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# AVENTURA *update*

VOLUME 12 | NUMBER 1 | SPRING 2009

*A Newsletter Designed to Inform the Residents of Aventura*

## A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The City of Aventura's newsletter represents the City Commission's continued commitment to keep the community updated on important issues, including city government and services. This newsletter is published on a quarterly 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.



## State of the City 2009

*by Mayor Susan Gottlieb*

It has been four years since you elected me to the Office of Mayor. Much has been addressed during that period of time in response to your concerns and continues on an ongoing basis. In the past I have delivered the State of the City in the April Newsletter that is mailed to all of our Aventura residents. This year I felt it was important to reach out to all of our residents and to those who are renters and those who are considering relocating to the City of Aventura.

2008 was a year of unprecedented challenges for our nation and for local communities. Over the past year, the country, as well as the South Florida area, experienced an economic downturn that resulted in lower home values, rising fuel costs, a national credit crunch, an increase in the jobless rate and revenue shortfalls at all levels of government. In 2008, in addition to a \$247 million reduction in the City of Aventura's taxable value caused by Amendment One, the sagging housing market resulted in another \$477 million reduction in taxable value. Taxable value increases from new construction assisted in offsetting the loss in property values. However, the overall reduction resulted in the City experiencing its first loss of taxable value in our 12 years of incorporation.

Due to privatizing and outsourcing many City services over the years, completing \$110 million in capital projects since 1996 and maintaining prudent reserve funds, the City has stabilized costs. We have fewer employees

when compared to our neighboring cities. This model has served us well. I am pleased to report that by enforcing sound fiscal policy and a conservative approach to budgeting, the City of Aventura is in a better position than most to weather the economic storm. Last year's comprehensive reevaluation of service levels and budget line items, which resulted in operating cost reductions, also played a key role in creating the foundation and financial sustainability for the City to respond to lower revenues as we prepared the budget. Most important, the City of Aventura continues to enjoy the lowest tax rate in Miami Dade County, while not reducing our service levels.

Let me share an important way in which the City has shown its conservative fiscal nature. In the years leading up to the recession, Aventura had seen a steady increase in building permit fees, sales tax revenue and property values. The City Government chose a pay-as-you-go approach to government spending. This proved to be a sound decision when revenues recently took a sharp decline. Those local governments who borrowed money for many projects with the expectations that the good time would continue unabated now find themselves in fiscal dilemmas. Some have to lay off employees and cut services to make room in their budgets to make their debt payments. Fortunately, our City is not strapped with huge debt payments. The City of Aventura has not borrowed funds in the past seven years and our

# AVENTURA UPDATE



MAYOR Susan Gottlieb

## COMMISSIONERS

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Teri Holzberg ■ Billy Joel

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## FOUNDERS PARK SPLASHPAD

Come splash around at the City of Aventura SplashPad. The SplashPad, an interactive water playground, provides hours of outdoor fun for families and children of all ages. It is free to Aventura residents with a photo ID. The non-resident fee is \$10 per person plus park admission.

Please check the website for SplashPad hours.

The SplashPad is located at the City of Aventura's Founders Park, 3301 NE 190 Street. The 2009 SplashPad hours are as follows:

### SPRING

Weekends Only  
March 8 – May 24  
10 AM – 7 PM

### SUMMER

Tuesdays – Sundays  
May 25 – September 7  
10AM – 7 PM

### HOLIDAYS

Memorial Day, May 25  
July 4th  
Labor Day, Sept. 7  
10 AM – 7 PM

debt payments represent less than 5% of the City's total budget.

As we continue to experience a deepening economic recession that has, in one way or another, touched every household, the City Commission will shortly begin a very challenging budget preparation cycle. In spite of the loss of revenues last year, we are committed to accomplishing the many goals established for 2008. These are challenging times for local governments to maintain quality services in light of revenue reductions caused by the downturn in the economy.

In the midst of a volatile and changing economic climate, the City of Aventura reaffirmed its commitment to our citizens to maintain and enhance our community and our quality of life. The retention of our quality of life becomes more crucial, in my opinion, when we face times when we must make important choices and decisions.

During this past year, the City Commission focused on expanding its park facilities which included the opening of the new seven acre Waterways Park and a new and expanded dog park facility located on NE 213th Street. In addition we are expanding open space and adding a restroom facility at Veterans Park. All of these projects are directed at our goal to provide additional recreational facilities for our growing younger population and addressed the needs expressed from our community.

The City's charter school, ACES, completed a successful fifth year and scored an "A" on the School Performance Grade issued by the State of Florida. Construction is underway to expand the school to meet the State class size requirements by adding ten new classrooms. The Character Education Partnership recently named ACES as a National Finalist in its National Schools of Character awards program. ACES was also awarded the 2009 Florida State School of Character winner for the second year in a row. The school administration, staff, teachers, parents and students should be commended for a job well done.

Responding to one of the leading causes of traffic accidents, the violation of red light traffic signals, the City Commission adopted an Ordinance to authorize the use of unmanned cameras to promote compliance with red light signals and to adopt a civil enforcement system. Automated cameras were initially

placed at three intersections in the City in the fall of last year to record vehicles that fail to stop for red lights. In the month of February 2009 alone, 871 violations were issued. During this year, cameras will be placed at more intersections to improve safety.

The City Commission continues to focus on traffic improvements. This past year Phase I of the Biscayne Boulevard intersection improvements was completed at various locations to improve traffic flow and ease congestion. A new traffic signal was added at the intersection of NE 29th Avenue and NE 188th Street near the Charter School. Aventura Mall traffic flow improvements that included modifications to the Biscayne Boulevard entrance and exits were completed this past summer by the mall, at their cost. Phase II of the Biscayne Boulevard intersection improvements are underway for this year.

Rider ship continues to increase on the City's free shuttle bus system the Aventura Express. Over 19,000 riders a month utilize this service to travel to their destinations throughout Aventura. The City Commission recently awarded a bid for the Shuttle Bus System that utilizes more energy efficient vehicles and alternate fuel sources in addition to increasing safety features on the buses.

We have been advised that the City will receive approximately \$1 million in economic stimulus funds for transportation and transit capital projects. These funds will be used to improve the Yacht Club Way Bridge, upgrade the Country Club Drive exercise pathway, provide additional bus shelters and replace some bus benches.

It has always been the vision of your City Commission to maintain a City where one can live, work and play by insuring that all the amenities are in place to provide these opportunities to all age groups. This can be witnessed by the growth of the City's park system, the creation of a charter school, the activities available at the Community Recreation Center and the expansion of our free shuttle bus service. In light of these economic times and increased fuel costs it is even more important now to continue our efforts to provide a sustainable community for our residents to enjoy.

Continuing this theme, this past year much has been accomplished to make the City's new Arts and Cultural Center a reality. The

325 seat facility will provide a variety of performing arts and cultural programming for all age groups. It can be easily accessed next to the Community Recreation Center on NE 188th Street. The City entered into an agreement with the Broward Performing Arts Center Authority to provide startup services and manage the facility. The City Commission created an Arts and Cultural Center Advisory Board that will provide valuable input. Construction is underway and will be complete by April 2010. The design includes the elements to be classified as an environmentally friendly "green" building. The Center will provide opportunities for our residents to enjoy a variety of events within our community and expand drama and arts programming provided for at our Charter School. The majority of funding for the proposed 15,000 sf. facility is provided from the Miami-Dade County's GOB Program.

Miami-Dade County has begun demolition of the old County Library, located on Aventura Blvd. They have informed us that they will finally begin construction on a redesigned, new state of the art library building in the fall of this year. The facility has been designed as a green building and will also have Wi-Fi capabilities in both the inside and outside seating areas. Although the final design has not yet been completed, the Administration, the City Commission and I will continue to press the County to expedite this very important project.

The City Commission has expanded our "Go Green" efforts in order to save energy, conserve precious natural resources and reduce our impact on climate change. This past year, the Commission recognized those businesses and condominiums that developed and implemented programs to reduce energy consumption and encouraged more recycling. We also introduced single stream recycling containers at all City buildings and parks. This eliminates the need for sorting your recyclables. Residents are encouraged to use these containers at the City parks. We

have also purchased two electric cars that will be on the road shortly. In addition, we purchased a third hybrid vehicle, which illustrates our ongoing efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and gasoline consumption by replacing low mileage vehicles with smaller, fuel efficient ones. Our landscaping contractor has also "Gone Green" by introducing LP gas powered lawnmowers. These mowers do not use any gasoline, produce less greenhouse gases, and are much quieter to operate. These initiatives over time will also reduce our annual operating costs and impacts on the environment.

The Police Department had a busy year in 2008. The downturn in the economy was a significant factor in the increase in certain types of crime. This past year, a new Crime Suppression Unit was formed to proactively concentrate on crimes of violence and/or felonies within the City. The unit was very successful and their efforts have led to numerous arrests. In December 2008, the Department was assessed for its CALEA reaccreditation and met all of the requirements and was recently reaccredited. The City Commission and City Manager are proud of the efforts of the men and women of our Police Department in protecting our community.

By working together and continuing to adhere to sound fiscal policies and providing excellent city services, I am confident that the City of Aventura will continue to maintain and enhance the quality of life for our residents and weather the turbulent times that are undoubtedly ahead.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank the community for its valuable support during the past year as we addressed many difficult and important issues on behalf of the future of our City of Excellence. We will continue to honor our commitment to our residents to deliver the best possible city services, while using prudent accounting to safeguard your tax dollars. 🍷

## Youth Athletics

### GIRLS & BOYS T-BALL SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Swing batter, batter, swing! Youth T-ball/Softball is in session and so far it has been the best season ever! Players have the opportunity to connect with others, learn new skills, and develop character and team-

work. All games and practices are held at Waterways Park located at 3301 NE 213 Street.

The season began on April 13, 2009 and runs through June 6, 2009. For more information please contact Waterways Park at 305-466-8008. 🍷



### ACES RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION AS AWARD FINALIST

The Aventura City of Excellence School is quickly developing a national reputation for being one of the top schools to demonstrate excellence in character education and academics. For the past five years components of ACES Character Program have been recognized nationally as Promising Practices. Last year ACES Middle School Leadership Series and Eco-Friendly Garden project were designated Promising Practices in developing character conscious students. ACES has earned a National Finalist title for the second consecutive year. This program is presented by the Character Education Partnership which honors schools for outstanding character programs that successfully integrate values with academic curriculum.

ACES Character Program is ranked as one of the top 27 programs in the nation. Students are very committed to living their values and practicing good character in daily activities. Teachers find that integrating values into the curriculum invigorates study in and out of class. Also, Sixth grade Science students design and plant a school garden as part of the eco-literacy science curriculum. Fourth-grade students, at the helm of the daily TV broadcast highlight character messages, events and awards. Seventh-grade Civics students learn how ethical roles and responsibilities shape our legal system. Parental involvement is instrumental to ACES' success.

Recently ACES was recognized locally by the Golden Rule Foundation with a \$1,000 check in recognition of the students' work in the Community Care Outreach program. The Community Care Outreach program exemplifies the philanthropy of ACES values-based programs. ACES students, staff and community have donated time, funds and other resources to needy causes throughout the country and world. Principal Julie Alm explained, "At ACES, our rigorous academic programs coupled with values education equips our students with the ability to make wise choices." 🍷



## RECYCLING @ RECREATION

Take your recyclables along for a ride when you go out for recreation at city parks or Community Recreation Center. Bring your plastic or glass bottles, cans, newspaper and cardboard to Founders Bayside, Waterways Park or the Aventura Community Recreation Center for recycling. Look for the green bins marked with our Go Green program logo and drop your clean recyclables inside. With single stream recycling, it is not necessary to separate materials and you can utilize the bins during normal operating hours. We are proud to provide this service to our residents and encourage all to participate. Recycling at our recreational facilities is part of the City's Go Green program which is an ongoing effort to help create a sustainable environment for the City of Aventura. ♻️

**Founders Park Bayside**  
(South side of Founders Park )  
3105 NE 190th Street  
305-466-8556

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

**Aventura Community  
Recreation Center**  
3375 NE 188 Street  
305-466-3883

## Our Green Fleet Grows By 6.2 Feet!



The City of Aventura has added two more environmentally –friendly vehicles to its fleet in our continued effort to Go Green. Standing at 6.2 feet high, the new cars are fully electric and a single charge lasts up to 50 miles of travel. Decorated with our Go Green logo, it is a mobile reminder that we should

all do our part to “Go Green” in Aventura. These energy-efficient vehicles are a perfect solution for staff to travel on frequent trips between parks and the Government Center. The new cars help us cut back on the usage of gas powered cars minimizing our impact on the environment. ♻️

## Go Green Awards

The Go Green Initiative Program benefits the City by raising environmental awareness, and recognizing the residents and businesses that are acting now to preserve our environment, save energy, and prepare the City

of Aventura to be a sustainable community.

Program applicants were recognized at the Arbor Day Ceremony on Friday, April 24, 2009. ♻️

## eBrochure Debuts on City Website

The City of Aventura is one of the first local municipalities to publish its activities brochure completely online. The eBrochure not only saves paper, but it saves time with the ability to search keywords and the flexibility to have it immediately available 24/7 from anywhere with an Internet connection.

exclusively available online! Creating the eBrochure is another way the City of Aventura is continually searching for ways to conserve energy and our environment. ♻️



The Aventura Activities magazine used to arrive in resident mailboxes every few months packed with listings for classes, activities and recreational programs. Now it is

# Community Services Happenings

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Arbor Day

The annual Arbor Day ceremony was held on Friday, April 24, 2009 at 10AM at the Aventura Community Recreation Center, 3375 NE 188 Street in recognition of the beauty of our City's landscaping and commemoration of our 12th year as a TREE CITY USA.

### Senior Prom

**Saturday, May 30, 2009, 7 – 9:30 PM**

Roll back the clocks and dust off those dancing shoes as seniors dance the night away with live entertainment provided by Frank Hubble's 10 piece band at the Aventura Community Recreation Center. Admission is complimentary with light refreshments and coffee served. For more information call the Community Services Department at 305-466-3883.

### July 4th Fireworks

Celebrate our country's independence with a fireworks display on Saturday, July 4th at 9 PM along Country Club Drives. For more information call the Community Services Department at 305-466-8930.

### Cultural Arts Theatre and Leisure Program

The Cultural Arts, Theater and Leisure includes trips to the theater, museums, historical places, art exhibits, shows and area restaurants.

This season the Cultural Arts Theater and Leisure program was filled with unique events including theater excursions to Barnum and A Bronx Tale. The trip to Barnum at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre was followed by a delicious dinner at the popular Tony Wu's in Delray Beach. A Bronx Tale with Chazz Palminteri is one-man show, performed by one of Hollywood's successful performers. The performance our group attended received a standing ovation for his skillful portrayal of the many roles in telling this touching story based on a true incident.

These excursions offer a more intimate experience with the arts while giving people a chance to spend time with their neighbors in a social setting. The Spring-Summer Program offers Antarctica at the IMAX Theater and a Floral Design Class at the Aventura Community Recreation Center. Check the Aventura Activities eBrochure for future trips.

### Teacher Planning Days

When school is out the adventures begins! On Friday, June 5, 2009, explore the sweet world of

Candyland! Adventures will include candy relays, a sweet scavenger hunt, a trip to the Sweet Shop and more! Teacher Planning Days are fun filled days of activities for children ages 5-12 at the Community Recreation Center.

## SUMMER CAMPS

### CAMPS DISCOVERY AND EXPLORER

Aventura Summer Camp is an all day program designed to entertain and enrich Aventura youth. The summer camp program is divided into two camps. Camp Discovery is for 5–8 year olds and Camp Explorer is for 9–14 year olds. This allows each camper to fully benefit the camp experience by participating in events that pertain to their own age group. This program offers a variety of supervised interactive activities such as arts & crafts, games, sports, special events, field trips and swimming. Early drop off and late pick up is available.

*M – F 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.*

June 8 – August 21

### TRAVEL CAMP

If you are looking for a way to make some new friends and create amazing memories, the Aventura Travel Camp is for you. Campers will meet at the Community Recreation Center and journey to new and exciting adventures each week. This program offers a variety of supervised interactive activities such as arts and crafts, games, sports, special events, three weekly field trips, and swimming. This camp is available for campers ages 9–14. Early drop off and late pick up is available.

*M - F 9 am – 4:00 pm*

June 15 – July 10

### SPORTS CAMP

Get ready for sports mania! Enjoy four weeks of soccer, basketball, football, softball and cheerleading/dance. Campers will learn team-building and sportsmanship, skills, drills, and more. Register for one week or experience all four weeks! Sports Camp is available for children ages 7-14 years old. This program offers a variety of supervised interactive activities such as arts and crafts, games, sports, special events, field trips, and swimming. Early drop off and late pick up is available.

*M – F 9:00 am – 4:00 pm*

June 22 – June 26 Basketball

June 29 – July 3 Soccer

July 6 – July 10 Campers Choice

July 13 – July 17 Campers Choice

Campers Choice consists of: Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Flag Football or Cheerleading/Dance



## GOVERNMENT CENTER DIRECTORY

MAIN NUMBER .....	(305) 466-8900
MAIN FAX NUMBER .....	(305) 466-8939
MAYOR AND COMMISSION .....	(305) 466-8901
CITY MANAGER .....	(305) 466-8910 Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM
CITY CLERK .....	(305) 466-8901 Teresa M. Soroka, MMC
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	Joanne Carr, Director .....(305) 466-8940
COMMUNITY SERVICES .....	(305) 466-8930 Robert M. Sherman, Director
FINANCE .....	(305) 466-8920 Brian K. Raducci, Director
POLICE .....	(305) 466-8989 Steven Steinberg, Police Chief
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ....	(305)466-8928 Karen J. Lanke, Director
CHARTER SCHOOL .....	(305) 466-1499 Julie Alm, Principal
COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER .....	(305) 466-3883
JOB HOTLINE .....	(305) 466-8955

# Local Flooding Facts

Flooding is an act of nature that respects no boundary lines. In the City of Aventura, flooding is generally caused by heavy rainfall that occurs in short periods of time, as is common during summer thunderstorms, tropical storms and hurricanes. The City is vulnerable to flooding from storm water runoff and coastal storm surges. Due to this flood risk, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has designated most of the City as a Special Flood Hazard Area on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). This map designates areas susceptible to the 100-year flood and for safety purposes, establishes minimum elevations for construction.

A 100-year flood is the equivalent of 10 or more inches of rain within 24 hours. A 100-year flood has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. However, it can occur more than once in a given year or in successive years. The potential for loss and damage in the City of Aventura during a heavy storm or hurricane does exist. Residents and property owners should be aware of this potential risk and be prepared to deal with flooding when it occurs.

## FLOODPLAINS ARE ESSENTIAL

Although flooding is a nuisance, floodplains are an essential part of the natural cycle in South Florida. The Everglades, which is one expansive floodplain, and the Biscayne Aquifer which lies underneath, are South Florida's only source of drinking water. They need large quantities of water to be replenished. Occasional floods are, and always have been, essential sources of fresh water to replenish the Biscayne Aquifer.

## FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Developers wishing to build in designated floodplain areas (including the City of Aventura) must use proper design techniques and structural requirements to ensure that new developments are flood proof. City officials must review all new developments in the City of Aventura to ensure the designs meet the City's Floodplain Development Regulations in order to receive a permit for construction. The City has adopted Floodplain Development Regulations that require that all new construction have a lowest floor elevation 12" above the base flood elevation or 18" above the crown of the road, whichever is highest.

Before beginning a project, check with the Community Development Department for all codes and regulations that apply to your property.

## SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA DISCLOSURE

It is a requirement in Miami-Dade County that any purchase of improved real estate located in a Special Flood Hazard Area or Coastal Flood

Hazard Area include a full disclosure to the buyer that the property lies in either of those zones. This requirement alerts potential buyers to the threat of flooding in the area, so they can make an informed purchasing decision.

## IMPROVEMENTS TO PROPERTY IN FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

For properties located in Special Flood Hazard Areas, it is required that improvements to properties be done in a manner which meets the current Floodplain Development Regulations. This requirement applies to:

- Any structure which has incurred damage estimated at more than 50% of its market value
- Any structure where improvements are planned where the cost of improvements is more than 50% of its market value
- Any combination of the above two

## FLOOD PROTECTION METHODS

When constructing a new or improved structure in a floodplain area, any combination of these methods may be employed to reduce the flooding potential. These methods must be approved by the City, and must not negatively impact surrounding properties.

■ **RELOCATION:** Perhaps the only technique for completely preventing future flood damage. This method involves moving a house out of a flood area to a new location where there is no threat of flooding.

■ **ELEVATION:** This method consists of raising a house on an elevated support structure to place it above future floodwaters.

■ **LEVEES:** Also known as a berm, this is a method of creating a barrier of compacted soil to keep the water away from a property.

■ **FLOODWALLS:** Similar to a levee, floodwalls are designed to keep the water away from the house but are constructed of permanent materials such as concrete.



■ **CLOSURES:** Used in conjunction with other techniques such as floodwalls and levees, closures provide protection for gaps that are open for frequent usage such as sidewalks and driveways.

## FLOOD MITIGATION STEPS

Even if you are not doing major improvements to your property, there are steps you can take to make your property more flood-proof, including:

- Grading your property to facilitate stormwater run-off
- Elevating major appliances such as air-conditioning units and water heaters to prevent damage during flooding
- Using flood-proofing materials such as paints and sealants
- Checking sewer trap valves to prevent backup flooding
- Cleaning gutters and storm drains around your property to permit free flow of water
- Keeping a stockpile of sandbags and construction materials available

## FLOOD INSURANCE

One of the best ways to protect your investment is to insure it. **Standard homeowners insurance and windstorm policies DO NOT cover losses from flooding (rising waters)!** The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 requires the purchase of flood insurance as a condition of receiving any federally related loan for purchase or construction of any building or mobile home located in any Special Flood Hazard Area.

The City of Aventura is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Federally guaranteed flood insurance is available to City residents in AE Flood Zones at a discount of 15% because of the City's

participation. NFIP policies are sold through licensed insurance agents and companies. You should buy flood insurance before the storm season, as there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage takes effect.

Federal flood insurance can protect homes, businesses and belongings from damage caused by flooding, including:

- **STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS:** such as walls, floors, equipment and fixtures.
- **CONTENTS:** such as furniture, appliances and carpeting
- **PERSONAL ITEMS:** such as clothing, stereos and televisions

You do not have to live in a special flood hazard area or a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) designated flood zone to purchase flood insurance. In fact, if you live in a low-risk area, you may be eligible for a low-cost preferred risk policy. Even if you rent, do not have a mortgage or do not live in a Special Flood Hazard Area, you should still purchase flood insurance!

#### FLOOD WARNINGS

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

In the case of a hurricane, an Evacuation Order will be given by the Mayor of Miami-Dade County and will be broadcast on local TV and radio stations. **The City of Aventura is located in an Evacuation Zone for any storm of Category 2 force or greater.** This means all residents are required to leave the City when an Evacuation Order for a Category 2 storm is given. Aventura condominiums and property managers will also be notified of the Evacuation Order by a fax from the Office of the City Manager.

Residents should stay tuned to the local TV and radio stations for updates on storms, and should evacuate as soon as an Evacuation Order is issued.

#### TV STATIONS

- WFOR—Ch. 4
- WTVJ—Ch. 6
- WSVN—Ch. 7
- WPLG—Ch. 10
- WLTV—Ch. 23 *Spanish*
- WSCV—Ch. 51 *Spanish*

#### RADIO STATIONS

- WIOD—610 AM
- WINZ—940 AM
- WFTL—1400 AM
- WAQI—710 AM *Spanish*
- WCQM—92 FM *Spanish*

#### FLOOD SAFETY TIPS

These are important tips you can follow when flooding threatens, whether you are staying in your home or evacuating.

##### BEFORE THE FLOOD:

- Learn and practice the safest route from your home or business to high ground in case you must evacuate.
- Listen to local news for Evacuation Orders and shelter openings. Evacuate immediately once an order is given.
- Turn off water, gas and electric service to your home and plug drains with large corks to prevent sewer backup.
- Keep a disaster kit on hand with a portable radio, flashlight, and emergency cooking equipment, drinking water, batteries, first aid supplies, money, canned foods and sturdy shoes.
- Develop and practice an emergency communication plan with your family. Designate an out-of-state friend or relative to serve as the “family contact.”
- Fill your car with gas and move it to the highest point on your property.
- Flood-proof your home by utilizing the improvement and mitigation steps outlined in this article.
- Buy flood insurance to cover the value of your home and its contents.
- Take pictures or videos of your home and valuables and keep them in a safe, dry place with your insurance policy.

##### DURING THE FLOOD:

- Keep a battery-powered radio tuned to a local station for emergency information. Follow instructions for your area.
- Elevate valuables or move them to higher floors.
- Do not drive, walk or play in flooded areas. Strong currents, broken objects, wild animals and raw sewage pose serious health and safety threats. Wear sturdy shoes.
- Stay away from downed power lines. A downed power line in a puddle of water may electrify the entire puddle.

##### AFTER THE FLOOD:

- Before entering a building, check for structural damage.
- Inspect for fire, electrical or gas hazards and submerged appliances **before** turning utilities back on.
- If you smell gas in or around your home, call your utility supplier immediately.
- Use bottled water **only**, until tapwater has been declared safe for consumption by officials.
- Dispose of everything, including food, that has come in contact with flood waters. The flood waters could be contaminated with raw sewage and poisonous chemicals.

## FLOOD ZONE INFORMATION



Local flood zone information is located at the Northeast (Aventura) Branch of the Miami-Dade Public Library and at the City of Aventura’s Community Development Department, both located at the Government Center. The Community Development Department can provide you with detailed information from the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) including:

- Whether your property is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area
- The community number
- The panel number and suffix
- The date of the FIRM’s index
- The FIRM zone
- The base flood elevation

For surveyors, architects and engineers, the City has the latest form of elevation certificates available to you for completion.

For lenders, insurance agents and real estate agents, elevation certificates are kept on file for all buildings permitted by the City.

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

# CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commission Meetings are held at 6:00 pm the first Tuesday of every month:

Aventura Government Center  
Commission Chambers  
19200 West Country Club Drive

Check our web site,  
[www.cityofaventura.com](http://www.cityofaventura.com),  
for our next meeting date.

For information on upcoming Commission meetings and workshops and to confirm all meeting dates, times and locations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (305) 466-8901.

# Watch for These Upcoming Events!



- May 30 .....Senior Prom
- June 5 .....Teacher Planning Day
- June 8 – August 21 .....Summer Camp
- June 15 – July 3 .....Travel Camp
- June 22 – July 17 .....Sports Camp
- July 4 .....Fireworks along Country Club Drives

**For event details, visit [www.cityofaventura.com](http://www.cityofaventura.com)**



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

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Miami, FL  
Permit No. 3157