

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 periodic 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.



Budget Adopted Without Tax Increase

Aventura Still Maintains the Lowest Tax Rate in Miami-Dade County

Recently, the City Commission adopted the budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2013. The budget adopted the same tax rate as the prior year of 1.726, which is the lowest rate in Miami – Dade 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. Just as important as keeping your taxes low, this was accomplished while maintaining the current service levels and programs our residents and businesses currently enjoy.

After years of decline due to the economic recession, the City's taxable value has increased again for the second consecutive year and overall property values have shown a modest increase. This year the City experienced a 3.8% increase in property values. The new value of \$7.786 billion is still sharply down from the pre-recession value of \$9.609 billion.

Recently, we have witnessed positive signs that the local economy has shown some improvement. Many of the shopping centers along Biscayne Boulevard have completed major renovations and added new stores. New residential construction is on the upswing for the first time in five years. The number of building permits and applications for commercial and residential projects are also on the upswing. Importantly, these new projects will produce jobs for the local economy. The new construction values rose less than one million in value. Although the local economy has made strides, we need to continue to remain prudent and conservative in our financial management of the City.

The budget process produced a total budget of \$52,390,504 which is 9.9% less than the previous year. This was due primarily to the completion of major capital projects in the current fiscal year. Operating costs were limited to a 3.6% increase as compared to the previous year. A major portion of the increase is attributed to a 10% increase or \$200,000 in health insurance premiums. The budget maintains our current level for all City services, except funding for recreational special events has been increased to add more family events. The model of privatizing many service areas of the City's operations over the years has served the City well and has allowed for a more cost effective service delivery system as compared to the traditional government structure. This, along with implementing various energy saving measures throughout the organization, assisted greatly in reducing our overall cost increases. The City's "Go Green" efforts continue to be very beneficial in keeping our operating costs down.



AVENTURA update

MAYOR

Susan Gottlieb

COMMISSIONERS

- Enbar Cohen Michael Stern
- Teri Holzberg Howard Weinberg
- Billy Joel Luz Urbáez-Weinberg

CITY MANAGER

Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM

CITY CLERK

Teresa M. Soroka, MMC

CITY ATTORNEY

Weiss Serota Helfman
Pastoriza Cole & Boniske

EDITOR, DESIGN LAYOUT

Annette Gonzalez

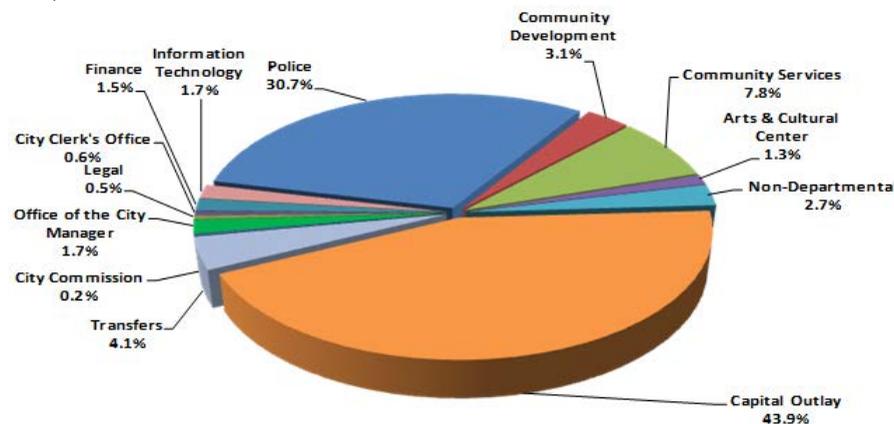
GOVERNMENT CENTER DIRECTORY

Main Number.....	305-466-8900
Main Fax Number.....	305-466-8939
Mayor and Commission.....	305-466-8901
City Manager.....	305-466-8910
<i>Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM</i>	
City Clerk.....	305-466-8901
<i>Teresa M. Soroka, MMC</i>	
Community Development.....	305-466-8940
<i>Joanne Carr, Director</i>	
Community Services	305-466-8930
<i>Robert M. Sherman, Director</i>	
Finance.....	305-466-8920
<i>Brian K. Raducci, Director</i>	
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Aventura Arts & Cultural Center.....	305-466-8002
<i>Steven Clark, General Manager</i>	
ACES Charter School.....	305-466-1499
<i>Julie Alm, Principal</i>	
Community Recreation Center.....	305-466-3883

Capital Outlay expenditures are budgeted at \$3,625,400 and include projects ranging from road resurfacing to park improvements and the commitment to invest in state-of-the-art technology. Over the past few years, major capital projects, facilities and park projects have been completed at a record setting pace. It is important that this budget, along with future budgets, contain the necessary level of funding to maintain and protect these assets. In order to balance the budget, \$246,000 was utilized from the City's reserve funds to fund a portion of the nonrecurring capital projects contained in the budget. The use of the reserve fund was pre-planned and contained in our Five Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) document. The City very prudently set aside reserves during better economic conditions. The key to our long time fiscal stability is to ensure that the amount used from the reserves is kept to a minimum and in accordance with the CIP.

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

- ▶ For the 18th year, no property tax increase.
- ▶ Total expenditures in all funds decreased by 9.9% due to the completion of several large capital projects.
- ▶ The operating cost increases were held to less than 4% without reducing current service levels.
- ▶ Approximately \$246,000 was utilized from the City's reserve funds to balance the budget and fund nonrecurring capital projects such as park improvements.
- ▶ Funds the final phase of upgrading the street lighting on the east side of Biscayne Boulevard.
- ▶ Increases funding for community events such as "movie nights" and special programs.
- ▶ Implements Park Enhancement Package which includes the following improvements based on input from the users of our park system: Install SunPad adjacent to the SplashPad at Founders Park; Additional shade structure and benches at Waterways Park playground; Replace shade structure with permanent shelter at Waterways Dog Park; Install additional shade structure at Veterans Park.
- ▶ Provides start-up funds for a proposed Community Garden at the south portion of Founders Park.
- ▶ Funds \$885,000 to resurface the south portion of Country Club Drive.
- ▶ Continues to implement and update technology enhancements that develop our "Electronic Government" to allow the public to interact more easily and conveniently with the City and automate City operations.
- ▶ Continues contracting most maintenance functions, engineering, plan review and inspection services, as well as the operation of the Arts & Cultural Center to the private sector.
- ▶ Funds police equipment needs from laptop computers to new police vehicles in the amount of \$727,600.
- ▶ Includes \$200,000 to upgrade the City's drainage system.
- ▶ Continues to adopt "Go Green" initiatives in order to save energy, conserve precious natural resources and reduce our impact on climate change.



Park Improvements

The City Commission has approved a Park Enhancement Package that includes many improvements to the City's park system. These improvements were developed based on suggestions of residents using the parks. We appreciate and welcome the input from the community to enhance our award winning park system.

The Founders Park SplashPad will be receiving \$240,000 in improvements that include replacing the SplashPad surface, three new water features, and a new 2,000 square foot SunPad next to the SplashPad. This new SunPad will provide sunny as well as shaded areas for SplashPad visitors. Food and beverages will be permitted on the new SunPad.

A new shade structure will be installed next to the playground at Veterans Park to provide additional cover for park goers. A new waterproof fabric roof will be installed on the existing shade structure. Waterways Dog Park and the Waterways Park playground area will be receiving another shade structure and benches.

We encourage our residents to use the City's park system to play, socialize and stay healthy. If you have other park improvements that you would like to suggest, please contact the City Manager's Office at 305-466-8910.



Become a Member of the Garden Club Committee

The City of Aventura is exploring the possibility of establishing a Community Garden at the south portion of Founders Park. The City is reaching out to the community for residents who would be interested in volunteering on the Garden Club Committee to work with the Community Services Advisory Board. If you have experience in gardening; or would like to be considered for this exciting opportunity, please complete an application form. Applications may be obtained online under the *Quick Links* menu of cityofaventura.com. All applications must be submitted to the City Manager's Office. **The deadline for applications is November 15, 2013.**

The Community Garden is scheduled to open in the spring of 2014 and will be operated by the Aventura Garden Club. For more information, contact the Community Services Department at 305-466-8930.

Arts & Cultural Center Advisory Board

Volunteer for your City

The City is accepting applications for the City's Arts and Cultural Center Advisory Board. The mission of the Board is to assist the City in maintaining a facility that offers a wide range of quality entertainment year-round and cultivates partnerships with other local and regional organizations to enhance the quality of life for Aventura by providing a variety of performing arts and relevant cultural programming for audiences of all ages. Applicants must have specific experience, as well as a strong commitment to performing arts including music, dance, dramatic arts, visual arts and cultural arts. Other responsibilities include:

- ▶ Provide input about programming options.
- ▶ Recommend fundraising and sponsorship opportunities and assist with the implementation of same to support the Center's operations and programming.
- ▶ Review policies and regulations as requested by the City Manager and Arts & Cultural Center General Manager as it relates to the Arts & Cultural Center.

Applications may be obtained online under the *Quick Links* menu of cityofaventura.com. **Application deadline is November 15, 2013.**

SPECIAL EVENTS



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 enjoyable environment. The afternoon will be spent playing games, trick or treating, journeying through the Halloween fun maze, and showing off costumes at the costume parade.



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 & crafts, live music & entertainment, games, outdoor activities such as rock climbing & putt-putt golf, shows including the Aventura STAR talent competiion, Sunday football on HDTV screens, food trucks at the Aventura Cafe, 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 join City of Aventura officials, community leaders, veterans, heroes, and neighbors at this annual and commemorative ceremony.



Parking and shuttle service will be available for Halloween Harvest and Founders Day at the Harbour Centre located on the corner of NE 29 Avenue and NE 188 Street. The Aventura Express will be providing shuttle service at the following times:

- ▶ **Halloween Harvest, October 27:** 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM
- ▶ **Founders Day, November 3:** 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Active Adult Programs: Trips and Tours

The next Trips and Tours registration is scheduled for December 6, 2013, and it includes a trip to the Adrienne Arsht Center on **Sunday, February 16, 2014** for a matinee performance of Miami City Ballet's Program III featuring the brilliantly theatrical *West Side Story Suite*.

Teacher Planning Days

Friday, October 25 and Friday, November 8, 2013

When school is out, the adventures begin! The City of Aventura offers fun-filled days of activities for children ages 5-14 at the Community Recreation Center. Children spend the day participating in games, arts & crafts, special events and more! The day begins at 7:30 AM and ends at 6 PM. Fees include all activities, supplies and lunch. Resident fee is \$43 and non-resident fee is \$52.

Winter Camp

**December 23 – 27, 2013 and
 December 30, 2013 – January 3, 2014**

Bring super powers and costumes to the "Super People Powers" Winter Camp, and celebrate real life heroes as well as their favorite comics and movies! Winter Camp is available for children ages 5-14 at the Community Recreation Center from 7:30 AM – 6 PM. The cost for residents is \$296 for the two-week session or \$153 for the one-week session. The cost for non-residents is \$355 for the two-week session or \$184 for the one-week session.

Note: Camp will end at 12:30 PM on Tuesday, December 24, 2013 and Tuesday, December 31, 2013. Camp will not be in session on Wednesday, December 25, 2013 and Wednesday, January 1, 2014.

Community Recreation Membership (CRC)

CRC members of all ages enjoy a variety of benefits including: the use of an indoor basketball court, a technical center, a fitness room with a waterfront view, fun activities, a variety of classes including free classes in yoga, bridge, body-sculpting, mahjong, and strength circuit.



COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

3375 NE 188 Street
305-466-3883

Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday, 7 AM - 9:30 PM
Saturday & Sunday, 8 AM - 4 PM

CITY PARKS

Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street
305-466-0183

Hours of Operation
Founders, Veterans, and Waterways parks are open daily from 8 AM – 7 PM until November 2, 2013 and 8 AM - 6 PM starting November 3, 2013.

Veterans Park
18375 NE 31 Avenue
305-466-8008

Waterways Dog Park is open daily from 8 AM - 7:30 PM and closed on Wednesdays from 10 AM - 2 PM for maintenance.

Waterways Park
3301 NE 213 Street
305-466-8008

SplashPad
The SplashPad located at Founders Park is open on weekends only from 10 AM – 6 PM until October 27, 2013. The SplashPad closes after October 27, 2013 until spring.

Waterways Dog Park
3301 NE 213 Street
305-466-8008



YOUTH ATHLETICS



Basketball

October 2013 – January 2014

Registration is open. The season consists of one practice and two games per week.



Girls Soccer

November 2013 – March 2014

Registration is open for girls ages 5-14. The season consists of one practice and one game per week.



Boys Soccer

January 2013 – March 2014

Registration starts December 2, 2013. The season consists of one practice and two games per week.



Tennis

Throughout the fall, Founders Park is the place for tennis: **Mommy and Me Tennis**; **QuickStart Tennis**; and **Junior Tennis**. **Private lessons** are available one-on-one for up to one hour of customized instruction. This is a great way to learn all the basics at your own pace before joining a group lesson.

REGISTRATION

Registration for classes, programs, athletics and events can be completed at the Aventura Community Recreation Center, Waterways Park, Founders Park, or online at cityofaventura.com.

Registration for upcoming winter activities is scheduled for December 8, 2013 for residents, and December 16, 2013 for non-residents.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

MOVIE NIGHT

at Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street
305-466-0183



Saturday
November 16
6:15 PM

Featuring:
Monster's University

Season Highlights

For its fourth season, the beautiful waterfront theater once again presents world class talent performing intimate shows here in the City of Aventura.

Founders Day Weekend



Music and comedy highlight Founders Day Weekend celebrations beginning Friday, Nov. 1 with **The Hit Men**, featuring former members of mega-hit acts such as Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons as they relate great

stories and perform rock and roll classics. **Wil Shriner** presents a comedy concert the following night of his clever and offbeat takes on life such as those that led to three Emmy Award nominations.

The Best of Broadway

Two-time Tony Award winner **Chita Rivera** performs a unique solo concert recreating signature moments from her legendary career including numbers from *West Side Story*, *Sweet Charity*, *Chicago*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, and *Bye, Bye, Birdie* on March 7. Other musical theater stars who will shine in the spotlight include **Emily Skinner** (Jan. 9), **Brian d'Arcy James** (Jan. 29), **Stephanie J. Block** (Feb. 9), **Sam Harris** (Feb. 20), **the Broadway Tenors** (Mar. 1-2), **Will Chase** (Mar. 19) and **DuDu Fisher** (Mar. 25-27).



Captivating Theater



The much anticipated Miami-Dade County debut of the Slow Burn Theatre Company features the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award® winning musical **Next to Normal** (Nov. 7-10) and **Chess**, from the musical creators of the hit *Mamma, Mia!*, (April 10-13). The Off-Broadway sensation **Flipside: The Patti Page Story** features 28 of her greatest hits in a sparkling musical celebrating the singer's rise to stardom (Jan. 24).

From the creators of *Celtic Nights*, **CLADDAGH: An Explosion of Celtic Dance and Passion** delivers an unbridled energetic fusion of vivacious music, dance and romance (Mar.16).

Spectacular Shows and Comedy

From classic to cutting edge, Aventura has it all: the **Golden Dragon Acrobats** on Nov. 24 is the premiere Chinese acrobatic touring company and represents the best of a time honored tradition while **Cirque Zuma Zuma** on Jan. 3 is a high-energy blend of Cirque du Soleil and the Harlem Globetrotters.



Explore the history of Bossa Nova with Beatriz Malnic, talented musicians and Brazilian Voices in **The Girl From Ipanema – 50 Years of Bossa Nova** (Feb. 15). The laughs never stop this season with performances by audience favorites **Sarge** (Jan. 25), **Second City: Happily Ever Laughter** (Feb. 6) and **Lisa Landry: That's Funny...You Don't Look Jewish** (Feb. 22).

The Aventura Foreign Film Series

Don't miss these internationally acclaimed films with post-screening discussions hosted by Shelly Isaacs: **The Names of Love** (Nov. 12), **Shun Li and the Poet** (Dec. 10), **The Pool** (Jan. 14), **Barbara** (Feb. 11), **Scheherazade, Tell Me a Story** (March 11) and **In the House** (April 1).

The amazing 2013-14 line-up also spotlights world renowned classical music performers, thrilling ballet and dance events and the Family Fun Series of staged classic children's stories. Please visit AventuraCenter.org for more information.

WHERE TO GO

3385 NE 188 Street, Aventura, FL 33180
1-877-311-7469 | AventuraCenter.org | [@aventuracenter](https://twitter.com/aventuracenter)

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Box Office is open from Tuesday-Saturday, Noon - 5 PM and 1½ hours prior to shows

CALL CENTER INFORMATION

Open Monday – Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM & Sunday, Noon-5 PM

Toll-free 1-877-311-7469 (SHOW)

Tickets and group sales 954-462-0222

Florida International University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Through a Partnership with the City of Aventura, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is Proposing to Offer Spring Courses in Aventura

For those not familiar with OLLI, they provide educational, learning and cultural opportunities for adults who wish to enrich their lives. Non-credit courses are offered throughout the year and are lead by experts in their fields.

OLLI offers a grand variety of courses ranging from film to politics and from religion to technology. However, to make their partnership with the City of Aventura a true success, OLLI wants to hear from you. Please contact them today with your suggestions for courses of interest to the Aventura community.

For more information, please contact OLLI at 305-919-5910 or email barmanc@fiu.edu.

Miami-Dade Green

Water and Energy Conservation

Miami-Dade County residents will be able to exchange three (3) old light bulbs for energy saving compact fluorescent light bulbs and exchange up to two (2) water-wasting showerheads for water-efficient models at this year's Aventura Founders Day event on November 3, 2013. Quantities are limited.

Call 3-1-1 or visit green.miamidade.gov for more information on water and energy conservation.



AVENTURA
CITY OF EXCELLENCE SCHOOL
"A" Rated School
4th Highest Ranking
K-8 School in the State

The graphic features a red apple on a stack of books against a teal background with white and yellow text.



18th Annual
FOUNDERS DAY Weekend
November 1 - 3, 2013

Friday, November 1 8 PM
The Hit Men
Aventura Arts & Cultural Center
3385 NE 188 Street | 877-311-7469
aventuracenter.org

Saturday, November 2 8 PM
Aventura Comedy Series:
Wil Shriner
Aventura Arts & Cultural Center
3385 NE 188 Street | 877-311-7469
aventuracenter.org

Sunday, November 3 Noon - 5
Founders Day:
The Greener City of Excellence
Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street | 305-466-8930

Miami-Dade County will be on hand to promote the greener lifestyle in the City of Aventura: bring your old shower heads and incandescent light bulbs to exchange them for energy efficient models; learn about water conservation and starting a condominium vegetable garden; create art made from recycled materials.

Showing their vocal talent, Jocelyn Rivera and Michaela Paige of NBC's "THE VOICE" will be performing; The Aventura STAR will showcase its finalists; The Community Recreation Center will present activity demonstrations; Team Nutrition will promote a healthier lifestyle for children; Don't miss the hilarious "Not So Newlywed Show" starring Aventura couples.

Field games, rock climbing, trampoline bungee jumping, putt-putt golf, giant inflatables, a photo booth, Toddler Town, face painting, hair styling, and food trucks will also be available.

cityofaventura.com/foundersday
@cityofaventura #COAfoundersday

The graphic features a blue sky, a white flag with the City of Aventura logo, and two circular inset photos of people.



AVENTURA *update*

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

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
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Boca Raton, FL
Permit No. 1807

AVENTURA *update*

FALL 2013

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

October 27 Halloween Harvest
November 1 - 3 18th Annual Founders Day Weekend
November 3 18th Annual Founders Day
November 11 Veterans Day Ceremony
November 16 Movie Night
November 20 ACES Holiday Bazaar
December 23, 2013 - January 3, 2014 Winter Camp

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AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER EVENTS

November 1 The Hit Men
November 2 Aventura Comedy Series: Wil Shriner
November 7 - 10 Next to Normal
November 12 Foreign Film Series: The Names of Love
November 15 Florida Grand Ballet Theater's A Night at the Ballet
November 16 Family Fun Series: The Very Hungry Caterpillar
November 17 Miami International Piano Festival: Misha Dacic
November 19 South FL Symphony Orchestra: Clancy Newman
November 24 Golden Dragon Acrobats

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