

# The AVENTURA



ANNUAL REPORT

# 2015





Sophie Cristó

- LOUIS VUITTON
- FENDI
- EMILIO PUCCI
- BALLY
- BURBERRY
- ST. JOHN
- BLOOMINGDALE'S**
- JUST CAVALLI
- BOSS
- BROOKS BROTHERS
- NORDSTROM**
- TORY BURCH
- CARTIER
- TIFFANY & CO.
- ROLEX
- LONGINES
- MACY'S**
- APPLE
- + over 300 stores

# AVENTURA MALL

19501 BISCAYNE BOULEVARD, MIAMI, FL  
AVENTURAMALL.COM

# *The* AVENTURA

## **MAYOR**

Enid Weisman

## **COMMISSIONERS**

Enbar Cohen

Teri Holzberg

Denise Landman

Marc Narotsky

Robert Shelley

Howard Weinberg

## **CITY MANAGER**

Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM

## **CITY CLERK**

Ellisa L. Horvath, MMC

© 2016 City of Aventura.

TheAventura  
was produced by City of Aventura  
Communications/Technical Project Specialist  
Annette Gonzalez  
and  
Information Technology Director  
Karen J. Lanke

Special thanks to Sara Fiedelholz

Cover Photo:  
Aventura Police Department  
at the City of Aventura's 20th Anniversary Founders Day

Andrew Goldstein Photography





## Annual Report 2015

City Commission .....	3
Office of the Mayor .....	4
Office of the City Manager .....	6
City Organizational Chart .....	8

## City 9

Public Safety .....	10
Out in Force .....	12
Bike Safety .....	13
Aventura City of Excellence School .....	14
Office of the City Clerk .....	16
Finance .....	18
Information Technology .....	20
City Communications .....	22
Bike Share .....	24

## Living 25

Community Services .....	26
Attendance Summary .....	29
Come Out to Play .....	30
Get in the Game .....	31
Aventura Green City .....	32
Aventura Express Bus Service .....	33
Calendar of City Sponsored Events .....	34

## Arts & Culture 35

Aventura Arts & Cultural Center (AACC) ..	36
Arts in Education .....	38
AACC Calendar .....	39
Box Office FAQs .....	40

## Working 41

Community Development .....	42
Building Permits .....	44
Local Business Tax Receipt .....	44

## Future 45

2015 / 2016 Budget Priorities / Goals and Highlights .....	46
---	----

# CITY COMMISSION



**Enid Weisman**  
Mayor

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.



**Teri Holzberg**  
Commissioner, Seat 1



**Denise Landman**  
Commissioner, Seat 2



**Howard Weinberg**  
Commissioner, Seat 3



**Robert Shelley**  
Commissioner, Seat 4



**Enbar Cohen**  
Commissioner, Seat 5



**Marc Narotsky**  
Commissioner, Seat 6



# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

19200 West Country Club Drive  
Aventura, FL 33180



Dear City of Aventura Resident:

It is my privilege as your Mayor to present the City's Annual Report for 2015. Many of your concerns have been addressed this past year. The entire Commission and I look forward to continuing this dialogue with you, our residents, as we ensure that Aventura always remains "The City of Excellence".

Last year I reported to you that the City Commission adopted a list of policy goals and priorities on which to focus over the next several years. This list was developed based on input from the community. I am pleased to outline our progress:

### **Work with Miami – Dade County School Board to address High School capacity issues by reviewing all alternatives.**

#### **Accomplishment**

School Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho met with Commissioners and community members and presented a plan to construct a new 500 student station iPREP High School facility adjacent to Highland Oaks Middle School. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2017.

### **Explore alternate transportation modes to alleviate traffic and support pedestrian and bicycle friendly initiatives. Collaborate with NE Miami-Dade Cities to review traffic issues.**

#### **Accomplishments**

- A new Silver Route service was added to the Aventura Express Shuttle Bus schedule on October 19, 2015 and continued through February 27, 2016. The additional route assisted in improving the service times for the Purple and Green routes and contributed to the record breaking ridership for December 2015 of 25,800.

- The City Commission authorized the City Administration to move forward on a bike share program that includes 5 stations throughout the City and will kick off in the summer of 2016.

- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) completed a project requested by the City to provide for bike paths along the Lehman Causeway that connect our internal system to Collins Avenue and Biscayne Boulevard. Both Country Club Drive and NE 207th Street were converted this past year to dual use for both bikes and cars. Over the next several months, FDOT will be adding bike lanes to Biscayne Boulevard throughout the City.

- The City has applied for grant funding to develop a Unified Master Plan for Pedestrian and Bicycle Connectivity that will include City sidewalks, City parks, the Don Soffer Exercise Trail, and bicycle lanes on City streets and the Lehman Causeway that will provide for greater mobility awareness for people in the area.

- Over the year Commissioners and city administrators attended various meetings with the County, FDOT and neighboring cities to discuss transportation and traffic issues.

### **Work with the County to ensure that the hours of operation and the programming at the new Library facility addresses all age groups in the City.**

#### **Accomplishments**

The Northeast Dade Aventura County Library branch opened this past August. This state of the art facility provides a central place for our community to learn, read books, meet and take classes. At the urging of your Commission hours were expanded beyond the library's original schedule.

### **Monitor and participate in regional efforts to address the impact of rising sea level.**

#### **Accomplishments**

- The City Commission approved a contract for the preparation of the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan. This project is an update to our Stormwater Master Plan and studies the long term impact of the rising sea levels on the City's infrastructure. It will also recommend solutions and capital projects to address improvements to our drainage system.

- The City Commission adopted a Code Amendment to establish drainage maintenance standards for commercial properties to address standing water issues after rainstorms.

### **Ensure that redevelopment projects that require land use/zoning revisions do not have a negative impact on the community.**

#### **Accomplishments**

No redevelopment projects were submitted that required a land use/zoning revision.

### **Create opportunities for greater community engagement.**

#### **Accomplishments**

The City Commission authorized additional special events for the enjoyment of our residents and families. Movie nights in the park were increased and planning for an Arts and Jazz Festival have come to fruition.

As we begin 2016, I want to take this opportunity to thank the community for its valuable support, as we continue to address challenges and opportunities that impact the future of the City of Aventura. You are important to us and we welcome your thoughts and ideas.

Sincerely,

Enid Weisman  
Mayor



# OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

19200 West Country Club Drive  
Aventura, FL 33180  
305-466-8910



To the Residents of Aventura:

I am pleased to present the TheAventura magazine to the community which includes an overview of the City's accomplishments this past year and information on municipal services. In addition, this document has been designed as a useful resource for City residents and visitors. Each year as we

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

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. We are firm in our knowledge that we must continue to remain prudent and conservative in our financial management of the City. We are proud of the fact that after 20 years, the City's tax rate still remains the lowest in the County, while we have maintained a high standard of providing services to the community.

During this past year, the City continued to focus on maintaining and protecting its infrastructure by completing several capital projects. In our ongoing efforts to improve drainage around the City, larger pipes and additional lines were installed along NE 29th Avenue (North of Aventura Boulevard) including new sidewalks and resurfacing of the roadway. A new turning lane was added to the NE 185th Street/Biscayne Boulevard intersection to improve traffic flow. NE 207th Street was resurfaced and the Don Soffer Exercise Trail was repaired and seal coated.

The safety of our residents, businesses and visitors remains a high priority. The men and women of our Police Department work tirelessly with the various condominiums, businesses and religious institutions to maintain our reputation for a safe community in which to live, work and play.

The City's charter school completed a successful 12th year and scored an "A" on the School Performance Grade issued by the State of Florida. In addition, it is now ranked the top K-8 school in Miami-Dade County. We are proud of the accomplishments of the school administration, staff, teachers, parents and students. The total number of students attending the K- 8th grade school increased to 1,020.

## Capital Improvement Projects

Looking forward, the following major capital improvement projects are scheduled for completion in 2016:

- Opening of new park on NE 188th Street.
- Replacing the path lighting system on the Don Soffer Exercise Trail with more efficient LED lights.
- NE 29th Avenue Drainage, Sidewalk and Safety Improvements.
- NE 191st Street Drainage Improvements.
- NE 213th Street Road Resurfacing.
- NE 213th Street and NE 193rd Street Seawall restoration.
- Country Club Drive Flashing Pedestrian Crossing Signs.

Improvements are continuously made to our website to make it easier for residents to interact conveniently with the City from purchasing tickets to an Arts & Cultural Center show to registering for a class at the Community Recreation Center. The City has embraced new technology and social media to improve communications and sharing important information with our community. This past year, for the convenience of our residents, video archives of previous City Commission Meetings were added to our website. We are committed to providing information to the public that aids the community in understanding the City's operating and fiscal programs. In this spirit, the City of Aventura added a Financial Transparency Portal to our website to equip the community with an interactive way to learn more about the City's finances.

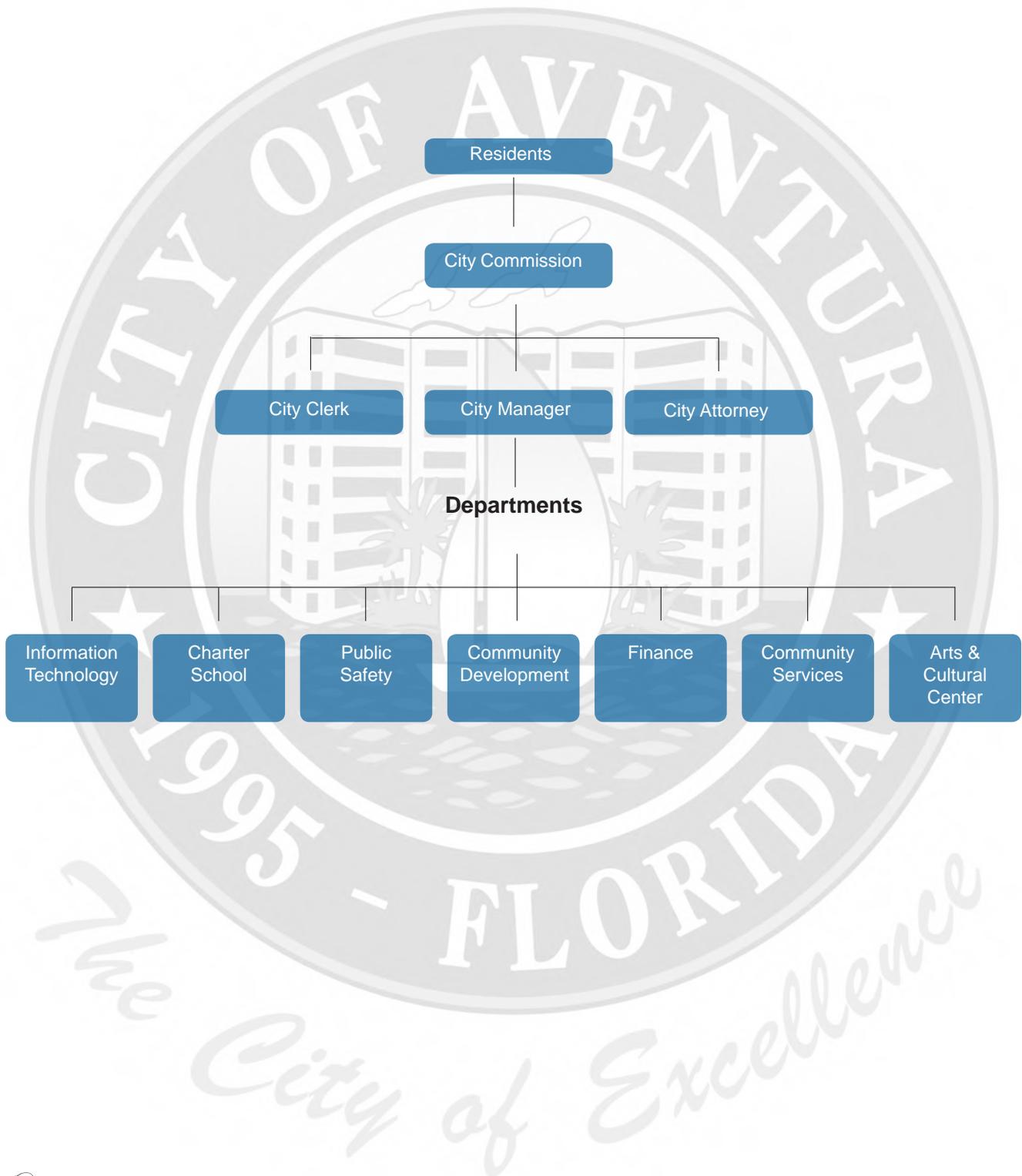
I am proud to work with informed elected officials, a dedicated group of City employees and involved citizens, as we continually strive to maintain and improve our community.

This is an exciting time to be a part of the City of Aventura. I hope you enjoy reading about the progress of your community, the City of Excellence.

Sincerely,

Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM  
City Manager

# CITY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





# CITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2015





# PUBLIC SAFETY

19200 West Country Club Drive  
Aventura, FL 33180  
Non-Emergencies: 305-466-8989  
Emergencies: 911

The City of Aventura Police Department (APD) is committed to its mission and recognized as an outstanding police department within the law enforcement community of Miami-Dade County. APD's mission is to provide a full-service, community oriented police department; respond to all service calls in a timely and professional manner; ensure all crimes are thoroughly investigated, and successfully prosecute those arrested; and create partnerships that enhance law enforcement and quality of life by interacting with and engaging the community.

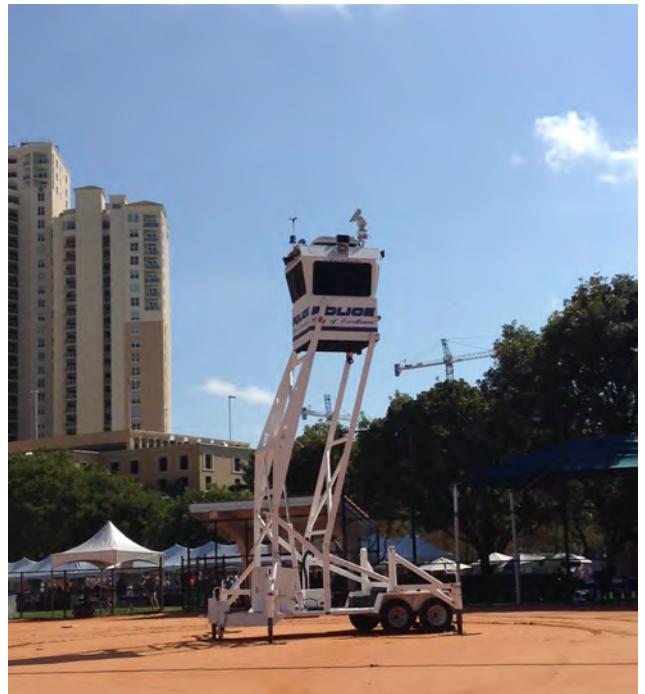
The Department continuously works on projects to improve service call responsiveness, which subsequently benefits the delivery of efficient and professional public safety service to the City of Aventura community. Officer and support personnel capabilities were enhanced with the new implementation of a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system which facilitates incident response and communication to officers in the field. Typical CAD system functions include resource management, call taking, location verification, dispatching, unit status management, and call disposition. The CAD system works in conjunction with a Records Management System (RMS), and department members are currently in training to learn how to use the system. The RMS is an agency-wide system providing documents or electronic files directly related to law enforcement operations.

The Department supports children and community programs such as the DARE Program, Red Ribbon Week, National Night Out, an Annual Food Drive, and security surveys for businesses and residences through the Aventura Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit. In conjunction with the Salvation Army, the Department conducts a holiday toy drive which supplies over 250 toys to underprivileged children. For those citizens interested in learning about the Aventura Police Department, a Citizens Academy is in pre-planning and production.

## Accreditation and Awards

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) awarded reaccreditation to the Aventura Police Department. The coveted award symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence recognized by an independent organization. A team of CALEA-trained assessors visited the agency and determined compliance with standards, viewed agency operations, conducted a public information session, and reported its findings to its commission which resolved the final reaccreditation status. The Department must stay in compliance with the standards set forth by the accrediting commission and assures that its service continues to be excellent.

The Law Enforcement Officer's Charitable Foundation (LEO Awards) program recognizes the outstanding efforts of both sworn and civilian personnel that serve in law enforcement. The Aventura Police Department nominees have won awards since the program's inception. In 2015, 15 of Aventura's law enforcement personnel were finalists for the prestigious LEO Award. Winners will be announced in 2016.



# Out In Force



The Aventura Police Department provides a variety of community programs focused on crime and drug prevention, emergency preparedness, community safety, and involvement.

These programs include: DARE, Red Ribbon Week, National Night Out, and the Aventura Safe Kids.

- The Drug Abuse Resistance and Education (DARE) program provides the life skills children and teens need to avoid involvement with drugs, gangs and violence.
- By wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events sponsored by APD, the young people of Aventura pledge to live drug-free lives during the annual Red Ribbon Week, the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program.
- The National Night Out program promotes the City of Aventura neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in the fight for a safer nation.

• The Aventura Safe Kids program teaches online safety to children and brings awareness to parents and teachers about children's online activities, trends and behaviors.

• Community Patrol Officers have volunteered to take on additional duties to assist persons with non-crime related matters.

• The Department has been trained in bike patrol methods and tactics, and they patrol various areas of the City on bicycles.

• The City of Aventura works in partnership with the Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management to help prepare the community for large-scale emergency events which may impact police services and the availability of resources for a prolonged period of time.

• Officers work in conjunction with the City of Aventura Code Compliance Division to respond to community issues.

# Bike Safety

Although the Don Soffer Exercise Path and the William Lehman Causeway are the most popular areas for residents and visitors to bike in the City of Aventura, the City streets and sidewalks are also booming with bike activity. Safety is of the utmost importance.

Here are a few **safety tips** while enjoying a bike ride:

## 1 Bicycle Bell

Using a bicycle bell increases safety on sidewalks and is a great way to alert those within the cyclist's immediate surroundings of their presence. Ring the bell before passing patrons and use common courtesy.

## 2 Rules of the Road

When riding on the roadway, be sure to follow the rules of the road. The State of Florida legally defines a bicycle as a vehicle. Bicyclists have the same rights to the roadways and must obey the same traffic laws as the operators of other vehicles. These laws include stopping for stop signs and red lights, riding with the flow of traffic, using bike lights at night, and yielding the right-of-way when entering a roadway.

## 3 Wear a Helmet

The State of Florida's Department of Transportation requires that a bicycle rider or passenger under 16 years of age must wear a bicycle helmet that is properly fitted, fastened securely, and meets the nationally recognized standard.

## 4 Bike Lights

A bicycle operated between sunset and sunrise must be equipped with a lamp on the front exhibiting a visible white light and both a red reflector and a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light. Additionally, wearing a reflective vest is also encouraged to assist motorists in seeing the bicyclist and for the rider's safety.

## 5 Tire Air Pressure

Make sure the bicycle is in good condition, and has proper tire air pressure. The Aventura Police Department provides a bike safety check, and bicycle riders are encouraged to stop by to have their bikes inspected.





# AVENTURA CITY OF EXCELLENCE SCHOOL

3333 NE 188 Street  
Aventura, FL 33180  
305-466-1499  
aventuracharter.org

Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES), the first municipally-run charter school in Miami-Dade County, serves 1,020 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

ACES's well-rounded formula for success has led it to remain one of the top schools in the state by providing a safe learning environment, a talented teaching staff dedicated to the best practices, and a responsive leadership team fostering a school wide culture of excellence.



## A Whole Child Approach

With the support of both parents and teachers, ACES leads the way in educational excellence with a challenging core curriculum complemented by a whole child approach which supports student interests with a strong emphasis on character education.

In 2014 - 2015, students explored their interests and talents through a variety of unique programs.

### Elementary

Elementary students:

- Attended an assortment of special classes including art, music, physical education, media, technology, and Spanish.
- Had an opportunity to enroll in student interest clubs including jazz dance, table tennis, kickball, disco dancing, writers club, school rocks, Middle Eastern dance, line dancing, and much more.
- Attended a variety of field trips focused on arts, culture and the environment.

### Middle School

At the middle school level, students had the opportunity to:

- Enroll in gifted classes, high school courses, and choose from a group of elective courses including art, drama, dance, keyboarding, and physical education/ health.
- Participate in intramural sports including volleyball and basketball.
- Participate in cheerleading and ACE-itude (ACES dance team).

- Participate in competitive sports including boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' soccer, flag football, and volleyball.

- Participate in Student Government Association, National Junior Honor Society, and in the City of Aventura's special events including Founders Day, Veterans Day, and Arbor Day.

## 2015 Achievement Highlights

Aventura City of Excellence School continues to reach new heights in academic achievement and community involvement creating a foundation for success and an unparalleled experience for its students.

In 2015, ACES proudly reached several major achievements.

- The State of Florida recognized ACES as one of the states "highest performing charter schools".
- ACES expanded its technology to include three additional laptop mobile labs used in all grade levels and subjects, enabled wireless capabilities throughout the campus, equipped all classrooms in grades five through eight with interactive televisions, and provided students with access to three 3-D printers.
- ACES students outperformed all area high schools in algebra, geometry, civics and biology, as measured by end-of course exams.
- The boys' soccer and varsity basketball teams won the International Athletic League Championship.
- Miami-Dade County selected an ACES student to represent the County at the State Science Fair.

Thursday • Donnerstag • Jeudi • Donnerstag

Friday • Freitag

☉ 12:00 • 12:01

☉ 12:00

138 + 228

17

7:00

8:00

9:00

10:00

11:00

12:00

13:00

13:00

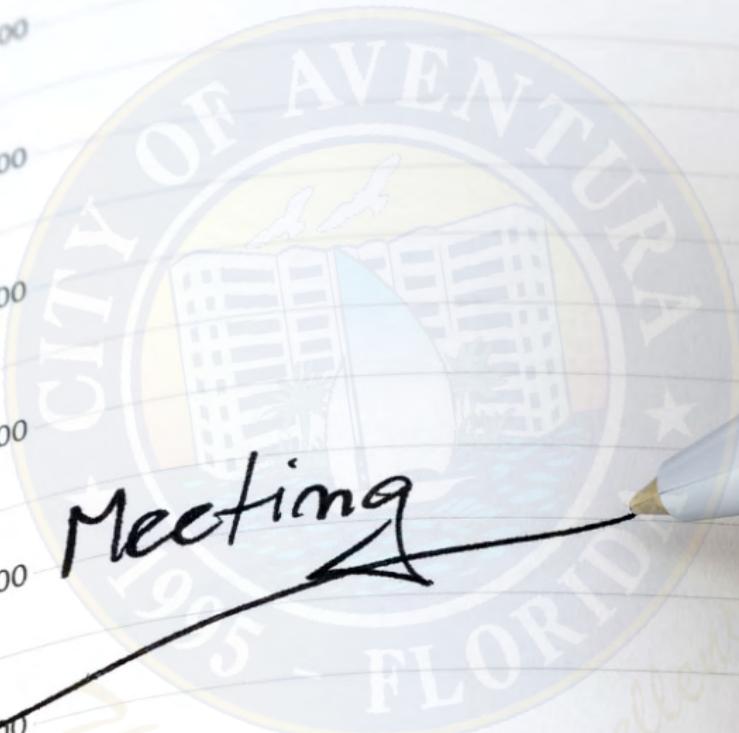
14:00

14:00

15:00

Meeting

*The City of Excellence*



# OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

19200 West Country Club Drive  
Aventura, FL 33180  
305-466-8901

The City Clerk serves as the City of Aventura's corporate secretary. The Clerk is the official records keeper and custodian of the City seal. The City Clerk is a constitutional officer appointed by and reporting to the City Commission.

In 2015, the City Clerk's Office: prepared 41 sets of minutes and 17 meeting recaps; posted 32 public notices; published 23 legal advertisements; drafted 13 ordinances and 71 resolutions; scripted 24 proclamations; responded to 2,123 lien requests; and provided 214 welcome letters to new residents.

## Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the City Clerk include:

- Recording the meeting minutes and all official actions of the City Commission and its Advisory Boards.
- Attesting to and maintaining custody of all records of the City including ordinances, resolutions, contracts, deeds, etc.
- Publishing and distributing public notices, as required by law.
- Administering the publication and supplementation of the City Code of Ordinances.
- Serving as the municipal Supervisor of Elections, conducting all City elections in accordance with City, County and State laws.
- Establishing and coordinating the City's records management program in compliance with Florida State law.
- Responding to public records requests and lien searches.
- Scheduling code enforcement hearings and providing clerical support to the Special Master.
- Providing administrative support to Commissioners and assisting the City Manager with special projects.
- Administering oaths and providing notary services.
- Serving as the Financial Disclosure Liaison.
- Preparing proclamations and certificates of appreciation, appointment, and attendance.

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



# FINANCE

19200 West Country Club Drive  
Aventura, FL 33180  
305-466-8920

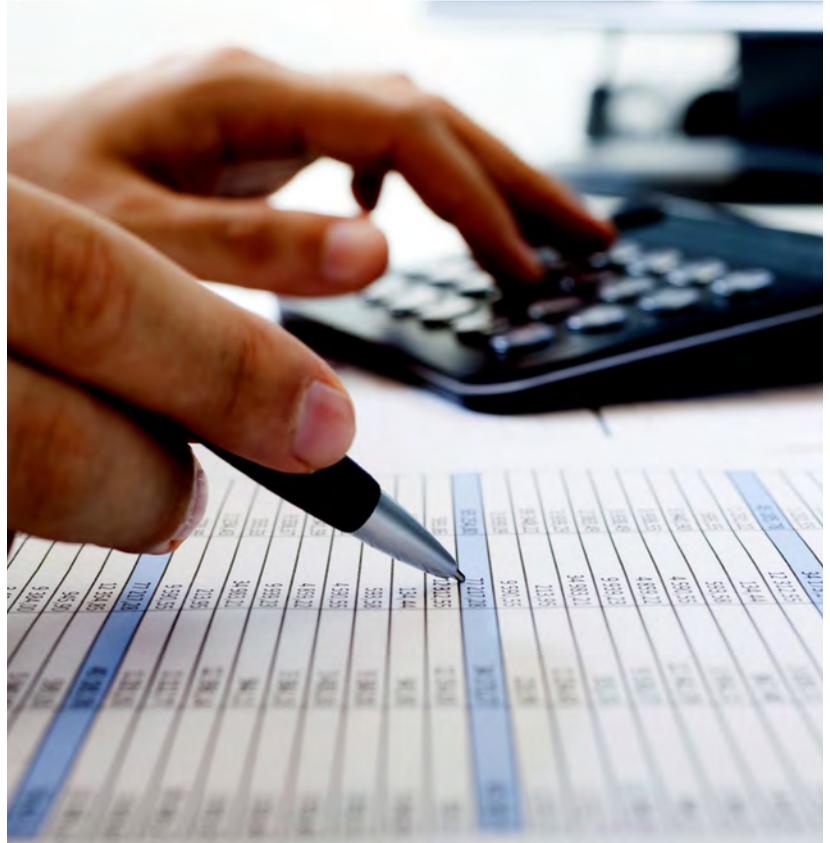
The City of Aventura's Finance Department's central responsibility is to provide the City's operating departments with administrative support to better serve its employees, residents and businesses in a cost-efficient/effective manner. Finance, accounting, risk management, purchasing, and personnel are the essential support services provided.

Finance establishes and maintains a network of effective internal controls that are designed to both safeguard the City's assets and preserve its strong financial condition by conducting the City's business in a fiscally prudent manner. Additionally, Finance provides accurate and timely financial information to the City Manager, operating departments, elected officials, external auditors, citizens and federal, state and local oversight agencies.

## Core Responsibilities

The Department's core responsibilities include:

- Providing administrative, operational and financial assistance to the City Manager and operating departments.
- Providing accounting, payroll, procurement, accounts payable, budget, grant monitoring, and revenue collection functions.
- Monitoring and projecting the City's fund balances.
- Providing analysis, preparation and assistance with the production of all financial reports including the City's Annual Budget, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Aventura City of Excellence School Special Purpose Financial Report.
- Monitoring and developing financial strategies to ensure fiscal solvency and financial statement integrity by maintaining a network of effective internal controls.
- Monitoring and implementing reporting requirements recommended by the State's Auditor General, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.
- Safeguarding the City's assets by analyzing and mitigating risk factors as well as providing risk management and safety coordination services.
- Overseeing the treasury and debt management functions.



- Participating in the negotiation of the collective bargaining agreement.
- Recruiting, hiring, training, and maintaining high-quality employees.
- Reviewing, creating and ensuring compliance with the City's administrative policies and procedures.

## Awards and Acknowledgements

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Aventura for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014. This was the nineteenth consecutive year that the City has achieved this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized, comprehensive, annual financial report. The report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

The City continually strives to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements and has submitted the current year CAFR to the GFOA in order to be considered for this distinct recognition.



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

19200 West Country Club Drive  
Aventura, FL 33180  
305-466-8900

The City of Aventura's Information Technology (IT) Department provides a secure, stable and high-tech computing environment which includes software, hardware, network infrastructure, telephone systems, and 24/7 help desk support for City staff.

## Ensure Reliable Service

IT ensures City departments and staff are able to deliver reliable services by:

- Providing software support and maintenance for specialized business applications as well as email with spam control.
- Identifying, selecting and implementing cost-effective technology solutions.

Throughout 2015, the City of Aventura continued using computer and network innovations to increase operational effectiveness. Upgrades were made to existing software applications and computer equipment incorporating new technology where appropriate.

## Projects

In 2015, Information Technology completed major projects including:

- Upgrades to the City virtual computing infrastructure.
- Upgrades to the core public safety applications including e911 and a shift scheduling system.
- Upgrades to the Aventura City of Excellence School's (ACES) wireless computing infrastructure.
- Implementation of a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program allowing staff, teachers and middle school students the ability to use their personal computing device in support of ACES's educational objectives.
- Upgrades to ACES Internet connectivity speed to support daily educational activities and online testing.
- Setup and configuration of four additional mobile computing labs which included an additional 140 laptop computers for ACES.

IT supports green technology. The server virtualization project continues to reduce the number of physical servers, while increasing the number of servers available to support computer operations. This technology reduces electrical and air conditioning requirements in the data center, which results in lower energy use and costs.

## IT Supports *City-wide*

- 170 desktop computers
- 95 laptops
- 7 touch-screen tablets
- 42 servers

## *Aventura City of Excellence School*

- 375 desktop computers
- 200 laptops
- 90 touch-screen tablets
- 4 servers

# City Communications

## Keep in Touch

The City of Aventura supports a highly accessible government that shares information using both modern and traditional channels to reach its community and encourage community engagement.

## Online

### **cityofaventura.com**

The official website for the City of Aventura is home to all City related information regarding its government, resources, forms, and eGovernment services.

### **aventuracharter.org**

The official website for the Aventura City of Excellence School.

### **aventuracenter.org**

The official website for the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center.

## Conduct Business

*Online Services for Speed and Convenience*

The City of Aventura is committed to provide innovative and efficient delivery of eGovernment services to its community.

### **Online Registration System (ORS)**

The ORS is the official schedule and registration system for recreational activities, classes and programs. The ORS also provides tennis court and park shelter reservations.

### **ePermits**

The ePermits system allows a user to check the status of building permits and/or inspection requests as well as schedule inspection requests.

### **Customer Service Requests**

Requests for City services can be submitted via a simple online form.

### **Frequently Asked Questions(FAQs)**

Find answers to common City-related questions.

### **Public Records**

The City's public document repository.

### **Document Central**

A library of downloadable electronic forms available in PDF format.

### **Purchase Show Tickets**

Tickets can be purchased for Aventura Arts & Cultural Center shows and events at [aventuracenter.org](http://aventuracenter.org).

### **Jobs**

The City uses a human resources system, which allows users to review available City jobs and submit online applications.

### **Financial Transparency Tool**

The tool is a portal providing the community with an interactive way to learn more about the City's finances.

### **CodeRED**

The emergency notification system allows the City to deliver critical messages and alerts to the community.

## Get Social

*Social media is used as an additional resource to disseminate information about City news and events.*

### **Hashtags**

The City of Aventura (#CityofAventura) and Aventura Arts & Cultural Center (#aventuracenter) hashtags enable social media users to build community, search for, and share information and images about the City and Cultural Center.

### **Twitter**

@cityofaventura

The official Twitter handle for the City of Aventura. The City's latest Tweet is also available on the City's website homepage.

@aventuracenter

The official Twitter handle for the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center.

### **Facebook**

@cityofaventura

The official Facebook profile name for the City of Aventura.

@aventuracenter

The official Facebook profile name for the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center.



**Instagram**

@cityofaventura

The official Instagram handle for the City of Aventura.

**LinkedIn**

The City of Aventura's LinkedIn profile.

**YouTube**

The City provides an archive of its Commission Meetings, as well as fun events and programming videos.

**Subscribe** 

*Sign up and receive e-Notifications sent directly to your inbox.*

**MyAventura**

Receive City of Aventura notifications about news, events, emergency notifications, and Commission Meeting agendas.

**Aventura City of Excellence School**

Receive Aventura City of Excellence School news and important messages for parents and students.

**Aventura Arts & Cultural Center**

The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Account Manager allows subscribers to purchase subscription tickets to multiple performances and special events, get eNewsletters, event news, updates and information before the show, and review ticket purchases.



## On the Go

Digital street signs located at the north entrance of Aventura Mall on Biscayne Boulevard and at the intersection of NE 188th Street and NE 29th Avenue are used to provide information about upcoming shows at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center, and both City of Aventura and Aventura City of Excellence School events.

## On the Tube

AVTV (Aventura TV), the City's information channel, runs a listing of City events, public service announcements and resources for its residents 24/7, including encore presentations of City meetings.

## On the Radio

The City of Aventura's official information radio broadcasts on 1650 AM.

## In Print

The City produces several print publications including: the Aventura Annual Report, Aventura Update newsletters, seasonal Aventura Activities catalogs which is a guide of the City's classes and programs, and the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center calendar of events booklet. In addition, the City produces its promotional posters and outdoor banners in-house.





# Bike Share Program

The City of Aventura plans to launch a bike share program in the coming year. A bike share program offers a way to expand the City's transportation options, alleviate traffic, boost public health with exercise, and enhance the City's GO Green initiative by replacing a portion of trips that would otherwise be made by car with pollution-free bike trips.

## How does it work?

Bikes are parked at docking stations around the city with self-serve, solar-powered kiosks. Riders can take bikes from any station and return them to the same or any other station for convenience.

## Where will the docking stations be located?

There are five proposed biking stations within the City of Aventura which include:

- Waterways Park
- NE 34th Street and CCD exercise path
- Aventura Mall
- Founders Park South
- Community Recreation Center



# LIVING

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



# COMMUNITY SERVICES

19200 West Country Club Drive  
Aventura, FL 33180  
305-466-8930

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

The Department manages recreational and leisure activities, City parks, the Community Recreation Center, facilities, right-of-ways, streets, landscaping, beautification efforts, and the Aventura Express Shuttle Bus service via its Public Works and Parks and Recreation divisions.

## Public Works

The Public Works Division is responsible for:

- Maintaining the City's landscaping, streets, right-of-ways, storm water drainage, decorative street-lighting, banners and informational signage, public buildings, and school.
- Managing and maintaining all City owned buildings and facilities.
- Acting as a liaison to public utility service providers and responding to citizens' concerns
- Issuing Public Works permits to utilities performing improvements on the public right-of-ways and reviewing engineering plans.
- Providing accurate information regarding zoning, land parcels and infrastructure using an automated Geographic Information System (GIS) as a mapping resource.

## Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Division is responsible for:

- Operating and maintaining Founders Park, Founders Park SplashPad, Waterways Park, Waterways Dog Park, Veterans Park, and the Community Recreation Center.
- Youth and adult sports leagues as well as programs including seasonal tennis camps.
- Special events and programs fostering community pride and spirit including: Earth/Arbor Day, Senior Prom, 4th of July Fireworks, Halloween, Veterans Day, the Movie Night series, and Founders Day.
- Cultural arts, theater and leisure programs offering trips and tours for seniors to local theaters, museums, historical landmarks, arts festivals, shopping malls, and restaurants.





- The Aventura Community Green Garden where residents grow produce, flowers, plants, and herbs in their assigned garden planter.
- The Community Recreation Center programming including classes and activities in arts and crafts; music; dance; aerobics; yoga; pickleball; spring, summer and winter camps; and Teacher Planning Day programs.

City parks provide Aventura residents with a wide variety of amenities and outdoor recreation opportunities to refresh, relax and recharge including: athletics, a water playground, picnics, and exercise areas. In an effort to keep them in outstanding condition, parks and playgrounds are continuously maintained, and the Har-Tru tennis courts were resurfaced in 2015. For convenience, park shelters and tennis courts can be reserved online at [cityofaventura.com/ors](http://cityofaventura.com/ors), the City's Online Registration System (ORS).



Youth sports are provided year round and include: tennis, soccer, basketball, flag football, softball, and Little League. In 2015, over 1,000 children participated in the City of Aventura's Youth Sports. Additionally, the City also offers adult softball leagues and tennis programs.

## Community Recreation Center

The City of Aventura Community Recreation Center (CRC) offers a complete and balanced program of recreation activities, fitness classes, youth programs, social activities, and camps to members of all ages.



## Special Events

The City hosted an array of exciting events for the entire family to enjoy throughout the year.

- For its 18th consecutive year, the City was named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and was recognized for this honor at the City of Aventura Arbor Day celebration.
- Over 180 seniors danced the night away at the annual Senior Prom.
- The 4th of July was celebrated with a special aerial display of fireworks easily viewed along Country Club Drive.
- Over 4,700 children and their parents enjoyed seasonal activities in a safe environment at the annual Halloween celebration.
- The 20th annual City of Aventura Founders Day celebration featured food trucks, entertainment, and plenty of outdoor activities.
- Approximately 6,700 friends, family and neighbors attended a series of four fun, family-friendly movie nights at Founders Park.

## Aventura Express Shuttle Bus

The Aventura Express Shuttle Bus serves Aventura's busy lifestyle with a convenient schedule and five ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant, air-conditioned buses. In 2015, approximately 280,000 passengers utilized the Aventura Express Shuttle Bus on five routes that operate six days per week throughout Aventura.

# 2015 Attendance Summary

## *Parks and Community Recreation Center*

Founders Park including the SplashPad	178,154
Waterways Park	87,338
Community Recreation Center programs, classes and activities	84,264
<b>Total Park/CRC Attendance</b>	<b>349,756</b>

## *Special Events, Camps, Senior Trips, and Athletics*

Arbor Day, Senior Prom, 4th of July Fireworks, Halloween, Founders Day, Veterans Day, and Movie Nights	31,550
Winter, spring and summer camps	1,112
Teacher Planning Days	173
Active Adult Trips and Tours	335
Tennis, softball, t-ball, soccer, basketball, flag football, baseball	1,451
<b>Total Event/Program Attendance</b>	<b>34,621</b>

**Total Attendance 384,377**

# Come Out to Play

The City of Aventura is home to a variety of leisure services for all ages. Aventura has parks, tennis courts, indoor & outdoor basketball courts, playgrounds, fitness trails, a dog park, SplashPad, play fields, and the Aventura Community Green Garden.

## Waterways Park

On the City's north side is the seven-acre Waterways Park. The park has a covered playground, fitness trail with exercise stations, an outdoor basketball court and multipurpose lighted athletic fields. Shade can be found under the covered patio and outdoor shelter.

## Waterways Dog Park

Just east of Waterways Park is the Waterways Dog Park, a 1.5-acre waterfront park offering open space for dogs and their owners to socialize and exercise. Dog amenities include two comfort stations equipped with water fountains and showers. A large covered patio with benches provides a place for visitors to relax. A valid Aventura resident identification card is required for entry.

## Founders Park

The City's largest park is the 11-acre Founders Park. Founders Park is home to a multipurpose athletic field, tennis courts, the SplashPad, playground, and exercise trail. The park's playground is fenced with new equipment and four sun shelters. The park's SplashPad is a popular and interactive, water feature playground for children. The SplashPad is free for Aventura residents and open spring through early fall. Founders Park South is home to the Aventura Community Green Garden featuring garden planters for residents to grow produce, flowers, plants, and herbs. The garden boasts walking paths, restrooms, and a bayside view of the Intracoastal Waterway.



## Veterans Park

The two-acre Veterans Park has an open play field, covered playground and an on-site restroom. The multipurpose park is ideal for relaxing or playing a casual game of soccer.

## Arthur I. Snyder Park

Named after the City of Aventura's first mayor, Arthur I. Snyder Park is a beautifully landscaped waterfront park, adjacent to the Community Recreation Center. The park features

covered areas and an outdoor plaza with an open quadrangle play area adorned with trees providing plenty of shade.

## Don Soffer Exercise Trail

The 3.1 mile Don Soffer Exercise Trail circles the Turnberry Isle Resort Golf Course along Country Club Drive, and it is a popular location to walk, run, jog, rollerblade, and bike. The trail consists of a 10-foot wide paved ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible path landscaped with an abundance of trees for shade, ground lighting, benches, chilled water fountains, trash receptacles, and crosswalks. Convenient bags and receptacles are available from dispenser boxes along the path for residents enjoying the trail with their pets.

## Community Recreation Center

Aventura's Community Recreation Center (CRC) offers a wide range of indoor activities. The Community Recreation Center offers a NCAA (National College Athletic Association) regulation indoor basketball court with a maple floor; fitness center; technology center; and classrooms to support the recreation center's classes, activities, programs, and camps. The CRC is a member based facility which is open to all Miami-Dade County residents. The membership fees are based on household size and age groups.

The Aventura Activities catalog is a guide for all recreational activities in the City of Aventura. The catalog is published online and is available at [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com). The City of Aventura **Online Registration System (ORS)** is the **official catalog** of classes, activities, programs, and camps. The ORS facilitates activity registration and the reservation of tennis courts and park shelters. Visit [cityofaventura.com/ors](http://cityofaventura.com/ors).



# Get in the Game

A quick drive around Aventura shows this is a community with a zest for sports. To accommodate its classes, clinics and a variety of organized athletic programs such as soccer, football, baseball and softball, the City of Aventura features multipurpose athletic fields and sports facilities including an outdoor basketball court, a lighted field at Waterways Park for evening games, and tennis courts at Founders Park.

## Youth Sports

Aventura's team sports follow the National Standards for Youth Sports to raise awareness through leadership and education conducive to teaching skills, physical fitness and positive self-esteem.

- From fall to spring, children have the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletic sports including: flag football, basketball, girls' and boys' soccer, tennis, and Little League.
- Throughout the year, young athletes can participate in special sport skills training sessions including soccer, strength and conditioning, and Football Fanatics. Private sports and wellness coaching are also available.
- Tennis lessons are available for different age groups: ages 3&4, ages 5-10, and junior tennis for ages 8-12. Private tennis lessons are also available.

The collective support of parents, volunteer coaches and dedicated City staff creates an environment where children can have fun and learn new skills.

## Adult Sports

Adults can get in on the sports by joining a softball league, playing in a social round-robin tennis match, participating in adult tennis clinics which provide instruction about all aspects of the game, or enrolling in a high-energy, cardio tennis workout.

For details, visit [cityofaventura.com/ors](http://cityofaventura.com/ors).

Community Recreation Center 305-466-3883  
Founders Park 305-466-0183  
Waterways Park 305-466-8008



# Aventura Green City

The City of Aventura is committed to reducing its carbon footprint on the environment.



The City of Aventura's GO GREEN campaign encourages all City departments and the community to practice environmental sustainability by making responsible decisions that reduce negative impacts on the environment, save energy, and lower operational costs.

In 2009, the City Commission passed an ordinance promoting green building for new construction. Its incentives are measured against the industry standard rating, the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System for New Construction, which include some prerequisites like the reduction of environmental consequences due to construction, better indoor air quality, access to daylight and views, and the use of sustainable building materials and waste reduction.

Since then, the City and its community continue to increase sustainability efforts to maintain green standards including: recycling; replacing light bulbs for energy efficient bulbs; using HVAC (Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning) systems and technologies promoting the conservancy of water and energy; the use of native landscaping and natural light to create resources for heat reduction on rooftops as well as energy generation for solar panels; and reducing invasive plant growth to protect natural wildlife.



Additionally, the City invites the public to participate in the annual GO GREEN Recognition Award Program for residential and commercial properties. Congratulations to the 2015 GO GREEN Recognition Award recipients which included the following properties: 2600 Island Boulevard, 2800 Island Boulevard, 3000 Island Boulevard, 7000 Island Boulevard, Aventura Marina Two Condominium Association, Inc., Aventura Optima Plaza, Bella Maré Condominium Association, Biscaya III Condominium Association, Harbour Centre, Point East Condominium Owners Association, Inc., Point East Four Condominium Corporation, Inc., South Tower at the Point Condominium Association, Turnberry on the Green Condominium Association, Inc., Wells Fargo Bank N.A., and Williams Island POA.

## Green Garden

The Aventura Community Green Garden at Founders Park South contributes to the environment and features 4'x12' garden planters filled with sterilized topsoil for residents to grow vegetables, flowers, herbs, and other plants. The garden's green benefits include: a decrease in "food miles" associated with long-distance transportation needed in order to sell food at the grocery store by growing locally instead; adds greenery to Aventura; reduces harmful runoff; increases shading; and helps the community reconnect with the Earth.

Since its opening, the garden has flourished and expanded from 20 to 46 planters.



# Aventura Express Shuttle Bus Service

## When do the buses run?

The buses run Monday - Saturday.  
The **schedule** is as follows:

### Monday - Friday:

**Blue, Green, Red, Purple:**

7:45 AM to 6:30 PM

### Yellow:

8:45 AM to 6:30 PM

### Saturday:

All Routes 8:45 AM to 9:30 PM

There is **no bus service on Sundays** and on the following holidays: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

## How much does the bus cost?

The City of Aventura offers free Express Shuttle Bus service.

## Where are the bus stops located? Are these bus stops drop-off/pick-up locations?

Bus stops are located throughout the City of Aventura and all are for drop-off and pick-up. View and/or download the Aventura Express Shuttle Bus service schedule for bus stop locations at [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com).

## How do I know which route stops near my home?

The routes cover the following areas:

The **Blue route** serves northern Aventura.

The **Green route** & **Red route** serve central Aventura.

The **Purple route** & **Yellow route** serve southern Aventura.

## May I connect with county buses?

Yes. Connection with Miami-Dade and Broward County buses can be made at the Aventura Mall Express Shuttle Bus stop.



## How often do the buses come to Aventura Mall?

Each Express Shuttle Bus stops at the mall every hour. For example, the Yellow bus starts its route from the mall on weekdays at 8:45 AM and returns to the mall at 9:45 AM.

## Where is the Aventura Mall Express Shuttle Bus stop located?

The bus stop is located outside Macy's north entrance.

## What time does the last scheduled Express Shuttle Bus leave Aventura Mall?

Route: **All routes**

Day: Monday - Saturday

Last Service: 5:45 PM

Route: **Express bus (North route)**

Day: Saturday night

Last Service: 8:00 PM

Route: **Express bus (South route)**

Day: Saturday night

Last Service: 8:15 PM

# Calendar of Events 2016



## April 2

Movie Night

## April 8

Teacher Planning Day

## April 29

Arbor Day Ceremony

## May 21

Not-So-Senior Prom

## June 6

Summer session of recreational classes & programs begin

## June 10

Teacher Planning Day

## June 13

Summer Camps begin

## June 25

Grown-up Movie Night

## July 4

Fireworks along East and West Country Club Drives

## August 19

Summer Camps ends

## August 29

Fall session I of recreational classes & programs begin

## August 30

Teacher Planning Day

## September 1

Youth Sports Leagues begin

## October 3

Teacher Planning Day

## October 12

Teacher Planning Day

## October 24

Fall session II of recreational classes & programs begin

## October 29

Halloween Harvest/Movie Night

## November 8

Teacher Planning Day

## November 11

Veterans Day Ceremony

## November 13

21st Annual Founders Day

## November 19

Movie Night

## November 23

Teacher Planning Day

## December 26

Winter Camp begins

For a complete listing of events, visit the calendar section at [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com). Dates and times are subject to change.



# ARTS & CULTURE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



# AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

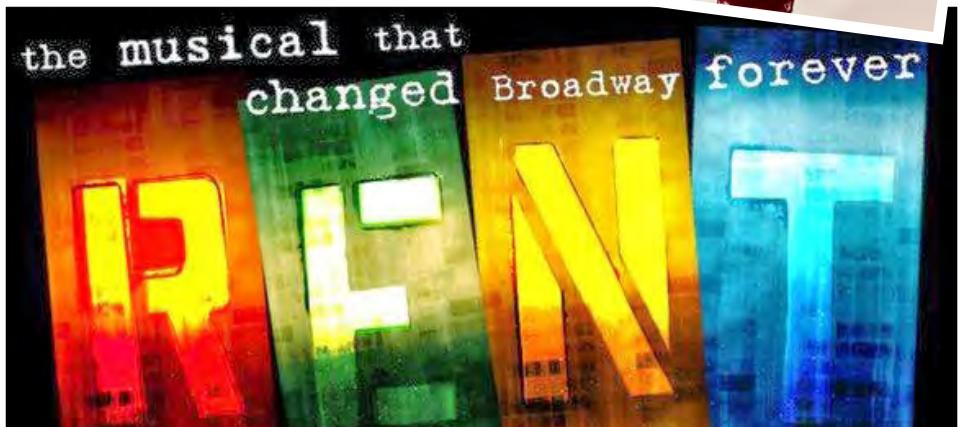
3385 NE 188 Street  
Aventura, FL 33180  
877-311-SHOW (7469)  
aventuracenter.org #aventuracenter

The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center (AACC) celebrated its fifth anniversary season on October 23rd, 2015 with an “Into the Woods” themed reception, followed by a performance by Broadway legend, Bernadette Peters. This past season made a lasting impact on the local arts and culture scene with a wide variety of performances including Broadway cabaret, comedy, classical music, theater and variety.

Among the 120 performances in the beautiful waterfront theater were intimate shows by Broadway stars Megan Hilty, Louise Pitre, Lea Salonga, and Dudu Fisher. In the comedy genre, the center hosted Forbidden Broadway, Capital Steps, Richie Minervini, Peter Fogel and Johnny Lombardi. Slow Burn Theatre returned to the AACC with Bonnie and Clyde, as well as Rent, which sold out four performances. In addition, Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida and the Miami International Piano Festival once again presented their captivating seasons at the AACC, as well as the New World School of the Arts Repertory Dance Ensemble, and the Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company.

Cross cultural exchange was fostered with the Aventura Foreign Film Series, Tiempo Libre in concert, the Music of Motown, Miss Pride South Florida, Art Garfunkel, Florida Grand Ballet’s presentation of Anna Karenina and Cirquesco.

Broward Center for the Performing Arts, which manages the AACC, presented four Family Fun Shows featuring the finest in children’s literary theater. Regarding education, the Cultural Center hosted over 20 Aventura City of Excellence School events during the past year. Broward Center also extends its educational programming to the Center with five “Smart Stage” programs during the school year, and two sessions of summer camp.



## Arts in Education

Studies have shown that students involved in the arts improve academic skills and develop the social skills and creativity needed to succeed later in life. In 2015, the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center (AACC) offered many innovative educational programs through its longstanding partnership with the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and the Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES).

In addition to the opportunity to learn firsthand about technical production and the entertainment industry, students attending ACES participated in numerous events on the stage including the winter concert showcase, class productions, a talent showcase, and graduations.

Children from throughout the community were introduced to the arts while reinforcing literacy-based skills through the Broward Center Family Fun Series at the AACC. Offered on weekends as a complete and engaging family outing, the four-show series included free pre-show arts and crafts, face painting, and post-show complimentary snacks.

The City of Aventura also presented professional school-day performances of *Miss Nelson is Missing*, the New World School of the Arts Dance Program, and Carolyn Dorfman Dance in weekday Smart Stage Matinee performances.

When school was out, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and the Performance Project School of the Arts presented two sessions of age-appropriate summer camps at the AACC for children ages six to 13 that served as an introduction to all facets of the performing arts. Every camper experienced the joy of performing onstage in a Broadway-style show at the AACC as they gained self-confidence and learned important team-building skills.

### Summer Theater Camp 2016

Under the direction of artistic professional and teaching veteran Nina Felice, campers ages 6-18 will gain hands-on experience in musical theater, acting, dance, voice and technical production. There will be two sessions and age-specific groups and shows.

**Session 1: June 27 - July 22, 2016**

**Session 2: July 25 - August 19, 2016**

For more information about upcoming family theater performances and summer camp, visit [aventuracenter.org](http://aventuracenter.org).



# AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

## Calendar Highlights

**April 2**  
Cabaret Follies

**April 6**  
Jennifer Holliday

**April 8-10**  
Avi Hoffman's Still Jewish  
After All These Years

**April 14**  
Chicago City Limits

**April 15**  
Barrage 8

**April 16**  
Chris MacDonald's Memories  
of Elvis in Concert

**April 17**  
Leonid Egorov- Miami  
International Piano Festival

**May 1**  
The Absence - La Ausencia,  
Film & Tribute

**May 7**  
Diamonds Minds Recital

**May 14**  
Spring Gala - Arts Ballet  
Theatre

**May 15**  
American Girl Fashion Show

**May 22**  
Universal Dance Studios

**June 5**  
The Seventh Baila Flamenco  
Student Dance Festival

**June 9**  
Young Musicians Concert

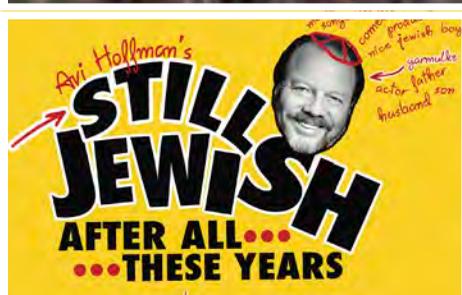
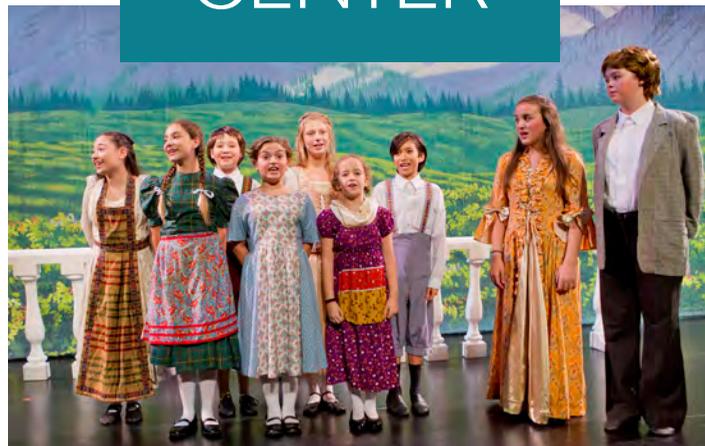
**June 17**  
IK School of Gymnastics

**June 19**  
Kirova Ballet Academy

**June 25**  
Grown-Up Movie Night

**June 27 - July 22**  
Summer Camp Session 1

**July 25 - August 19**  
Summer Camp Session 2



Groups of 10 or  
more **SAVE!**  
General Orders and  
Group Sales  
877.311.7469

### Box Office Information

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

Box Office, Groups & Information 877.311.7469 (SHOW)

Valet parking and self parking are available for all events.

3385 NE 188 Street | Aventura, FL 33180 | 877.311.7469  
aventuracenter.org #aventuracenter





**When is the box office open?**

The box office is open Tuesday - Saturday from 12 PM – 5 PM and 1½ hours prior to the start of a performance.

**I purchased tickets to an event, but now I cannot attend. What do I do?**

All ticket sales are final. Once a sale is completed, there are no refunds or exchanges for ticketed events. However, we are happy to work with you so that someone else such as a friend or family member may use your tickets. For more information, contact the call center at 877-311-7469 to speak with a friendly customer service representative.

**I am in a wheelchair or have difficulty with steps. Where will my seats be located?**

The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center is fully compliant with ADA rules and regulations. We have wheelchair accessible seating in rows A and L to accommodate your needs and allow you to completely enjoy the presentations. These seats are available on the website at [aventuracenter.org](http://aventuracenter.org) or can be reserved by contacting the call center at 877-311-7469.

**When I placed my ticket order, I requested for my tickets to arrive by mail, but they did not arrive. What should I do?**

Unless you request box office pick-up, tickets purchased at least 14 days prior to an event will be mailed to the address you provided at the time of purchase. Tickets ordered less than 14 days prior to the event will automatically be held at the box office.

If you believe your tickets were mailed and you did not receive them, please contact the call center at 877-311-7469. The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center will be happy to arrange a lost ticket pass for you. To pick up your pass, present a picture ID at the box office window 1½ hours prior to curtain.

**I live outside the continental United States. How will I receive my tickets?**

The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center does not mail tickets outside the continental United States. The Center will automatically hold your tickets at the box office for pick-up during regular business hours or on the day of the event. To claim your tickets, please present a picture ID at the box office window.



# WORKING

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

19200 West Country Club Drive  
Aventura, FL 33180  
305-466-8940

Striving to provide high quality customer service in a centralized location to City of Aventura residents, business owners, developers and contractors alike, the Community Development Department is comprised of four divisions working together.

## Building

The Building Division enforces the Florida Building Code by reviewing and issuing permits and inspecting all new construction and renovations in the City of Aventura. In 2015, the Building Division issued 5,326 building permits and performed 12,817 inspections. Building permits generated approximately \$2,285,406 in revenue. Inspection requests and results are available to the public via the ePermits section of the City's website at [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com).

## Local Business Tax Receipt

The Local Business Tax Receipt Division issues local business tax receipts for businesses and home occupations, as well as inspections to ensure all businesses have obtained their business tax receipt. During 2015, the Division issued 2,504 local business tax receipts which generated approximately \$941,483 in revenue.

## Planning and Zoning

The Planning and Zoning Division processes all land development applications including: site plans, re-zonings, variances, conditional uses, and comprehensive plan amendments. The City's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations provide a cohesive blueprint for development and redevelopment of the City. The blueprint addresses strategies to accommodate growth while maintaining neighborhood integrity, ensuring appropriate height, transitions and linkages, limiting the intensity of future development and redevelopment in a manner that is consistent with current development patterns, and minimizes further negative impacts to the City's infrastructure and quality of life. The goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan, also referred to as the Master Plan or General Plan, are restated as specific planning and zoning regulations in the City's Land Development Regulations. The plans are updated frequently to reflect current community goals. In 2015, there were 36 land development applications reviewed and processed by the Planning and Zoning Division.

## Code Compliance

The Code Compliance Division ensures businesses are legally operating with local business tax receipts and necessary building permits are being obtained for construction at residences and businesses. Code Compliance officers enforce City codes such as the property maintenance ordinance, and noise and signage regulations. The Code Compliance Division issued 146 warnings and violations last year and collected approximately \$2,000 in fines. In addition, the Division also coordinates the Special Master Hearings for the City's Traffic Intersection Safety Program. In 2015, 443 hearings were conducted.



## Building Permits

### When is a permit required?

In accordance with Section 105.1 of the Florida Building Code, a permit is required to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of any building or structure, including: tile, wood flooring and marble, any electrical work, installation of ceiling fans, replacement of an air conditioner unit (heat load calculations required), installation of a water heater, changing or connecting a toilet or sink, shower or bathtub fixture.

### Are the building permit forms available online?

All City of Aventura building permit forms are available in the Document Central section of [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com).

### May I schedule inspections and check the status of my permit online?

Yes. The ePermits system on the City's website is available to schedule inspections and to check the status of permit applications.

### Do I need to file a Notice of Commencement?

Yes. A Notice of Commencement is required to be recorded by the owner in the Miami-Dade County Court if the value of the project exceeds \$2,500.

### How can I expedite review of my permit?

Reviews may be expedited by submitting the following:

- A completed application, including notarized signatures of the owner and qualifier.
- Two (2) sets of plans drawn to scale and signed and sealed by a professional, when required.
- Two (2) surveys, as required for some types of review.
- Two (2) sets of calculations as required by Code- these include energy calculations, heating/cooling load calculations, and/or structural load calculations.

- Two (2) sets of Product Approvals as required by Code- these include roofs, utility sheds, windows, exterior doors, awnings, shutters, skylights, trusses, among others.
- If applicable, a letter from condominium association approving work being done on a unit.
- A letter from contractor requesting expedited review and agreeing to pay any additional costs associated with the expedited review.

### I just received a Notice of Violation from the City of Aventura for an open building permit, what should I do?

- Notice of Violations are sent out to both contractors and homeowners for open permits with the City. The only way to close out this Violation would be to renew the permit and call in any final inspections pending.
- If you are the homeowner, please contact your contractor and advise them of the open permit.
- Permit information may be viewed online on the ePermits system on the City's website, [www.cityofaventura.com](http://www.cityofaventura.com).

### When does my permit expire?

- All permits are active 180 days from the date of issuance or last approved inspection.

### What type of payment is accepted for building permit fees?

- Check, cash or money orders are acceptable forms of payment.

### Is an upfront fee required at the time of permit submittal?

- Yes. The upfront fee is \$130 and will be credited towards your total permit fee at the time the permit is issued.

### How do I register a contractor?

- The contractor registration form is available in the Document Central section of [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com).

## Local Business Tax Receipt

Any person, firm, association, or corporation maintaining a business location or branch office within the City of Aventura's city limits for the privilege of engaging in or managing a business, profession, or occupation within the City is required to have a Certificate of Use and file a Local Business Tax Receipt application (formerly known as the Occupational License). The tax receipts are required to be renewed annually before October 1. Fees for these filings are determined by the type of business or profession.

All new Business Tax Receipt applicants require a DERM (Department of Environmental Resource Management) and a Water and Sewer Notice of Compliance per Miami-Dade County. For more information visit: [miamidade.gov/derm](http://miamidade.gov/derm).

### Business Filing Requirements Include:

- Certificate of Use and Occupancy (home-based businesses excluded).
- Declaration of Use (home-based businesses excluded).
- Legal description of property (home-based businesses excluded).
- Federal Employer Identification or Social Security Number.
- Proof of current Fictitious Name Registration from the State Division of Corporations. For more information, call 850-487-6058.
- Proof of Articles of Incorporation.

For more information, visit: [sunbiz.org](http://sunbiz.org).

### Additional Requirements May Include:

- Professions regulated by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation must submit a current state license. For more information, call 850-487-1395.
- Retail and wholesale merchants must complete and file an Affidavit of Merchants Inventory, indicating average value of inventory maintained by the business.
- Restaurant owners must file a current state license with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. For more information, call 305-470-5680.

### Penalty For Operating A Business Without Filing

Operating a business without a current local business tax receipt filing starts with a fine of \$250, but can escalate to closure of the business and imprisonment.



# FUTURE

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

# 2015/2016

## Budget Priorities / Goals and Highlights



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

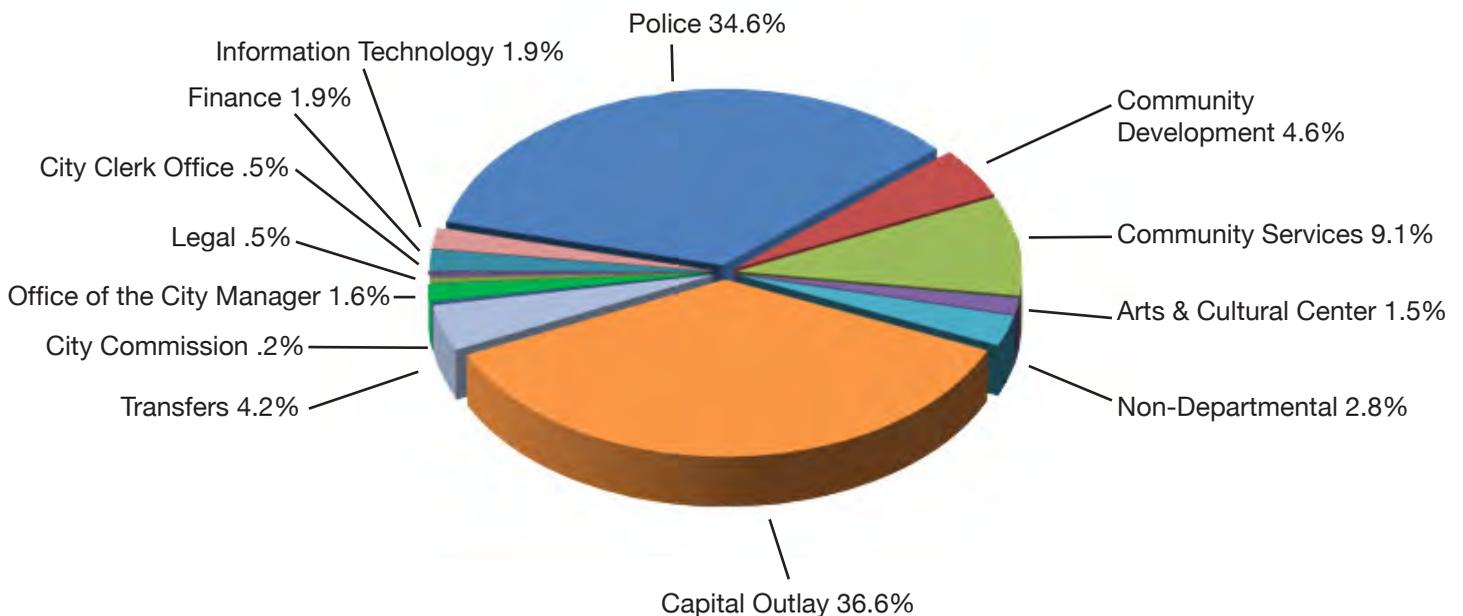
- Maintain current service levels and programs.
- Provide funding for the construction and the operating costs associated with opening the new park on NE 188th Street.
- Address drainage infrastructure improvements in areas subject to flash flooding and the long range impacts of climate change.
- Include 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 afterhours to protect the quality of life for our community.
- 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..

**Budget Highlights**

The chart below outlines the percentage that each department of the City derives from the total budget.



City of Aventura

# Summer Camps

June 13 - August 19, 2016



**Camp** Ages 5-14

**Sports Camp** Ages 7-14

**Travel Camp** Ages 10-14

Registration  
is available online:  
[cityofaventura.com/ors](http://cityofaventura.com/ors)

Camps will be held Monday - Friday from 7:30 AM - 6 PM at the Community Recreation Center.  
Fees vary for weekly and full sessions as well as for residents and non-residents.

Visit [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com) for details.



City of Aventura Community Recreation Center  
3375 NE 188 Street, Aventura FL 33180  
305-466-3883

[cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com) #CityofAventura

grown-up

MOVIE



NIGHT

June 25, 2016

**Movie**

To be determined.

**Time**

Doors open at 7:30 PM  
Movie starts at 8:00 PM

**Where**

Aventura Arts & Cultural Center  
3385 NE 188 Street  
305-466-8008

**Parking**

Parking is available at the  
Aventura Arts & Cultural Center.

Admission is **FREE**  
Seating Capacity 330





# AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

AVENTURA, FLORIDA *The City of Excellence*

3385 NE 188 Street  
Aventura, FL 33180  
877.311.SHOW (7469)

[aventuracenter.org](http://aventuracenter.org)

  #aventuracenter