

SUMMER 2015

AVENTURA *update*

cityofaventura.com

#cityofaventura



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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.

City Takes Steps to Improve Pedestrian Safety

Reflective Rectangular Flashing Beacons

In order to foster a more pedestrian friendly City, On Pavement Pedestrian Warning Signs were installed last year at the five walkways along Country Club Drive. The City applied for FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) funding to convert the existing signs to Reflective Rectangular Flashing Beacons which are more visible and understandable for both pedestrians and motorists. The flashing beacons are solar powered and require a pedestrian to push a button for the signs to flash, thus requiring traffic to stop and allow pedestrians to safely cross the street. The project to install the flashing beacons at the five locations was approved in the amount of \$490,000 and is scheduled to commence this fall.



Soffer Trail Asphalt Restoration

The restoration and repair of the Don Soffer Exercise Trail on Country Club Drive is in its final stages. The project included the restoration and repair of major cracks and path failures. Since much of the path deterioration is due to tree roots growing underneath the path, root barriers were provided to prolong the life of the path. Asphalt seal coating of the entire path is scheduled to occur during the month of June.

The three mile path in the heart of the City is an important part of the park system and is utilized by many residents.



MAYOR

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COMMISSIONERS

Enbar Cohen Marc Narotsky
Teri Holzberg Robert Shelley
Denise Landman Howard Weinberg

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Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM

CITY CLERK

Ellisa L. Horvath, MMC

CITY ATTORNEY

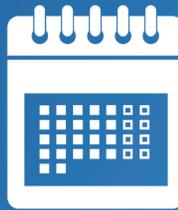
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Government Center Directory

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Main Fax Number.....	305-466-8939
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City Clerk.....	305-466-8901
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<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>	
Police.....	305-466-8989
<i>Steven Steinberg, Police Chief</i>	
Information Technology.....	305-466-8928
<i>Karen J. Lanke, Director</i>	
Aventura Arts & Cultural Center.....	305-466-8002
<i>Steven Clark, General Manager</i>	
ACES Charter School.....	305-466-1499
<i>Julie Alm, Principal</i>	



Calendar of Events 2015

Summer Camp

June 8 - August 21
Community Recreation Center
3375 NE 188 Street

Summer Tennis Camp

June 15 - August 21
Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street

Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Summer Theater Camp

June 22 - August 14
Aventura Arts & Cultural Center
3385 NE 188 Street

Fourth of July Fireworks

July 4 at 9 PM
Along Country Club Drives

Save the Dates for Fall

Halloween Harvest

October 31
1 - 4 PM
Community Recreation Center
3375 NE 188 Street

Movie Night

October 31
Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street

Founders Day

November 8
Noon - 5 PM
Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street

Veterans Day

November 11
Aventura Government Center
19200 West Country Club Drive

Athletics

Registration is open :



Flag Football

August - October
Ages 5-14



Girls Soccer

September - December
Ages 5-14



Basketball

October - December
Ages 5-14



Tennis

Ages 3-12



Adult Softball

June - September

Private Coaching/Wellness

Private lessons of customized instruction are available for all ages in any athletic sport including tennis.

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



Community Services

The City of Aventura Community Services Department manages City parks and the Community Recreation Center (CRC), and it is dedicated to provide Aventura residents with quality service, parks, facilities, events, programs, and activities.

Aventura Summer Activities

A complete and balanced program of recreational classes is offered throughout the summer. Browse through the catalog of classes online at cityofaventura.com.

Become a Member of the Community Recreation Center (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; and a variety of classes including free yoga, bridge, body-sculpting, mahjong, and strength circuit.

Membership registration is accepted *in person* only at the Community Recreation Center, Founders Park or Waterways Park.

Ready to Register?

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.

Community Recreation Center

3375 NE 188 Street
305-466-3883

City Parks

Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street
305-466-0183

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

Veterans Park
18375 NE 31 Avenue
305-466-8008

Waterways Park
3301 NE 213 Street
305-466-8008

Waterways Dog Park
3401 NE 213 Street
305-466-8008

Summer Park Hours

Founders Park, Veterans Park, Waterways Park, and Waterways Dog Park are open daily from 8 AM - 8 PM.

Waterways Dog Park is closed on Wednesdays from 10 AM - 2 PM for maintenance.



The SplashPad is open Tuesday - Sunday from 10 AM - 7 PM, and closed on Mondays except on Labor Day, Monday, September 7th.

The SplashPad is free to City of Aventura Residents with a photo ID, and \$10 plus park admission for non-residents.



City Moves Forward with New Park at NE 188th Street

The City Commission recently approved the conceptual design for the new park to be located on NE 188th Street. The 1.5 acre park will include an open play area, two playgrounds, one for children ages 2-5, one for 5-12 under protective screening, and an adult exercise area open 24 hours adjacent to the waterfront promenade. The project addresses the City's goal to provide additional recreational facilities for the growing younger population and the needs expressed from the community. Construction is scheduled to begin in October with a park opening in the summer of 2016.

The City will be holding a contest to name the new park later this year. The community is encouraged to provide ideas and participate.



Get Ready to Celebrate!

Happy Birthday City of Aventura
 The City of Aventura incorporated on November 7, 1995 and became a new city within Miami-Dade County. 2015 marks the 20th Anniversary of this milestone, and activities and events are being planned to celebrate.

Visit cityofaventura.com/20years and follow the City's social media for the schedule of events.

Get ready to celebrate and let the festivities begin!

Stormwater System Improvements

Over \$10 million, including State funding, has been spent on improvements over the past 19 years.

In the City's ongoing efforts to improve drainage and pedestrian safety, improvements to NE 29th Place between Aventura Boulevard and NE 203rd Street began in May. These improvements include increasing the capacity of the drainage system to alleviate flash flooding during rainstorms and adding a new sidewalk on west side of the street. When complete the entire roadway will be resurfaced as well. The drainage improvements are funded from a state grant.

Since the incorporation of the City, many improvements have been made to the stormwater system including upsizing pipes, adding drainage pipes where none had been available, and increasing capacity to the existing system. The City continues to monitor the system and includes projects in its Capital Improvement Program to improve drainage and reduce flooding.





Hurricane Season 2015

Resource Guide



Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management

Learn more about the Office of Emergency Management, including the phases of emergency management, activation levels and the comprehensive emergency management plan.
www.miamidade.gov/oem



Miami-Dade Hurricane Guide

Develop a hurricane plan ahead of time and stock-up on vital supplies in order to stay safe in the event of a storm. Save time, money and worry.
www.miamidade.gov/hurricane



Miami-Dade Emergency Alerts

Miami-Dade County provides Miami-Dade Alerts, a service that enables Miami-Dade residents to receive emergency texts and/or emails about public safety issues such as: weather warnings like tornado, tropical storm or hurricane warnings; recommended public protective actions; or other emergency information.
www.miamidade.gov/alerts



FPL

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) is the largest rate-regulated electric utility in Florida. Report outages, check statuses, report hazardous conditions, report power related concerns, and more at the Florida Power and Light utility company.
www.fpl.com



FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency supports citizens and first responders to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all emergency hazards.
www.fema.gov



American Red Cross

The American Red Cross responds to natural disasters and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies such as hurricanes, fires, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, etc. by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.
www.redcross.org/fl/miami



911 Emergency

Dial 911 for all **emergencies only**. Using the 911 system for non-emergencies could prevent someone with a legitimate emergency from getting immediate access to help.

Non-emergency

Dial 305-466-8989 for non-emergency police related matters.

Miami-Dade Answer Line

3-1-1

Family Social Services

2-1-1

FPL

1-800-4-OUTAGE

FEMA

1-800-621-3362

American Red Cross

305-644-9449

City of Aventura Police Department

Upon request, the City of Aventura Police Department is available to present hurricane or emergency preparedness to a group or condominium association. Contact the Department at 305-466-8962



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
- WLTW: Channel 23 (Spanish)
- WSCV: Channel 51 (Spanish)

Radio Stations

- WIOD: 610 AM
- WLYF: 101.5 FM
- WAQI: 710 AM (Spanish)
- WCMQ: 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.
- ▶ Flood protection information.
- ▶ Flood mitigation financial assistance program.

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 and are available for online viewing on the City's website, cityoaventura.com/flood.

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



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
PAID
Boca Raton, FL
Permit No. 1807

AVENTURA *update*

SUMMER 2015

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.

Calendar Highlights

City Events

- June 8 - August 15 Summer Camp
- July 4 Fireworks Spectacular
- October 31 Halloween Harvest
- October 31 Movie Night
- November 8 Founders Day
- November 11 Veterans Day

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Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Events

- June 11 Jenny in Love
- June 27 Florida Grand Ballet
- June 22 - August 14 Summer Theater Camp

AVENTURA
ARTS &
CULTURAL
CENTER
5
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



The City of Aventura presents the
Aventura Arts & Cultural Center 5th Anniversary Celebration
with a special performance by
Bernadette Peters
Friday, October 23, 2015
Tickets on sale Tuesday, July 14, 2015

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