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AVENTURA update

VOLUME 9 | NUMBER 1 | FEBRUARY 2006

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.



City Looks Forward to 2006

On behalf of the City Commission, staff and employees, we wish our community a very happy and safe new year for 2006. Many important projects and initiatives will be addressed throughout this upcoming year to insure our quality of life and maintain our City of Excellence. The following is an overview of some of the major projects and initiatives:

UPDATE AND AMEND

LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

An update and amendments to the City's Land Development Regulations (LDRs) are proposed based on recommendations contained in the State mandated Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The LDR amendments are scheduled for second and final reading at the February, 2006 City Commission meeting. The revisions set new standards for the development of residential and commercial properties which will restrict redevelopment of residential properties to existing number of units and number of bedrooms, all to accommodate future growth while ensuring continuing quality of life for the City's residents and businesses. A detailed review of the changes are outlined in this newsletter.

AVENTURA EXPRESS SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE EXPANSION

Over 10,000 riders a month use our free shuttle bus service which reduces the number of cars on the road in the city. Continuing the City Commission's efforts to provide alternative transportation, in March the City's shuttle bus service will be adding a new route and all other routes will be modified to increase frequency of service.



EXPANSION OF TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT UNIT

Beginning in January 2006, the Police Department's traffic enforcement unit will increase with the addition of 2 police officers and 2 police service aides to expand traffic enforcement efforts and address community growth.

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MIAMI GARDENS DRIVE EXTENSION PROJECT

The construction of the important extension of Miami Gardens Drive east to NE 185th Street is scheduled to commence construction in the spring. This roadway which will facilitate traffic flow improvement in the southern portion of the City will include four lanes, street lighting and intersection improvements at Biscayne Boulevard.

HURRICANE LANDSCAPING RESTORATION ACTION PLAN

In 2006 the city will embark on a major replanting effort to replace the damaged trees from the hurricane season and maintain our signature landscape program. Over \$1,500,000 will be spent to re-plant the City's medians and swales with 900 trees and 27,000 shrubs. The landscaping will be accomplished by planting native trees and palms that are less susceptible to damage from hurricane force winds.

MALL TRAFFIC ACCESS STUDY

The owners of the Aventura Mall and the City are jointly studying traffic flow in and around

the Mall. It was agreed to study improvements for the entrance areas on Biscayne Blvd, Aventura Blvd, and a possible service road off the Lehman Causeway directly adjacent to the Mall. Several meetings were held with Mall representatives and city staff. Recommendations for improvements will be finalized by early spring for implementation during the year.

AVENTURA CITY OF EXCELLENCE SCHOOL EXPANSION

The start of the 2006/07 school year in August will mark the further expansion of the city's charter middle school grades with the addition of the seventh grade. The total number of students attending the K- 7th grades school will grow to 700 in the fall of 2006. The school is an "A" rated school based the State of Florida grade system.

WATERWAYS PARK EXPANSION PROJECT

This project was delayed due to issues associated with the purchase of the 7 acre site from the owners of the Gulfstream Race Track. Recently, a new purchase contract was conceptually agreed to which will expand the

park site from 6 to 7 acres and reduce the number of residential units that could be constructed next to the park. The park project is funded and is in the final stages of design. When it is completed, the 6 acre site will include a multipurpose sports field, playground, basketball court, fitness trail, parking and restroom facilities.

FOUNDERS PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Funds have been included in the budget to expand the north parking lot at Founders Park in early spring.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

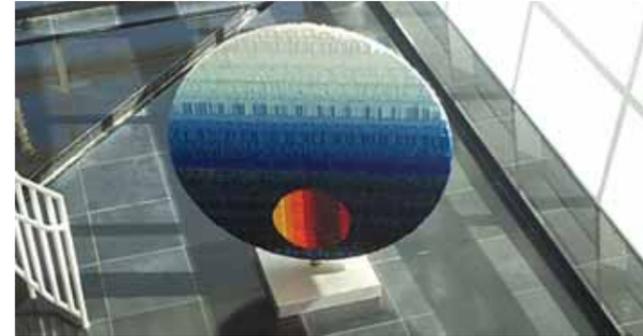
In order to insure that residents are properly prepared for the hurricane season, the City will be holding an annual training event for property managers, condo association officers and residents in May. Further updates on the time and place of the event will be forthcoming.

As you can see, 2006 will be a busy and exciting year for your City. The City Commission and staff welcome your input throughout the year and appreciate the participation of residents at the various City functions and meetings.

Mosaic Sculpture Sun No.5

Aventura residents have another reason to visit the Government Center. The City received a sculpture over 6-feet tall that is on display in the Government Center Lobby in January 2006. The "Mosaic Sculpture Sun No. 5" was created by prominent Italian

Sculptor Gianmaria Potenza in 1998 in Venice Italy, and this beautiful artwork was donated to the City by Aventura residents Selma and Ralfe O.P. Silverman. Residents are encouraged to drop by and admire this meaningful work of art.



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City to Have Mail-In Ballot Special Election on Proposed Charter Amendments

According to the Aventura City Charter, every five years a Charter Revision Commission must be established to review the City Charter and make recommendations if deemed appropriate, for its revision. This 5-member commission, consisting of one member of the previous charter commission and four electors of the City appointed by the City Commission, met during the months of November and December 2005 to review the Charter. Based on this review, the Charter Revision Commission has recommended two amendments. Voter approval is required before any one or both amendments can be implemented. Therefore, a special election has been called for March 21, 2006. This will be a mail-in ballot election and not a precinct election. Ballots will be mailed to every registered electorate of the City of Aventura during

the first week of March. Voters will be asked to vote yes or no to the amendments and return their ballots in the postage-paid return envelope. The ballots must be returned to the Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections by 7 p.m. on March 21, 2006 and will be tabulated the following day, March 22, 2006. All residents are encouraged to participate in this process. The following is a synopsis of the two issues to be voted upon:

REQUIREMENT FOR BREAK IN SERVICE AS MAYOR OR COMMISSIONER

The City Charter currently provides for a limitation on the consecutive length of service as Mayor or Commissioner, but does not specify any required break in service before resuming office. It is proposed that the Charter be amended to provide for a four year break in service before a person may

again serve as Mayor or Commissioner, once the maximum length of consecutive service has been reached.

ELIMINATION OF RUN OFF ELECTIONS FOR MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER

The City Charter currently provides for both general elections and run off elections for Mayor and Commissioner. It is proposed that the Charter be amended to eliminate run off elections and to revise the method of election from a majority vote requirement to a system by which the candidate for Mayor or a Commission seat who receives the most votes in the general election is elected.

A copy of the Resolution setting forth the election and the proposed amendments is available on the City's website at www.cityofaventura.com or may be obtained from the City Clerk's office at 19200 West Country Club Drive, or by calling 305-466-8901.

Aventura Government 101 A Citizen's Academy

This spring the City of Aventura will present its second Class of Aventura Government 101 - A Citizen's Academy. This Academy, presented in six sessions over a two-month period, is designed to provide a learning forum for citizens to become more familiar with City of Aventura Government, improve communications between citizens and government, as well as foster citizen involvement.

The Academy is provided free of charge by City Administration as a service to the community and will be held at various City facilities. Participants will be selected on a first-come first-served basis. The class will be limited to 30 participants and is open to residents only. Each session will be two to three hours in length.

Week 1 will be presented by the City's Constitutional Officers, the City Manager, City Clerk and City Attorney, outlining details of the City's administration. Week 2 features the Police Department. Week 3 details programs and services offered by the City through the Community Services Department. Week 4 is an overview of the services of the Community Development

Department, including planning, building, zoning and code enforcement. Week 5 features the Finance Support Services Department, including the budget, purchasing, human resources, information technology and public communications, i.e. website, cable television, radio and other public access. The Charter School operation will be presented in Week 6. Tours of Government Center, the Police Department, Community Recreation Center and Charter School will be included. The Academy will conclude with graduation recognition at the Commission Meeting.

The course will be offered once a year. Interested parties who would like to apply for this year's Citizen's Academy should complete an Academy application which is available at Government Center or can be downloaded from the City's website, www.cityofaventura.com. A detailed course outline is also available on the website.

Questions should be directed to the Office of the City Clerk, 305-466-8901.

Community Events Round-Up

DRANOFF INTERNATIONAL TWO PIANO CONCERT COMPETITION

The City of Aventura proudly presented an afternoon of classical music on Sunday, November 6, 2005 at the Aventura Government Center plaza level. Approximately 160 residents enjoyed the classical music of the winners of the Dranoff International Two Piano Competition for a grand two piano concert featuring Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann, and Per Tengstrand and Shan Shan Sun, all of whom are Gold Medal winners of the Dranoff International Competition. A lovely reception finished what was surely a beautiful day of classical music in Aventura.



VETERANS DAY

The City of Aventura saluted America's veterans at a formal ceremony Friday, November 11, 2005 at the Aventura Government Center. The City remembered and recognized all the brave men and women who have served in



the armed forces in the just cause of world peace. Over 162 residents joined the City Officials, community leaders, veterans, heroes and neighbors at this memorable tribute to our veterans.

CITY OF AVENTURA 10TH ANNUAL FOUNDERS DAY WEEKEND

Tween and Teen Video Dance November 11

This weekend was kicked-off with a night of fun by 155 Aventura children as we turned the Aventura Community Recreation Center into a one of a kind dance club filled with music for the younger set with professional dancers, video screens, lights, games, a batting cage, contests, refreshments and more!



Aventura Homecoming Dance November 12

Residents enjoyed a fun filled evening at the football themed Aventura Homecoming Dance listening and dancing to sounds of their favorite music performed by the Simon

Salz Orchestra. Dancing, refreshments, an ice cream parlor and more created Aventura memories for years to come.



November 13th- FOUNDERS DAY

Family Fun

Founders Park turned into a fabulous afternoon of great family fun which included a giant obstacle course, bounce house, entertainment including the 3rd annual Aventura Star Competition and "What's the Deal" game show; interactive games; arts and crafts projects; purple people face painters; Toddler Town including a little ferris wheel, interactive toddler time activities and games; and an entertainment tent complete with a birthday bash, comedy show, sidewalk circus, games and more. Over 2,200 residents and their guests enjoyed the family fun day activities.

3rd Annual Aventura Star Competition Finals

The third annual Aventura Star Competition Finals took place with a record number of contestants participating this year. Acts ranging from singing to dancing and gymnastics graced the stage at Founders Park. All finalists were recognized during the Founders Day Concert.

Founder's Monument Re-Dedication and Time Capsule Ceremony

The City re-dedicated the Founders Monument and buried the 2005 Time Capsule filled with objects and articles relative to the City's history since 1995.



Concert Starring AIR SUPPLY and Special Guest BLUES BROTHERS REVUE

More than 2,850 Aventura residents, neighbors and friends enjoyed hits from the platinum recording artist Air Supply featuring the hits "Even the Nights Are Better" and "Making Love Out of Nothing at All", with special guests The Blues Brothers Revue taking the stage and performing all the big hits from the Blues Brothers movies and concerts. Audience participation was at a premium at this event as several audience members were able to interact with the bands as a part of the show.

Although the concert ended early due to inclement weather, it was truly a remarkable way to celebrate 10 Years of Excellence in the City of Aventura.



CULTURAL ARTS, THEATER AND LEISURE PROGRAM

Registration for the new Cultural Arts, Theater and Leisure Program session is still open for exciting upcoming events. Visit www.cityofaventura.com to register online or register in person at the Aventura Community Recreation Center, 3375 NE 188 Street. Registration is on a first come first serve basis. Call 305-466-3883 for more information regarding registration dates and availability.

New and exciting upcoming events include:

- Miami City Ballet

- Theater Performances
- Operas
- Museums
- Athletic Games
- Lectures
- Dances

YOUTH ATHLETICS

Founders Park hosted the 2005 youth flag football league with more than 135 children participating in three divisions. The participants played hard every week and made this league the most successful flag football season ever. We look forward to another tremendous and exciting flag football season in fall 2006.

The Community Recreation Center hosted the 2005 youth basketball league with more than 100 children participating in three divisions which was triple the amount of participants for the 2004 league. The league was a huge success.

The 2006 Soccer League is enjoying tremendous success.

Please join us for the upcoming youth sport programs which includes, T-Ball/Softball at Founders Park, April 2006.

AVENTURA UPDATE



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> COMMISSIONERS

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Bob Diamond
Harry Holzberg
Billy Joel
Michael Stern
Luz Urbaéz Weinberg

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> CITY CLERK Teresa M. Soroka, MMC

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> EDITOR

Judy Appelgren
Assistant to the City Manager

Land Development Regulations (LDR) Revisions

Proposed amendments to the City's LDRs or zoning code will allow development and redevelopment of commercial parcels to revised site development standards, development of residential parcels to revised site development standards and redevelopment of residential parcels to existing density and existing number of bedrooms.

THE FOLLOWING IS A DETAILED SUMMARY OF THE REVISIONS:

Language has been added to the "Authority and Purpose" section of the Code to mirror and address the goals of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) of the City's Comprehensive Plan as it relates to development and future redevelopment and minimizing its impact to the City's infrastructure, traffic congestion, hurricane evacuation clearance times and quality of life.

Definitions have been revised and other definitions added to reflect the new development and redevelopment provisions, as follows:

- > the definition of "development" was revised to reflect the initial construction on vacant land
- > a definition of "redevelopment" is added to reflect all construction other than initial construction on vacant land and as specified therein
- > the definition of "develope" is revised to add redevelopment
- > the definition of "development approval" is revised to add redevelopment
- > a definition of "redevelopment area" is added to reflect areas that are described in the City's Comprehensive Plan or that may be designated in the future by the City Commission

In residential zones, language has been added to provide that development is subject to the revised site development stan-

dards, and redevelopment is subject to existing density and existing number of bedrooms, unless otherwise provided by authorized conditional use approval.

In business zones, language has been added to provide that development and redevelopment is subject to the revised site development standards. Further language confirms and clarifies that the floor area ratio maximum in business zones is 2.0 as set out in the Comprehensive Plan.

In the RMF4, Multifamily High Density Residential District, density has been reduced from 60 dwelling units per acre to 45 dwelling units per acre and maximum height is reduced from 40 stories or 400 feet to 25 stories or 250 feet. Uses that exceed the density limitation, up to a maximum of 60 dwelling units per acre and uses that exceed the height limitation, up to a maximum of 30 stories or 300 feet, may be allowed following conditional use approval.

In the B2, Community Business District, and in the B3, Heavy Business District, the maximum height of buildings has been reduced from 20 stories or 341 feet to 12 stories or 120 feet with a provision for conditional use approval up to a maximum of 20 stories or 200 feet.

In the OP, Office Park District, the number of stories remains the same at ten stories but maximum height has been reduced from 176 feet to 100 feet.

In the MO, Medical Office District, the maximum number stories has been increased from ten stories to twelve stories and maximum height has been reduced from 176 feet to 120 feet. Residential uses allowed after

conditional use approval in this district are limited to 35 dwelling units per gross acre.

In the TC1, Town Center District, increased floor area has been added to the B1 uses allowed after conditional use approval to allow for larger grocery and department

stores in the Town Center. Language is added to include design guidelines for this district.

In the TC2, Town Center Marine District, language is added to include design guidelines similar to those added to the TC1 district. ▶

Mayor on the Move

Mayor Susan Gottlieb and City Manager Eric Soroka are making themselves available to all Condominiums/Homeowner Associations in the City for informal presentations and meetings.

If your association is interested in scheduling such a meeting, please contact the City Manager's Office at 305-466-8910. We look forward to having the opportunity to respond to residents concerns. ▶



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Aventura Express

The "Aventura Express" shuttle bus service rolls into town with an additional new route and a new operating schedule that includes earlier weekday service, more frequent stops, and easier connections to better serve the Aventura community.

The new Purple Route adds another bus to the fleet for a total of five routes servicing the City. All routes will provide hourly service to all stops, and all routes will meet at the Aventura Mall on an hourly basis to ensure easier transfers.

Beginning March 6, 2006 the "Aventura Express" is the best way to get around town. "Express Yourself" and see why over 120,000 passengers took the best way to get around Aventura last year without their car. Over 93% of the passengers surveyed during recent study gave the buses and drivers an "excellent" rating regarding passenger comfort and safety.

We take pride in providing courteous, safe, and efficient service with most convenient schedules to fit your busy lifestyle. So please look for the new "Aventura Express" coming soon. If you have any questions call 305-932-1287. ▶



CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commission Meetings are held at 6:00 pm:

Aventura Government Center
Commission Chambers
19200 West Country Club Drive

City Commission Meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 2006

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!

- FEBRUARY 11, 2006Valentine's Day Romantic Jazz Concert and Dance
- FEBRUARY 26, 2006“The Next Guard of the Classical Music World” Lecture
- MARCH 4, 2006Movie Night in the Park
- APRIL 10 – 14, 2006Spring Camp
- APRIL 28, 2006Arbor Day Celebration
- MAY 20, 2006Senior Prom
- JUNE – AUGUST 2006Summer Camp



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