past and required difficult decisions. Every effort was made to maintain our quality municipal services, in particular public safety services, park availability hours and our signature beautification efforts. The City lost \$3 million in property revenues compared to the previous method. All user fees were reviewed to insure that revenues offset the cost of the program or service. Travel expenditure and attendance at seminars and conferences were reduced by 30%. Many special event programs provided to the community were eliminated or reduced. Operating cost reductions, not including personnel costs, ranged from 3% to 9% in most departments. Only essential capital equipment and technology replacements or purchases were funded.

The budget included a reduction in the City's property tax rate based on the implementation of the state imposed property tax reform from 2.2270 to 1.7261. This represents a 23% reduction in the City's tax rate. The City's tax rate is the lowest in the County. The City's portion of the total property tax bill represents only 10% of the total. The other large portions represent the County and School Board. In spite of the loss of revenues, the City was committed to accomplishing the many goals established for 2007.

During this past year, the City's E911 system operated by the Police Communications Center went live. This new service replaced calls being sent to the County and directed them to our Police Department in order to improve emergency response times for all residents and businesses.

This past summer, a new splash pad was opened at Founders Park to provide a children's water play area. Construction began on the new seven acre Waterways Park located on NE 213th Street. The park, scheduled to open in March 2008, will include a multipurpose sports field for nighttime activities, playground, basketball court, fitness trail, parking and restroom facilities. The construction plans to move and expand the dog park facilities were completed last year and the new facility is scheduled for completion in April 2008. All of these projects are directed at our goal

to provide additional recreational facilities for our growing younger population based on input from the community.

The City's charter school completed a successful fourth year and scored an "A" on the School Performance Grade issued by the State of Florida. The school administration, staff, teachers, parents and students should be commended for a job well done. Also during 2007, the school added eighth grade to the school operations and After School basketball and volleyball programs. The total number of students attending the K- 8th grades school is 900.

As an organization, we continue to focus on utilizing technology to provide quality municipal services in a productive and efficient manner at the lowest possible cost. Recently, the City launched its newest addition to our web site: MyAventura. MyAventura is a central place on the City's web site where residents can submit requests for service; search through a database of Frequently Asked Questions; and subscribe to email publications. MyAventura streamlines the process for customer service as access was previously delivered through different systems. The ability to view the status of building permits and inspections was also added to the City's web-site during this past year.

Responding to one of the leading causes of traffic accidents, the violation of red light traffic signals, the City Commission adopted an Ordinance to authorize the use of unmanned cameras to promote compliance with red light signals and to adopt a civil enforcement system. Automated cameras would be placed at key intersections in the City to record vehicles that fail to stop for red lights. Notices of infractions issued will be addressed using the City's own Special Masters process. The cameras are scheduled for installation in the spring of 2008. For the first ninety (90) days unless the driver of a vehicle received a citation from a police officer at the time of a red zone infraction, the vehicle owner shall receive a warning in the form of a courtesy notice of the violation.

Another important traffic improvement completed this past year was the Miami Gardens Drive Road Extension project. The four lane \$2.2 million extension, connecting Biscayne Boulevard east to NE 28th Avenue was designed as part of the City's efforts to improve traffic flow in the southern portion of the City and ease congestion on Williams Island Boulevard and NE 185th Street.

Ridership continues to increase on the City's free Shuttle Bus System. Over 15,000 riders a month utilize this service to travel to their destinations throughout the City.

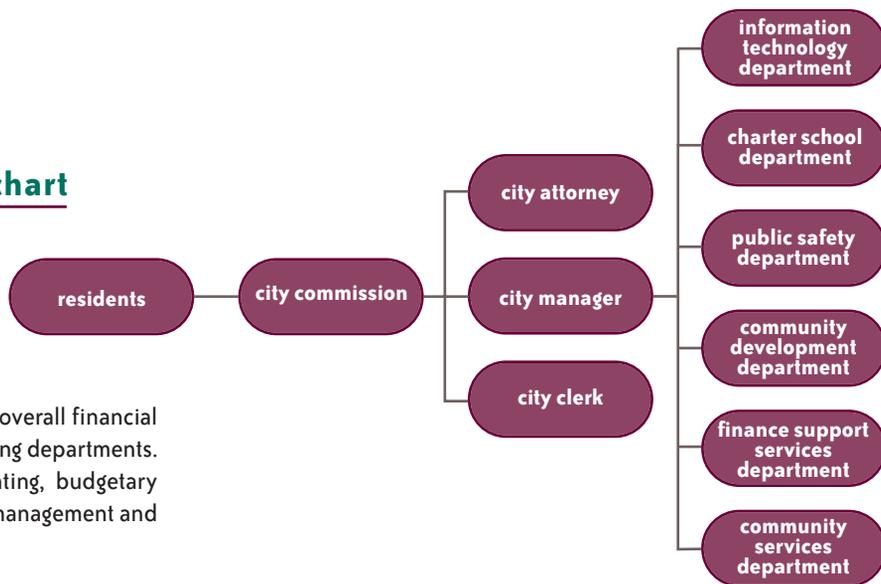
I am proud to work with informed elected officials, a dedicated group of City employees and involved citizens as we continually strive to improve our community.

These are challenging times for local governments to maintain quality services in light of revenue reductions. However, we are committed to continue to provide the type of community residents take pride in and others seek to emulate. I hope you enjoy reading about the progress of your community, the City of Excellence.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM  
City Manager

## city of aventura organization chart



## finance support services

The Finance Support Services Department provides overall financial and administrative support to the City’s other operating departments. The primary functions of Finance include accounting, budgetary control, purchasing, risk management, payroll, cash management and debt administration.

Our mission is to establish and maintain effective internal controls that safeguard the City’s assets and maintain the City’s strong financial condition by conducting the City’s business operations in a fiscally responsible manner.

In March 2007, the department issued the City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2006. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Aventura for its CAFR for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2006. This was the eleventh consecutive year that the City has achieved this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized CAFR. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

Finance Support Services’ responsibilities include:

- Providing administrative, operational and financial assistance to the City Manager and staff
- Providing Accounting, Accounts Payable, Payroll, Budget, Grant Monitoring and Revenue Collection functions
- Monitoring/projecting the City’s fund balances
- Preparing/assisting with all financial reports - including the CAFR, the Aventura City of Excellence School Special Purpose Financial Report and the Annual Budget
- Providing cash/investment and debt management
- Monitoring/developing financial strategies that ensure fiscal solvency and financial statement integrity through the maintenance of proper internal controls
- Monitoring and implementing reporting requirements recommended by the State Auditor General, GFOA and GASB

## office of the city clerk

The City Clerk serves as the City’s corporate secretary, and is the official records keeper of the City and custodian of the City seal. The City Clerk is a constitutional officer by Charter and is appointed by and reports to the City Commission. Responsibilities of the City Clerk include:

- Recording the minutes and all official actions of the City Commission and its Advisory Boards.
- Attesting to and maintaining custody of all records of the City including ordinances, resolutions, contracts, deeds, etc.
- Publishing and distributing public notices as required by law.
- Administering the publication and supplementation of the City Code Book.
- Serving as the municipal Supervisor of Elections, conducting all City elections in accordance with city, county and state laws.
- Establishing and coordinating the City’s records management program in compliance with state law.

- Responding to public records requests and lien searches.
- Scheduling code enforcement hearings and providing clerical support to Special Master.
- Providing clerical support to Commissioners and assisting the City Manager with special projects.
- Administering oaths and providing full notary public services.

The City Clerk’s Office prepared 35 sets of minutes and 39 public notices, published 30 legal advertisements, drafted five ordinances and 17 resolutions, responded to 1,029 lien requests, and prepared 302 welcome letters during Fiscal Year 2006-2007.

Residents are encouraged to attend City Commission meetings, which are held in the Government Center Commission Chamber on the Plaza Level at 19200 West Country Club Drive. To confirm all meeting dates, times and locations, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at (305) 466-8901 or visit the City’s website at [www.cityofaventura.com](http://www.cityofaventura.com).



## public safety

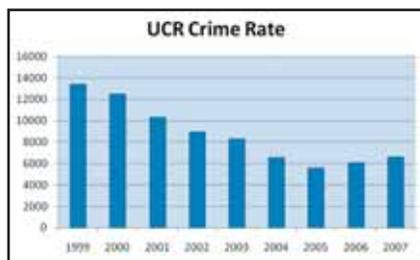
The Aventura Police Department’s commitment to its Mission Statement has allowed it to be recognized as an outstanding police department within the law enforcement community in Miami-Dade County. The men and women, both sworn and civilian, have done an outstanding job in the performance of their duties. The department is due for CALEA re-accreditation in 2009.

The Community Policing Unit continues to train children in the RadKIDS Program. This is a five-week self-awareness empowerment educational curriculum is provided through a local grant. The Department also supports other children and community programs such as the DARE Program, Red Ribbon Week, National Night Out, Annual Food and Toy Drives, Bicycle Safety Rodeos, security surveys for businesses and residences, self-defense classes for women, and participation in the annual American Cancer Relay for Life. These events encourage residents to become more aware of the issues within their community.

The Department has completed two major projects during the year; the Traffic Video Monitoring System and the E911 System. The Traffic Video Monitoring System is up and running and will monitor traffic flow, accidents, or congestion on Biscayne Boulevard, allowing for quicker response time by officers, with a link to the Florida Department of Transportation monitoring system. The first site being monitored is at Biscayne Boulevard and Miami Gardens Drive. Additional cameras are set to be placed around West Country Club Drive and in the new city park on NE 213 Street. The E911 System allows persons calling 911 from within the City limits direct contact with Aventura Police Department communications without having to go through Miami-Dade County.

With the start of the 2007-2008 fiscal year the Department was budgeted for 80 sworn employees and 40 civilians. The crime rate for 2007 showed an overall increase of 5%. However, the crime rate is still down since 1998.

YEAR	TOTAL CRIMES	VIOLENT CRIMES	POPULATION	CRIME RATE	% CHANGE
1999	3058	99	22800	13412.3	-18.3%
2000	3157	107	25267	12494.6	-6.8%
2001	2672	100	25903	10315.4	-17.4%
2002	2335	78	26142	8932.0	-13.4%
2003	2260	54	27241	8296.3	-7.1%
2004	1850	73	28202	6559.8	-20.9%
2005	1646	35	29451	5589.0	-14.8%
2006	1797	60	29451	6101.0	+9.2%
2007	1965	77	30383	6400.0	+4.9%



## Interact with the Annual Report

The Annual Report is interactive this year! Visit our web site: [www.cityofaventura.com](http://www.cityofaventura.com) and click through our Annual Report. It’s a fun and easy way to view the same report as the printed version with the bonus of viewing slide shows of photos from City events and beautiful vistas. Presenting the Annual Report in an online version also supports the City’s Go Green initiative by reducing the need to print extra copies. We hope that you enjoy viewing the report in its new interactive format.



## aventura city of excellence school

Aventura City of Excellence School, (ACES), established in 2003, serves 900 students grades Kindergarten through Middle School as the first municipal-sponsored school in Miami-Dade County. ACES Middle School opened in August 2005 and filled to capacity in August 2007.

Cutting edge technology makes ACES a vibrant hub of learning. The student-run AM TV show is broadcast live daily to classrooms from a professional TV Production Studio. Middle school classrooms are equipped with interactive Smart Boards and the latest audio visual equipment. ACES has large classrooms, two oversized art rooms, a 4,000 square-foot media center, science and computer labs.

Aventura City of Excellence School promotes a child-centered learning environment, which encompasses the social, emotional, and academic growth of its students through an academically rigorous program provided in a safe and nurturing environment. ACES excels in student achievement, community involvement and innovative practices, while caring for the families, community and each student's individual needs.

### Highlights of ACES Offerings:

- Enthusiastic and nurturing teachers and staff with low teacher to student ratio
- Intramural sports program including volleyball, basketball, tennis and dance
- Extended learning experiences through trips to historic places
- Internationally recognized Character Education program
- Middle school electives include TV Production, Web Design, Guitar, Journalism
- Opportunity to earn high school credit for Spanish, Science and Math courses
- Gifted and advanced programs
- After school programs offering art, sports and academics and 23 unique clubs
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Eco-Literacy curriculum for science

- Day and Evening Parenting Workshops
- A Middle School Leadership Speaker Series

ACES has won numerous state and national awards and achieved an A rating for three years in a row. In 2007, the ACES Middle School Eco-Literacy Garden project won first place in the annual Fairchild Botanical Garden Competition. ACES was also selected as a top performer in the State Innovation Fair. ACES operates as a City Department with the Principal reporting to the City Manager.

## information technology

The Information Technology Department provides a secure and stable state-of-the-art computing environment for City staff and customers. The computing environment includes general user applications, specialized business applications, email with spam control, phone systems and the infrastructure required to run the network. Information Technology works closely with other City departments to identify, select and implement applications and technology that helps City staff perform their jobs efficiently. The Information Technology Department consists of five employees who support 155 desktop computers, 85 laptops and 25 servers throughout the City. Help desk services are also provided to City employees with 24x7 support in the event of emergencies.

The City continued to utilize technology to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of all procedures. Improvements and upgrades were made to existing systems and computer equipment to embrace new technology.

Information Technology has completed various projects throughout our City. In 2007 projects included: upgrade of public safety mobile software suite used in the Police cars, installation of several new applications in support of the new e911 system and an upgrade of the network infrastructure.



Information Technology also provides other technologies and programs to internally streamline business processes for all departments. Among these are the City's Intranet and an internal training program called c.a.r.e. (Computer Awareness Readiness and Education).

The Intranet is an internal web portal that contains forms, documents and applications for employees to use and share. Within it is a paperless document repository for employees to access policy manuals and an online system for managing maintenance requests which allow staff to streamline their work.

The c.a.r.e. program helps educate staff on network security issues, procedures and other computer related issues through a series of workshops, and printed materials.

## community services

The mission of the Community Services Department is to provide the residents of Aventura with the highest quality parks, facilities, events, programs, and activities that reflect the City of Aventura standards of excellence. The Department provides numerous recreational, cultural and leisure activities, as well as managing the city's parks, facilities, right-of-ways, streets, landscaping and beautification efforts. As the city continues to develop, the Community Services Department continues to use modern practices to respond to the needs of the residents. The department has two operating divisions that deliver these services: the Public Works Division and Parks and Recreation Division.

### The Public Works Division is responsible for:

- Maintaining all landscaping, streets, right-of-ways, storm water drainage, decorative streetlighting, signage, public buildings and schools

- Issuing Public Works permits to utilities performing improvements in the public right-of-ways and reviews engineering plans
- Acts as a liaison to public utility service providers and responds to citizen concerns
- Mapping resources with the automated GIS computer system to provide accurate information regarding zoning, land parcels, and infrastructure

### The Parks and Recreation Division is responsible for:

- Community Recreation Center programming
- Founders Park and Veterans Park operations
- Athletic Leagues for both children and adults
- Special events that foster community pride and spirit
- Cultural Arts, Theater and Leisure programming which offers trips and tours to the theater, museums, historical places, art shows, and area restaurants
- Managing the "Aventura Express" free city shuttle service

In April of 2007 the City of Aventura was once again named a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the tenth consecutive year. This year the City of Aventura is proud to announce the Go Green Initiative Program in addition to the Beautification Recognition "Property of Excellence" Program. These programs benefit residential and commercial properties by raising environmental awareness and will recognize those residents and businesses that are acting now to preserve our environment; save energy; prepare the City of Aventura to be a sustainable community, as well as keep our landscapes beautiful.

Founders Park, opened in 1998, is located at 3105 NE 190 Street. The park features a staffed welcome booth, parking, restrooms, a covered playground, open green space, a multi-purpose athletic field, two clay tennis courts, a quarter mile exercise trail and the SplashPad



interactive water feature sprayground. The SplashPad, the park’s newest feature, opened in June of 2007.

Founders Park is also home to youth soccer, softball, t-ball, tennis and flag football leagues for over 750 children, as well as adult softball leagues.

The annual Founders Day Celebration held every November at Founders Park was enjoyed by over 2,500 people. This family festival featured a three act concert, the annual “Aventura Star” resident talent show, games, activities, and a food court.

The “Aventura Express” Shuttle Bus Service serves our residents’ busy lifestyle with a convenient schedule reaching the entire Aventura community. “Express Yourself”. Over 170,000 passengers rode the Aventura Express in 2007.

**The Aventura Express features:**

- Five ADA compliant and air conditioned buses
- Five convenient routes that connect you to great shopping and all the places you need to go. The **Blue** route serves the north end of the City, the **Green** and **Red** routes serve the central area and the **Purple** and **Yellow** routes serve the south
- Easy transfers to any Miami-Dade or Broward County Transit route at the Aventura Mall
- Hourly schedules
- Bicycle racks on all buses

The Community Recreation Center is a 25,000 square foot multi-use facility located in a park setting at 3375 NE 188 Street. The Center features a collegiate size wood floor gymnasium, fitness center, aerobics room, locker and shower facilities, multi-use classrooms, activity centers, and a state of the art technical center with Internet access.

The Center overlooks the Intracoastal Waterway and is an exceptional destination for recreation and leisure activities. Adjacent to the Center is the Arthur I. Snyder Park which features an open play area, shade trees and an outdoor plaza perfect for special events and concerts.

In 2007, memberships at the Community Recreation Center totaled 3,966, a 23% increase from the previous year. A complete and balanced program of recreation activities, fitness classes, athletic leagues and social activities is available to members of all ages.

Over 3,500 seniors participated in activities ranging from fitness and social programs to health and wellness lectures. Our diverse senior programming helps our senior population stay active and vibrant in their daily lives, and is a great way to meet new people every day.

The Cultural Arts, Theater and Leisure program complements the department’s offerings with events held locally and excursions taken throughout the region to cultural destinations.

In 2007, the City hosted classical piano concerts featuring world class musicians at the Government Center. In addition, over 800 seniors enjoyed trips to the opera, concerts, fine art and sculpture exhibits, live theater productions, fine dining and other recreational outings. This cultural program enhances the diverse recreational choices for Aventura residents of all ages.

**Community Services Department Attendance and Program Registration Summary**

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	
Special Events .....	22,103
Founders Park .....	185,146
Community Recreation Center .....	97,441
Senior Activities .....	3,507
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>308,197</b>
<b>ACTIVITY/PROGRAM REGISTRATION</b>	
Winter/ Spring/ Summer Camp .....	479
Teacher Planning Day (6) .....	156
Cultural Arts Theatre and Leisure Program .....	832
Youth Athletics .....	798
Adult Athletics .....	240
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2,505</b>



## community development

The Department of Community Development is responsible for the City's planning, development review, zoning, building plan review and inspections, code enforcement, economic development functions and the issuance of occupational licenses. The department is organized to provide "one-stop" customer service at a centralized location.

The Building Division continues to provide prompt and accessible service. Charged with enforcing the Florida Building Code, this division must review, permit and inspect all new construction and renovations in the City. Last year, the Building Division issued 6,161 building permits and performed 13,891 inspections. Inspection requests and results are now available online at [www.cityofaventura.com](http://www.cityofaventura.com), under 'ePermits'.

The Local Business Tax Receipt Division issued 2,978 local business tax receipts generating approximately \$700,000 in revenues.

The Planning and Zoning Division processes all land development applications, including site plans, rezonings, variances and comprehensive plan amendments. In 2007, 29 land development applications were reviewed and processed. Two new residential developments and four commercial buildings are in planning review.

In 2007, the City Commission completed a two year process of holding public meetings to study and prepare an Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) of the City's Comprehensive Master Plan. The EAR was adopted by the City Commission on January 9, 2007 and was found sufficient by the Florida State Department of Community Affairs on March 15, 2007. Major issues that were addressed in this report were development and redevelopment, housing, emergency management, transportation, intergovernmental co-ordination and quality of life. The recommendations of the EAR are now incorporated into the City's Comprehensive Plan. Corresponding growth management regulations were adopted as amendments to the City's Land Development Regulations. The new Plan and regulations provide a cohesive blueprint for development and redevelopment of the City by addressing strategies to accommodate

growth while maintaining neighborhood integrity, ensure appropriate height, transitions and linkages and limit the intensity of future development and redevelopment in a manner that is consistent with current development patterns and that minimizes further negative impacts to the City's infrastructure and quality of life.

The Code Compliance Division continues to be seen around the community, ensuring businesses are legally operating with local business tax receipts, and assuring construction at homes and businesses have obtained the necessary building permits. Code Compliance Officers also enforce other City codes such as the property maintenance ordinance, noise and signage regulations. The Code Compliance Division issued 199 warnings and violations warnings last year and collected approximately \$5,900 in fines.

The Code Compliance Division has worked diligently this year with the Aventura Police Department and property owners in the Hospital District to clean up overgrown properties and bring them into compliance with the City's property maintenance ordinance. Their success has resulted in a cleaner and safer environment for our City.

## city communications

The City Commission supports a highly accessible government, and encourages community participation on many levels. In an effort to share the progress of the City effectively with the public, the City communicates with the community through a variety of mediums.

The City produces several publications throughout the year, which include valuable information on government operations. Throughout the year, the Aventura Update newsletter is mailed to every resident. The newsletter includes department updates, a calendar of events, upcoming commission meeting dates and important information on new ordinances, hurricane preparedness, the Capital Improvements Program and the City budget.



During the first quarter of every year, the City publishes an Annual Report, which outlines the progress made in the previous calendar year. Each department highlights its accomplishments.

The Aventura City Guide is published every two years. This colorful guide includes a complete listing of restaurants, shopping centers, residential developments and recreational facilities as well as important government phone numbers and information on infrastructure improvements throughout the community. It is the official guide to the City of Aventura.

Residents, visitors and businesses can visit the City's website at [www.cityofaventura.com](http://www.cityofaventura.com) for valuable information and news. Residents can register online for classes and activities, check the events calendar and download forms. The website is continually updated with new features and enhancements. Visitors to the site can also perform public records searches with our online document repository accessible through the City Clerk section of the site. As part of our commitment to expand eGovernment services, **MyAventura** was installed at the end of 2007. **MyAventura** offered a substantial cost savings and consolidated Better Place and CitySpeak into one system for better customer service. In addition the new system offers helpful features for our residents such as a searchable knowledge base of information, FAQs and events calendar.

A community video link from our web site highlights different City services. These sponsored videos give web site visitors a glimpse into life in Aventura before they plan to vacation or relocate to our City. The videos are also aired on AVTV.

Tune in to 1650 AM on your radio dial for the latest information on local traffic alerts, reports, special events and news items. The City radio station (WPZQ420) broadcast area is approximately a three mile radius within City limits.

The City's cable channel is another avenue of communication for City residents. You can find AVTV on Channel 77. Special events and city announcements are broadcast 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The City continues to re-broadcast Commission meetings to the community on your Cable Service on Channel 77 (AVTV). Check the station and the City's website for the exact schedule.

In the Summer of 2007, a satellite dish was installed to receive a feed from The Florida Channel and offer more variety to our programming. The Florida Channel is a window into Florida State Government with programs such as Face to Face and Capitol Update. There is also educational programming covering Florida history with Florida Crossroads. Live legislative sessions also aired from time to time. The Florida Channel programming is broadcast several times a day.

The Police Department broadcasts monthly Police Briefing on AVTV to inform the community of crime statistics and important crime prevention tips. The City Manager meets with new businesses on a regular basis through "Meet Your City Manager" meetings. The City Commission meets monthly and encourages community participation at these meetings. Regularly held on the first Tuesday of the month, City Commission meetings begin at 6:00pm in the Commission Chamber on the Plaza Level of the Aventura Government Center, 19200 West Country Club Drive.

## budget priorities/goals

The following represents the pre-established priorities and goals that provided a framework for the preparation of the 2007/08 Budget Plan. In many areas the budget contains resources to address and accomplish the pre-established priorities and goals.

- In response to decreased property tax revenues, reduce General Fund operating costs by 4% without reducing current service levels.
- Open and operate new Waterways Park to provide more recreational and open space opportunities in the community.



- Add eighth grade at the Charter School for the 2007/08 school year.
- Construct and open new Waterways Dog Park and restroom facilities at Veterans Park.
- Continue to improve traffic safety and management by integrating video monitoring devices and red-light violation cameras at key intersections throughout the City.
- Fully implement City operated E911 system with the Police Communications Center becoming a Public Safety Answering Point to improve emergency response times.
- Review all user fees to insure that revenues offset the cost of the program or service and to reduce the subsidy from the General Fund.
- Provide funding to maintain landscaped areas and continue to provide a high quality maintenance program.
- Implement and fund the City’s Capital Improvement Program.

## **budget highlights**

### **Some of the major points emphasized, in the 2007/08 budget:**

- For the twelfth year, no property tax increase. Adopts the state imposed roll back less 9% for a millage rate of 1.7261 for 2007/08.
- Total expenditures in all funds are \$11 million less than last year.
- The General Fund operating costs were reduced by 4% without reducing current service levels including police to respond to property tax revenue reductions.
- Provides funding to staff and operate new Waterways Park and supervision of the new restrooms at Veterans Park. All other park staffing levels and hours were maintained.

- Funds construction of new Waterways Dog Park, Veterans Park restroom facilities and Country Club Drive tennis court renovation, which will provide more recreational and open space opportunities in the community.
- Includes funds to construct traffic flow intersection improvements along Biscayne Boulevard and expand the Traffic Video Monitoring Program to NE 213th Street and Country Club Drive at a cost of \$2,387,000.
- Provides for \$4,951,168 worth of capital improvements. 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 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.
- Continues contracting most maintenance functions, engineering, plan review and inspection services to the private sector.
- Funds police equipment needs from laptop computers to new police vehicles in the amount of \$979,068.
- Includes \$360,000 to upgrade the drainage system along NE 190th Street.





**CITY OF AVENTURA | 2007 | ANNUAL REPORT**