

Aventura Update

The Official City of Aventura Newsletter
cityofaventura.com #cityofaventura
FALL 2015

▶ Founders Day: 7

▶ AACC 5th Anniversary: 8

▶ New Voting Precincts: 10

▶ New Shuttle Bus Route: 11

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 Continues Low Tax Rate and Excellent Services

Recently the City Commission adopted the budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2015. The budget adopted the same tax rate as the prior year of 1.726, which is the lowest rate in Miami-Dade County. This represents a 20 year period, since the incorporation of the City of Aventura, with no property tax increase. In addition, General Fund reserve funds were not utilized to balance the budget and no additional debt is proposed. 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.

The City experienced an 8.4% increase in property values over the prior year. The new value of \$9.095 billion is still down from the pre-recession value of \$9.609 billion, but continues to trend upward for our community.

The budget process produced a total budget of \$60,629,136 or 1.9% more than the previous year. Capital Outlay expenditures are budgeted at \$7,508,925 and increased by \$1,273,700 or 20% compared to the prior year. Maintaining our infrastructure from government buildings to our park facilities continues to be a major funding priority to protect these assets. Additional funding has been set aside to address possible route improvements for the shuttle bus service during peak times and to prepare a master plan to identify and promote the City's pedestrian and bicycle routes. Also, the budget includes the Flashing Pedestrian Crossing Signs to be installed at major intersections on Country Club Drive and new path lighting for the Don Soffer Exercise Trail. The Capital Outlay portion of the budget contains \$1,655,000 for drainage improvements including a planned update to the City's Stormwater Master Plan that will also study long-term impacts of the rising sea level on the overall drainage system.

(continued on page 2)



Aventura Update

MAYOR

Enid Weisman

COMMISSIONERS

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

CITY MANAGER

Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM

CITY CLERK

Ellisa L. Horvath, MMC

CITY ATTORNEY

Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman

ART DIRECTOR/DESIGNER

Annette Gonzalez

Government Center Directory

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Main Number..... | 305-466-8900 |
| Main Fax Number..... | 305-466-8939 |
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| City Manager..... | 305-466-8910 |
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| City Clerk..... | 305-466-8901 |
| <i>Ellisa L. Horvath, 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> | |
| 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> | |

Operating costs increased by \$1,783,183 as compared to the previous year. The budget maintains our current level for all City services except funding for the following areas:

- A part-time Park Attendant position was reclassified to full-time to meet the increased service needs of our parks and the new park on NE 188th Street.
- Building inspection and review costs were increased in response to the upswing in building activity.
- Funding has been provided to support the planned events for celebrating the 20th anniversary of the incorporation of the City.
- Shuttle bus costs were increased to address possible route improvements during peak times.
- Added a Public Records Specialist position to respond to the increased demand for public records attributed to police information and the expanded use of the in-car video system.

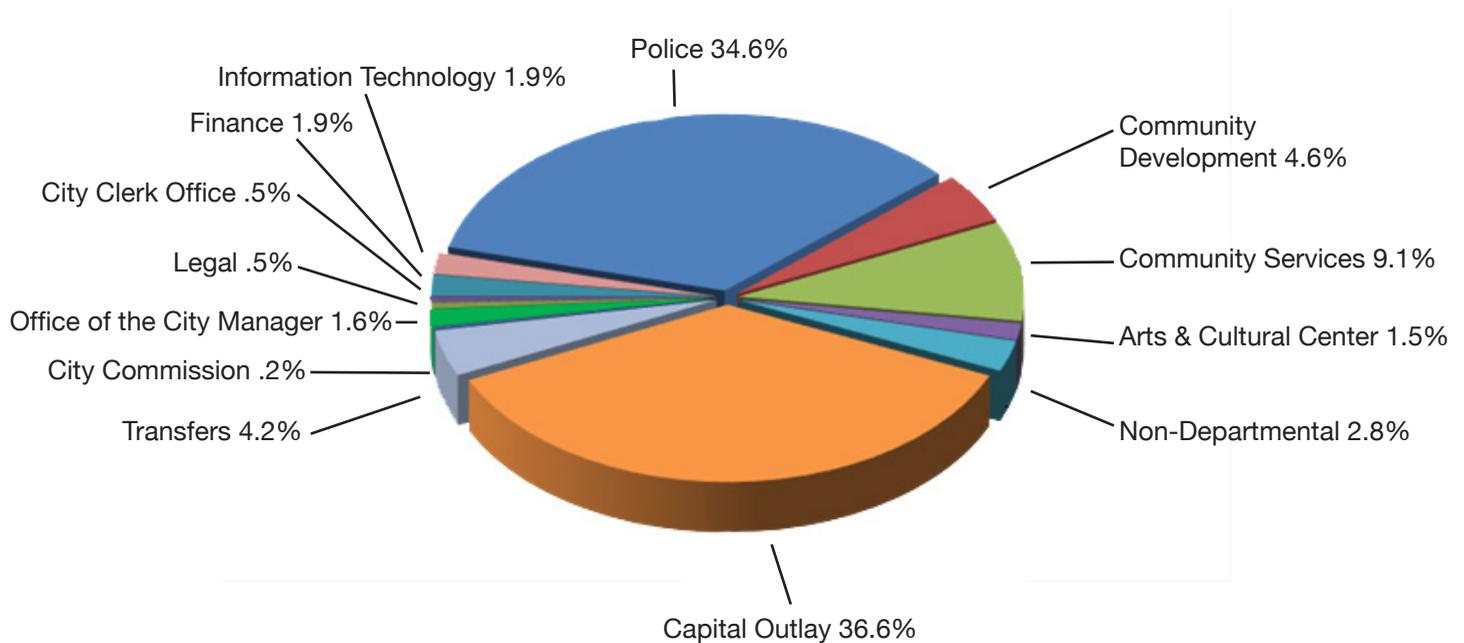
The model of privatizing many service areas of the City’s operations over the years has served the City well and has allowed for a more cost effective service delivery system as compared to the traditional government structure. Strong fiscal policies and prudent budgeting have enabled the City to maintain the lowest tax rate in the County, while providing high-quality services to our residents.

The following represents the pre-established priorities and goals that provided a framework for the preparation of the 2015/16 Budget Plan.

- Maintain current service levels and programs.
- Provide funding for the construction and the operating costs associated with opening the new park on NE 188th Street.
- Address drainage infrastructure improvements in areas subject to flash flooding and the long range impacts of climate change.
- Include funding to support the planned events associated with the City’s 20 year anniversary since incorporation.
- Provide funding to maintain landscaped areas, City facilities and the City’s infrastructure to continue to provide a high quality maintenance program.
- Increase Code Compliance staffing to respond to increased demands for enforcement needs on the weekends and after-hours to protect the quality of life for our community.

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- Continue to adopt “Go Green” initiatives in order to save energy, conserve precious natural resources and reduce our impact on climate change. These initiatives over time will also reduce our annual operating cost and impacts on the environment.
- Continue to utilize technology to improve productivity and lower costs of providing services.
- No additional debt by implementing and funding the “pay-as-you-go” Capital Improvement Program to address the City’s infrastructure needs.



Financial Transparency

This past summer, the City of Aventura launched a financial transparency portal to equip the community with an interactive way to learn more about the City’s finances. The web-based financial transparency and business intelligence tool dynamically presents the City’s revenues and expenses in easy to view charts and graphs. Users can track budget performance throughout the year and compare data to prior years.

The City is demonstrating its commitment to efficient, data-driven and transparent government by making its financial data easily accessible in an intuitive, digital format. The web-based tool can be accessed at cityofaventura.com/data.



Community Services

The City of Aventura Community Services Department is dedicated to provide Aventura residents with quality service, parks, facilities, events, programs, and activities.

Calendar of Events

October 31, 2015

Halloween and Movie Night

November 8, 2015

20th Anniversary Founders Day

November 11, 2015

Veterans Day

November 25, 2015

Teacher Planning Day Program

December 21 - 31, 2015

Winter Camp

December 21 - 31, 2015

Tennis Camp

Athletics Calendar

Through December 2015

Adult Softball

Through December 2015

Girls Soccer - Fall

October 2015 - January 2016

Basketball

January 2016 - May 2016

Boys Soccer

January 2016 - May 2016

Girls Soccer - Spring

February 2016 - May 2016

Little League

Directory

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

Park Hours for Fall

Founders Park, Veterans Park, and Waterways Park are open daily from 8 AM - 6 PM.

Waterways Dog Park is open daily from 8 AM - 6 PM and closed for maintenance every Wednesday from 10 AM - 2 PM.

The SplashPad at Founders Park is open on weekends only from 10 AM - 6 PM and officially closes for the season on Sunday, October 25, 2015.

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 (restrictions apply).

Tennis Court and Park

Shelter Reservations

City of Aventura residents can reserve tennis courts and park shelters exclusively online using the City's Online Registration System (ORS) at cityofaventura.com/ors. Online reservations provide a streamlined reservation process where residents can conveniently schedule and confirm their reservations with just a few clicks, anywhere, anytime – 24 hours a day.



Community Services

Recreational Programs

Aventura Fall Activities

A complete and balanced program of recreational classes are offered throughout the fall. Browse through the catalog of classes online at cityofaventura.com/ors.

Registration for upcoming Aventura winter activities is scheduled for residents on **Monday, December 7, 2015** and **Monday, December 14, 2015** for non-residents.

Active Adults

The City of Aventura's active adults continue to make the Trips and Tours program a success! Here's a brief summary of what's next:

- **November 18, 2015** Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens.
- **December 10, 2015** Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens & House Tour with Lunch at Serenity Garden Tea House.
- **January 24, 2016** Parker Playhouse Presents "In the Mood", a 1940's Musical Revue.
- **February 3, 2016** Actors' Playhouse Presents "West Side Story".

Teacher Planning Days

Wednesday, November 25, 2015

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.

Tennis Camp

December 21 - 31, 2015

Tennis Camp is for children ages 7-12 of all skill levels at Founders Park from 9:30 AM - Noon. Campers must bring their own racquet, water and snack. Resident fee is \$150, and non-resident fee is \$180 per week.

Winter Camp

December 21 - 31, 2015

Unleash your inner maestro as you celebrate winter break at "Galileo Rocks", the City's camp theme this year for children ages 5-14. The day runs from 7:30 AM - 6 PM at the Community Recreation Center. Get ready to boogie down and turn the innovation up on a toe-tapping, finger snapping, music making adventure! The 2-week session fee for residents is \$218 and \$262 for non-residents. The 1-week session fee for residents is \$109 and \$131 for non-residents.



Community Services

Community Recreation Center

Membership

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

Athletic Programs

Private Sports and Wellness

Coaching

Private lessons are available for all ages at Founders Park and Waterways Park to improve game or fitness level with coaches that focus on the whole athlete.

Tennis

Throughout the fall, Founders Park is the place for tennis. The City offers the following classes: Mommy and Me Tennis for ages 3-4, 10 & Under Tennis for ages 5-10, and Junior Tennis for ages 8-12.

Private lessons are available for all ages. An hour of customized 1-on-1 instruction is a great way to learn all the basics at the player's own pace before joining a group lesson.

Youth Athletics

Children ages 5-14 are offered the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletic sports including basketball, girls and boys soccer, and the Aventura Little League (for ages 4-14).



Saturday, October 31, 2015

5 PM - 7 PM

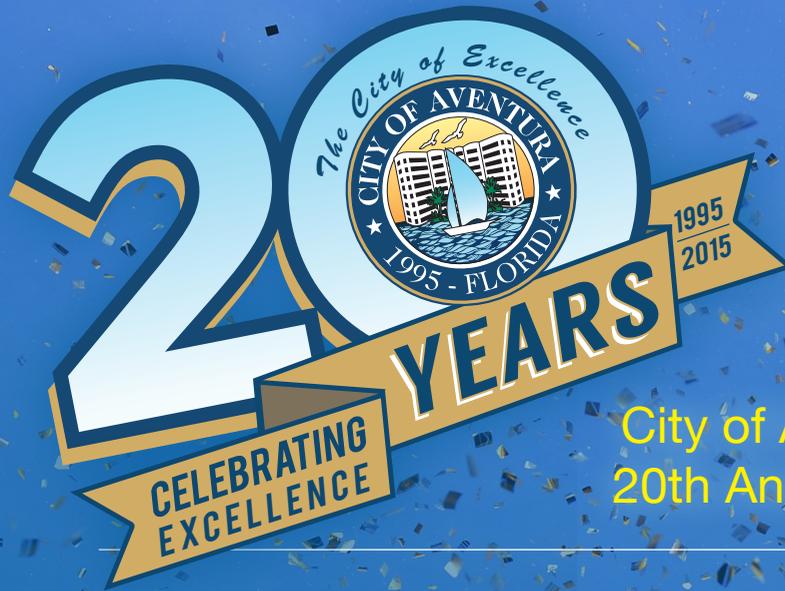
Magic Show * Bounce Houses
Fun Games * Fortune Telling
Science of Wizardry * Trick or Treat Trail
Costume Parade
Food Trucks

**7 PM - 9 PM
Movie Night**

PG Rated Movie
Food Trucks

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





City of Aventura
20th Anniversary

FOUNDERS DAY

NOVEMBER 8, 2015

12 PM - 5 PM

Celebrate the City's 20th anniversary bash amidst still walkers, jugglers, activities, food, and pure entertainment! Enjoy the day with your family, friends and neighbors.

Share the excitement with your children at Toddler Town; relax under the dining tents while catching a Sunday football game on HDTVs; and feast on a meal from the variety of food trucks. Be dazzled by the live entertainment on the community stage featuring the Aventura STAR talent competition, community demonstrations and a special "Frozen" show. Zip along the sky on fun zip lines, slide down the giant inflatable slide, enjoy rock climbing walls, participate in tennis activities, bungee jump, demonstrate putt-putt golf skills, and revel in interactive games for all ages! Get creative at the interactive art and science stations, or unleash your personal style in the Makeover Madness station.

Parking

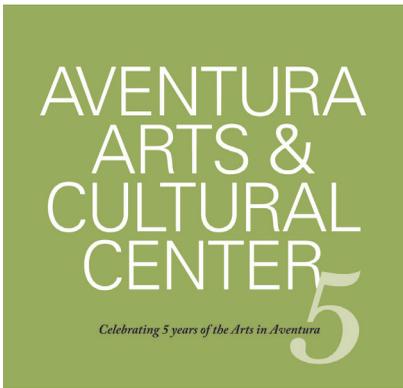
Free parking at the Aventura Government Center Parking Garage just west of Founders Park and at the Harbour Centre on the corner of NE 18 Street and NE 29 Avenue. Free shuttle service between the Harbour Centre and Founders Park will operate on Founders Day from 11:30 AM - 6 PM.

Founders Park

3105 NE 190 Street 305-466-8930

cityofaventura.com/20years #CityofAventura

Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Celebrates its 5th Anniversary Season



Celebrating 5 Years of the Arts in Aventura

This season marks the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center's 5th anniversary, which was celebrated with a gala performance by **Bernadette Peters** on October 23rd. Since opening in the fall of 2010, with Patti LuPone, the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center (AACC) has staged over 780 performances for well over 150,000 patrons. In the past five years, our stage has hosted Art Garfunkel, Mandy Patinkin, Dudu Fisher, Lucie Arnaz, Chita Rivera, and Rod Stewart, as well as classical pianists via the Miami International Piano Festival, full length ballets presented by Arts Ballet Theatre, contemporary dance, stand-up comedy, film, Broadway, cabaret, theater, and educational and family programming.



Going into the 2015-2016 season, the Aventura Marketing Council presents **Young Stars Showcase** on November 15th. The 6th-annual performance features sensational young South Florida singers.

Dance

The AACC's 6th season of dance features **New World School of the Arts Repertory Dance Ensemble** on November 4th, followed by **Florida Grand Ballet's Three Dances** on November 19th and **Arts Ballet Theatre's The Nutcracker** performing December 11th – 13th.

Broadway at its Finest!

This season's Broadway Concert Series features Tony Award nominee for The Gershwin's Porgy & Bess, **Norm Lewis**, on January 10th, followed by Tony nominee for Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, **Jarrold Spector** on January 20th. Tony nominee for Smokey Joe's Café **Brenda Braxton** performs March 31st, and Tony winner for Pippin, **Patina Miller**, concludes the series on April 6th. Don't miss it!



Engaging Theater

For the third year, the Center welcomes back acclaimed **Slow Burn Theatre Company** with **Dogfight** playing December 3rd – 6th, which was the winner of the 2013 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical and **Romance/Romance** on March 10th – 13th. This is a frothy and fun musical!



Popular Music

In the popular music genre, highlights include **3 Men and a Baby . . . Grand: A Toast to Sinatra** on December 18th; **I've Got a Little Twist: Gilbert & Sullivan with a Twist of Broadway** playing January 7th; **Jim Witter's Still Rock N' Roll To Me** January 16th; **ABBA Mania** February 12th; and **Steppin' Out Live with Ben Vereen** on February 14th.

Classical

The Miami International Piano Festival opens its five part season with **Zlata Chochieva** on November 22nd, followed by **Amir Katz** on January 17th, **Josu de Solau**n, on February 21st, **Jorge Luis Prats** is featured on March 19th, and the schedule concludes with **Leonid Egorov** on April 17th.

Family Fun Series

Family Fun returns to the Cultural Center with **The Little Red Hen** on November 21st, **Chicken Dance** on January 17th and **Three Little Birds** performing on February 7th. Also, for the family, illusionist extraordinaire **Brad Ross** will mystify on December 29th and **New Shanghai Circus** will deliver breathtaking thrills on February 28th.



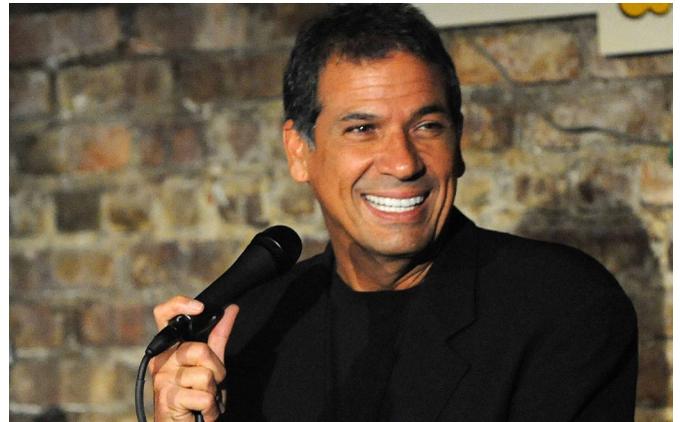
Pure Comedy

In the world of comedy, Chicago's famed comedy troupe **The Second City** returns in **Hooking up with the Second City** on January 27th and 28th and **Chicago City Limits** delivers hilarious improv on April 14th. This season's Comedy Series presented by Singer Productions and Entertainment features and encore appearance by **Bobby Collins** on November 21st; and **Sarge** with the return of his **Chanukah Chutzpah Tour** December 19th and 20th; **Three Hysterical Broads Off Their Medication** on January 23rd; multiple Grammy nominee **Judy Tenuta** on February 27th; and **Steve Marshall** and **Michael Panzeca: The Cannoli and the Macaroon Comedy Tour** playing on March 26th.



The Aventura Foreign Film Series

Finally, the Aventura Foreign Film Series returns with **Tangerines** on November 10th, **The Verdict** plays December 8th, **About Elly** on January 12th, **Phoenix** on February 9th, **The Dinner** plays March 1st, and **Living Is Easy with Eyes Closed** on March 29th.



It's easy to get tickets!

In Person:

Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Box Office
3385 NE 188 Street, Aventura FL 33180
Tuesday - Saturday, 12 PM - 5 PM
and 1.5 hours prior to the performance

By Phone: 877.311.7469

Online: aventuracenter.org



Voting Precinct Number and Polling Location Changes



The Miami-Dade County Elections Department has completed the re-precincting process, which will be in effect for future elections. These changes were made to improve the voting experience in preparation for the 2016 election cycle. If you are a registered voter in the City of Aventura, you should have received a new Voter Information Card from the Miami-Dade County Elections Department. To verify your precinct number and polling location, please go to iamelectionready.org or contact the Miami-Dade County Elections Department at 305-499-VOTE (8683).

The **precinct numbers** and polling locations for registered voters in the City of Aventura are as follows:

Precinct Number 99

Williams Island Club House
4500 Island Boulevard

Precinct Number 112

Plaza Del Prado
18051 Biscayne Boulevard

Precinct Number 102

Aventura Community Recreation Center
3375 NE 188 Street

Precinct Number 113

Point East
2895 Point East Drive

Precinct Number 103

Aventura Government Center
19200 West Country Club Drive

Precinct Number 114

Northeast Aventura Branch Library
2930 Aventura Boulevard

Precinct Number 109

Aventura Government Center
19200 West Country Club Drive

Precinct Number 184

Aventura Community Recreation Center
3375 NE 188 Street

Precinct Number 111

Commodore Plaza Tower II
2750 NE 183 Street

Emergency Notification System

The City of Aventura launched CodeRED, an emergency notification system which allows the City to deliver critical messages and alerts to the community.

The CodeRED system serves as part of the City's emergency planning and communications outreach to its community by using the system's capabilities to send telephone calls, text messages, emails, and social media posts in an effort to effectively inform residents, businesses and visitors. The City anticipates using the system to notify the community in specific geographic locations which may be subject to severe weather, etc.

No one should automatically assume they are in the emergency contact database, therefore all persons and businesses within Aventura limits are encouraged to visit cityofaventura.com/codered to enroll in the system.

Peak Season Shuttle Bus Route Improvements

As a City we continue to explore alternative transportation opportunities to alleviate traffic congestion. Over 25,000 riders a month utilize the City's free shuttle bus service, to travel to their destinations throughout the City. Although the lack of right-of-ways precludes the addition or expansion of more road lanes, several turning lane projects have been completed to facilitate traffic flow. Recently, the expansion of the southbound turning lane at Miami Gardens Drive was completed and has already resulted in improved traffic flow. The City is working with the Florida Department of Transportation to address traffic flow issues on Biscayne Boulevard and the area around Country Club Drive and the Lehman Causeway.

The new budget includes funding for an additional route during the peak season to alleviate waiting times and provide more efficient routes city-wide. Beginning October 19, 2015 and ending on February 13, 2016, a new Silver route will be added to the shuttle bus system at no cost to the riders. The peak season is the busiest four months of the year with the heaviest ridership.

The benefits of adding the new Silver route are as follows:

- Relieves the pressure on the Green and Purple routes and reduces the entire trip time by 10 minutes.



- Creates more capacity for passengers and a streamlined path that will serve the residential properties along NE 188 Street, Lehman Causeway, Turnberry Way, and Mystic Pointe Drive.
- Leaves time for additional stops if the need arises for more service.
- Creates shorter commuting times for passengers.
- Creates more time between routes at the Mall when traffic is heavier.
- Creates an additional 70 stops at retail, community, and commercial destinations every day.

Please visit the cityofaventura.com for more information about shuttle bus times, routes and services.

City Commission Actions Promote Pedestrian and Bike Friendly Community

This past year, the City of Aventura focused on fostering a more pedestrian and bike friendly community. Pedestrian Warning signs were placed at the intersections along Country Club Drive as a safety measure. This fall, they will be replaced by reflective flashing beacon signs. The budget contains funding for new improved path lighting for the Don Soffer Exercise Trail which will be complete by next summer. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) completed a project requested by the City to provide for bike paths along the Lehman Causeway that connects the City's internal system to Collins Avenue and Biscayne Boulevard. Some of Aventura's main roads will be converted to dual use for both bikes and cars. Over the next several years, FDOT will be adding bike lanes to Biscayne Boulevard. The City is exploring the feasibility of a bike share program that would allow riders to take bikes from

docking stations placed around the City and return them to other locations. This program offers a way to expand the City's transportation options, alleviate traffic, and enhance the City's "Go Green" efforts by replacing a portion of trips that would otherwise be made by car with pollution-free bike trips.





Aventura Update

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

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Aventura Update

FALL 2015

City Commission Meetings

Commission meetings are held at 6 PM the first Tuesday of every month at the Aventura Government Center Commission Chambers located at 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

- October 31 Halloween and Movie Night
- November 8 20th Annual Founders Day
- November 11 Veterans Day
- November 25 Teacher Planning Day Program
- December 21 - 31 Winter Camp
- December 21 - 31 Tennis Camp

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Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Events

- November 4 NWSA Repertory Dance Ensemble
- November 6 Avalon: Suite for Flamenco Guitar and Orchestra
- November 18 An Evening with George Winston
- November 19 Three Dances
- December 3-6 Dogfight

aventuracenter.org #AventuraCenter