

AVENTURA *update*

A NEWSLETTER DESIGNED TO INFORM THE RESIDENTS OF AVENTURA



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A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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



Art Lovers Wanted

Art in Public Places Advisory Board

The City Commission has established an "Art in Public Places Advisory Board" that will include 3 residents. The mission of the new Advisory Board is to assist the City in identifying, selecting and obtaining works of art for display in City owned parks, buildings and facilities in order to further enhance the diverse array of cultural and educational opportunities which are available in the City. The Board will develop proposed protocols and guidelines for achieving the mission. Interested residents are encouraged to complete and submit an application form provided on the City's website at cityofaventura.com.

New Library Begins to take Shape

Miami-Dade County's construction of the new Northeast Branch Library started in February 2013, and it is scheduled for completion this December.

The new building, located at **2930 Aventura Boulevard**, is being constructed on the site of the previous facility which was damaged by Hurricane Wilma. At more than 26,000 square feet, it will include an exterior covered deck, vestibule, courtyards, an auditorium, conference rooms, a coffee shop, reading rooms, and green landscaped areas. Additionally, the library is seeking to attain a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification as a result of using energy-saving components and green materials.





AVENTURA update

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Community Recreation Center.....	305-466-3883

Community Services Happenings

Calendar of Events, Programs, Parks & Athletics

SPECIAL EVENTS

July 4th Fireworks

Celebrate the country's independence with a fireworks display on **Thursday, July 4, 2013 at 9 pm** along *County Club Drive*.



SUMMER PARK HOURS

Founders Park, Veterans Park, Waterways Park, and Waterways Dog Park are open daily from 8 am – 8 pm.

SplashPad

Come splash around at the City of Aventura's SplashPad. The SplashPad is open Tuesday - Sunday from 10 am - 7 pm, and closed on Mondays except on the following holiday Mondays: Memorial Day, May 27 and Labor Day, September 2. The SplashPad is free to City of Aventura residents with a photo ID, and \$10 plus park admission for non-residents. The SplashPad is located at the City of Aventura's *Founders Park, 3105 NE 190 Street*.

FALL CLASS REGISTRATION

Registration for fall classes and programs begins August 12 for residents and August 19 for non-residents.



YOUTH ATHLETICS

Aventura Little League

The City of Aventura hit a home-run during the recent little league season! Children ages 4–12 made new friends, created memories, and learned many

new skills on and off the diamond field. Children participated in t-ball, baseball and softball. The City looks forward to seeing all returning and new participants again next year!

It's All About Tennis

Founders Park is the place for tennis during the summer months of June and July.



Mommy & Me Tennis

is a new program designed for children ages 3-4.

QuickStart Tennis is the USTA's official play format for young players ages 5-8 to learn tennis. This specially designed program uses smaller racquets, slower balls and shorter court dimensions to create a rewarding experience for younger players.

Junior Tennis caters to players ages 9-12 and focuses on different swings, fancy footwork, rules, and rally capabilities. Players are grouped by age and skill level.

Private lessons are available for up to one hour of custom instruction. This is a great way to learn all the basics at your own pace before joining a group lesson. Discounted packages are also available.



Flag Football

The City of Aventura's flag-football league is coming August 2013! The season will be offered to players ages 5-14. Players will learn the proper stance, position responsibilities, throwing, catching and running. The league promotes active and social play while fostering teamwork and confidence.

SAVE THE DATE



Halloween Harvest

Sunday, October 27, 2013

1 - 4 pm

Community Recreation Center

3375 NE 188 Street

Have a howling good time at this year's Halloween Harvest featuring tricks, treats and more! The harvest is a family fun event, and it is the perfect way for kids to enjoy a great time in a safe environment. While parading in costumes, the afternoon is spent playing games and exploring the Halloween maze.



Founders Day

Sunday, November 3, 2013

Noon – 5 pm

Founders Park

3105 NE 190 Street

Enjoy a variety of activities at the 18th Annual Founders Day celebration. The whole family will enjoy arts and crafts, interactive performances, games, shows, outstanding talent, and much more!



Veterans Day

Monday, November 11, 2013

10 am

Aventura Government Center

19200 West Country Club Drive

The City of Aventura will be recognizing and remembering all the brave men and women who have served in the armed forces. Please plan to join City of Aventura officials, community leaders, veterans, heroes and neighbors at this annual and commemorative ceremony.

For more information about any of the City of Aventura special events, programs, parks or athletics, contact the Aventura Community Services Department at 305-466-8930 or visit cityofaventura.com.

CITY OF AVENTURA summer Camp June 10 - August 16 2013

Discovery ages 5-8
Session: June 10 - August 16

Explorer ages 9-14
Session: June 10 - August 16

Sports ages 7-14
Session: June 10 - June 28
Session: July 1 - July 19
Session: July 22 - August 9

Travel ages 9-14
Session: June 10 - June 28
Session: July 1 - July 19
Session: July 22 - August 9

Fees vary for weekly and full sessions as well as for residents and non-residents. For details, visit cityofaventura.com or contact the City of Aventura Community Recreation Center at 305-466-3883, 3375 NE 188 Street, Aventura, FL 33180.

Lightning Warning System



To ensure the safety of all patrons, the City of Aventura provides a lightning warning system for Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES), the Community Recreation Center, Founders Park, Waterways Park, and Waterways Dog Park.

When conditions are favorable for lightning that may threaten the area, the lightning warning system emits siren/horn blasts in any of the two following patterns:

- 1** One long horn blast indicates possible lightning in the area. The park will close, and all patrons must exit the park.
- 3** Three short horn blasts signals the "all clear" and the park re-opens.



Share the Road

How should I share the road as a car driver?

In Florida, the bicycle is legally defined as a vehicle and a bicyclist has the same rights to the roadways as the drivers of other vehicles. To make sharing the road a safe experience, vehicle drivers can **yield the right of way** to bicyclists and follow simple **roadway etiquette**.

Safety Tips:

Right of Way

- ▶ **Do not pass a cyclist until it is safe to do so.** Allow ample space between the vehicle and the bicycle to ensure the cyclist is not placed in danger. Passing a bicycle rider too closely can pull him/her off course and cause them to swerve.
- ▶ **Watch for cyclists when turning right.** Cyclists generally remain on the right side of the road. When a vehicle approaches an intersection to make a right turn, a bicyclist can most likely be riding to the right of the vehicle and may plan to go straight at the intersection.

Vehicle Etiquette

- ▶ **Watch for cyclists when backing out of a driveway or parking spot.**
- ▶ **Check for clearance before opening the door in a parallel parked vehicle.** Be sure there are no cyclists riding alongside the parked car that can be endangered by an abrupt car door opening.
- ▶ Although cyclists are like vehicles, **refrain from honking a car horn at close proximity.** Honking too close can jolt the rider of the bicycle and create a hazardous situation.

A Shared Space

The ACES Garden, an Outdoor Classroom

During the 2012/2013 school year, the ACES Community garden was used by teachers and students as an outdoor classroom to make connections with science, math, literature, technology, art, and video production.

Science class students investigated the pH of the soil in order to conclude that the soil is slightly acidic and ideal for growing vegetables and herbs.

Biology students studied companion planting, and learned that certain plants can add nutrients to the soil which help each other grow.

Math classes used the garden to practice geometry skills. By applying geometric calculations, students devised how much mulch would be needed to cover the garden and its beds.

Language arts class students experienced the plight of working a garden in order to connect with the characters in Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman. The students worked to transform a weed-filled garden bed into a space suitable for plants to grow.

The technology students were assigned to use the garden space in order to become inspired to create digital art projects. The students used a variety of iPad apps to draw and make comics of the vegetables, plants, and animals they saw while visiting the garden.

Art students made animal totems out of clay to represent a quality they admire most about themselves.

Broadcast production students visited the garden to practice filming live action scenes. Students edited the footage, added effects and voice overs, and presented their video on the morning announcements.



Capital Projects Update

The City of Aventura is pleased to be providing improvements which contribute to the safety and value of the City. Recent capital improvement projects include:

STATUS PROJECT

Complete	Country Club Drive Right Turn Lane at 34th Avenue
In Process	Government Center Parking Expansion
In Process	Traffic Signal at the Intersection of NE 185th Street & NE 28th Court
In Process	Country Club Drive (Northbound) Road Resurfacing
In Process	Biscayne Boulevard Decorative Street Lighting Phase III

For more information, please call the Office of the City Manager at 305-466-8910 or visit cityofaventura.com

Hurricane Season 2013

New Storm Surge Planning Zones for Miami-Dade County



A storm surge has the ability to cause extensive damage posing the greatest threat during a severe weather event, and it is the main reason evacuation orders for an area are issued.

The Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has conducted extensive storm surge research and has identified five Storm Surge Planning Zones within the county. Areas in Miami-Dade along canals and rivers and further inland have been identified as being at risk for storm surge.

The **Storm Surge Simulator** has been developed to illustrate what storm surge could mean to you and your home. Independent of a hurricane's category, each planning zone or portions of a zone can be evacuated depending on the hurricane's track and projected storm surge. Upon identification of a threat, the OEM or County Mayor will use local media to relay pertinent information, such as evacuations and shelter openings. It is important

to monitor the news for this information. Remember that these planning zones deal strictly with storm surge and you will need to determine if your home is safe to remain in during a hurricane.

- ▶ To determine if your location is within a storm surge planning zone, visit: <http://www.miamidade.gov/fire/evacuation-zones.asp> or call Miami-Dade County Answer Center at 3-1-1.
- ▶ People with special needs or need assistance during an evacuation must register with Miami-Dade County in advance. For more information, call 3-1-1.
- ▶ Upon request, a representative of the Aventura Police Department can provide a presentation about hurricane planning. Contact the Crime Prevention Office at 305-466-8962.

Skywatch

Elevated & Highly Mobile Security



After having been awarded a federal grant, the Aventura Police Department obtained a SkyWatch surveillance tower.

A SkyWatch mobile observation tower assists the police department by providing a vantage point in its high-level, elevated platform suitable for surveillance where crimes such as car theft, disturbances, assault, or robbery in crowded areas like malls and special events can be challenging.

The department plans to move the SkyWatch tower throughout the City in an effort to provide maximum surveillance in areas of need and at special sponsored City events.

Be Ready!

Helpful Hurricane Resources

- ▶ Miami-Dade Answer Line 3-1-1
- ▶ Miami-Dade Hurricane Guide [miamidade.gov / hurricane /](http://miamidade.gov/hurricane/)
- ▶ Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management [miamidade.gov / fire / emergency-management.asp](http://miamidade.gov/fire/emergency-management.asp)
- ▶ FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency ready.gov



Local Flooding Facts

Visit floodsmart.gov for more information.

Flooding is an act of nature that 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 Regulation

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 flood proof. City officials must review all new developments in the City of Aventura to ensure the designs meet the Florida Building Code 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 City of Aventura 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 in Flood Hazard Areas

For properties located in Special Flood Hazard Areas, it is required that improvements to properties be done in a manner which meets the current Florida Building Code 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 floodwaters.
- ▶ **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 floodproof, including:

- ▶ Grading your property to facilitate stormwater run-off.
- ▶ 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 15% 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

The Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service issue flood, hurricane and severe weather warnings.

In case a hurricane threatens the Aventura area and a significant storm surge is anticipated, an evacuation order will be issued by the Mayor of Miami-Dade County. Should this occur, residents are encouraged to heed the order and evacuate. Should emergency assistance be needed once tropical storm force winds (39 mph or higher), police and fire may not be able to respond. Following a storm, residents may be confined to their residences due to standing water, debris from the storm, or other threats to safety that may exist.

Residents are encouraged to stay tuned to the local TV and radio stations for updates about storms, evacuation orders including the opening of shelters, and should evacuate as soon as an evacuation order is issued.

TV Stations

- WSFOR: Channel 4
- WTVJ: Channel 6
- WSVN: Channel 7
- WPLG: Channel 10
- WLTV: Channel 23 (Spanish)
- WSCV: Channel 51 (Spanish)

Radio Stations

- WIOD: 610 AM
- WLYF: 101.5 FM
- WAQI: 710 AM (Spanish)
- WCQM: 92.3 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 immediately once an order is given.
- ▶ 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, and 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 article.
- ▶ 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.

DURING THE FLOOD:

- ▶ Keep a battery-powered radio tuned to a local station for emergency information. Follow instructions for your area.
- ▶ 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. Wear sturdy shoes.
- ▶ 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 bottled water only, until tap water has been declared safe for consumption by officials.
- ▶ 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 Insurance 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, both located at the Government Center. 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.



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CITY OF AVENTURA GOVERNMENT CENTER
Office of the City Manager
19200 West Country Club Drive
Aventura, FL 33180

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CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commission meetings are held at 6 PM the first Tuesday of every month.

*Aventura Government Center
Commission Chambers
19200 West Country Club Drive*

For more information about upcoming Commission meetings and workshops, please visit cityofaventura.com.

To confirm all meeting dates, times and locations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 305-466-8901.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CITY EVENTS

- June 10 - August 16 Summer Camp
- July 4 Fireworks Spectacular
- August 12 Activities Fall Session Registration
- October 27 Halloween Harvest
- November 3 Founders Day
- November 11 Veterans Day

Follow us on Twitter [@cityofaventura](https://twitter.com/cityofaventura) & visit cityofaventura.com

AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER EVENTS

- June 24 - August 16 Summer Theatre Camp
- July 19 - 20 Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr.
- July 26 Arts Ballet Theatre's Future Stars
- October 4 - 6 Steinway Selection Event
- October 12 Family Fun Series: Splat the Cat
- October 19 - 20 Arts Ballet Theatre presents Firebird
- October 26 The Choreographers' Ball
- October 30 NWSA Repertory Dance Ensemble
- November 1 The Hit Men
- November 2 Aventura Comedy Series: Michael Winslow

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