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AVENTURA *update*

VOLUME 8 | NUMBER 1 | FEBRUARY 2005

*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.

Crime Rate Drops

Since the Police Department began full-time operations in April of 1997, it has held true to its Mission Statement reflecting the importance of providing a professional, full-service, community-oriented police department through timely response to all calls, ensuring all crimes are thoroughly investigated and successfully prosecuted, together with full community interaction in

creating partnerships that enhance law enforcement, crime prevention and quality of life issues.

The City is pleased to announce that the crime rate for 2004 decreased by more than 20% when compared to the prior year. This marks the sixth year in a row that crime has decreased in Aventura.

The following chart is a comparison of the crime rate in the City over the past 7 years.

YEAR	TOTAL CRIMES	VIOLENT CRIMES	POPULATION	CRIME RATE	% CHANGE
1998	3339	77	20349	16408.7	0
1999	3058	99	22800	13412.3	-18.3%
2000	3157	107	25267	12494.6	-6.8%
2001	2672	100	25903	10315.4	-17.4%
2002	2335	78	26142	8932.0	-13.4%
2003	2260	54	27241	8296.3	-7.1%
2004	1850	73	28202	6559.8	-20.9%



"The City is proud of the efforts of our Police Department." said City Manager Eric M. Soroka. "The department, as well as our security partners at the Aventura Mall and the various condominiums, have played a major part in creating the reputation for a safe community in which to live, work and play." said Soroka.

The Police Department meets on a monthly basis with members of the community to discuss current concerns and disseminate invaluable information regarding prevalent crime activities.

VOTING PRECINCTS

102

AVENTURA COMMUNITY
RECREATION CENTER
3375 NE 188TH STREET
Waterways; Biscayne Lakes Gardens

103

AVENTURA LIBRARY
2930 AVENTURA BOULEVARD
*Del Vista; Country Club Drive west of
NE 34th Ave and South to Lehman Cswy;
West side of East Country Club Drive
(Country Club Estates and Promenade)*

109

AVENTURA GOVERNMENT CENTER
19200 W. COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE
*Turnberry Yacht Club Area
Mystic Point; Bay Club*

111

COMMODORE PLAZA TOWER II
2750 NE 183RD STREET
*Commodore Plaza; Admirals Port;
Biscayne Cove; Lincoln Pt; Williams Island*

112

PLAZA DEL PRADO
18051 BISCAYNE BOOULEVARD
Plaza Del Prado

113

2895 POINT EAST DRIVE
Point East Condominium

184

AVENTURA COMMUNITY
RECREATION CENTER
3375 NE 188TH STREET
*N. Country Club Dr. east of NE 34 Ave and east
side of E. Country Club Drive to Lehman
Causeway; Yacht Club*

186

AVENTURA COMMUNITY RECREATION CTR
3375 NE 188TH STREET
Single family homes east of FEC Railroad

Municipal Election March 1, 2005

Remember to Vote!

The City of Aventura will be conducting its municipal election on Tuesday, March 1, 2005. During the week of January 31 – February 4, 2005, candidates must file the appropriate qualifying documents to be eligible to be placed on the ballot for election to Commission Seats 2, 4, 6 and the Office of Mayor. At press time, those individuals who have opened campaign accounts and are considered candidates for office but have not yet qualified are:

<u>SEAT 2</u>	<u>SEAT 4</u>	<u>SEAT 6</u>	<u>MAYOR</u>
Muriel Cohen	Billy Joel	Sid Gersh	Scott Abraham
Hannah Lipton		Gary Pyott	Susan Gottlieb
Michael Stern		Luz "Lucy" Weinberg	Alan Greenfield
			Manny Grossman

Registered voters may cast their ballots at their assigned polling place on March 1, 2005 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Vote Early!

In addition, early voting will be offered on Saturday and Sunday, February 26th and 27th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Aventura Government Center, 19200 West Country Club Drive. Any registered voter in the City of Aventura may cast his/her ballot during the times specified for early voting at Government Center. On the day of the election, however, ballots must be cast at the assigned polling place.

Any questions regarding the March 1st election or early voting should be directed to Teresa M. Soroka, CMC, City Clerk/Municipal Supervisor of Elections at 305-466-8901 or via email at tsoroka@cityofaventura.com.

Important Voting Information!

PLEASE NOTE: Miami-Dade County will be conducting an election on March 8, 2005 on the issue of allowing slot machines at parimutuel sites and will be providing early voting for that election from February 22nd to March 7th at sites throughout the county, including the Aventura branch of the Library.

Aventura voters must remember that the City of Aventura election will be conducted on March 1, 2005 with early voting offered on February 26th-27th at the Aventura Government Center. If necessary, a City of Aventura municipal run-off election will be held on March 15, 2005.

VOTERS SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO CONFUSE THE CITY ELECTION AND ITS EARLY VOTING, WITH THE COUNTY-WIDE ELECTION AND ITS EARLY VOTING.

Absentee Ballot List To Expire

If you are registered with the Miami-Dade County Elections Department to automatically receive absentee ballots for each election, you **MUST RE-REGISTER** for this service. The Miami-Dade County Elections Department advises that the current list has expired and they will be sending notification to all those who were previously registered to automatically receive absentee ballots that renewal registration is necessary.

You may choose to request an absentee ballot for a specific election only, including the City of Aventura municipal election on March 1st and March 15th run-off if necessary, or for all elections conducted by the City of Aventura and Miami-Dade County during 2005. If you do not receive a notice by mail, you may contact the Absentee Ballot Section of the Miami-Dade County Elections Department at 305-499-8444. ☎

Evaluation & Appraisal Report

The City is in the process of preparing an evaluation and appraisal of its Comprehensive Plan. An evaluation and appraisal report is required by state statute once every seven years. The report must be submitted to the Department of Community Affairs on December 1, 2005.

The evaluation and appraisal report is the City's opportunity to assess its successes in achieving the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan and to make any updates or revisions to ensure that the master plan contains the vision for future development of our City. The first public workshop was held on December 16, 2004. The draft report is anticipated to be completed in July of 2005, at which time a public hearing will be held for review by the City Commission and City residents. The hearing date and time will be advertised prior to the public hearing. Citizen's input is welcome at any time during the evaluation and appraisal process. Contact Joanne Carr, Planning Director, at 305-466-8940. ☎

Radio Station – 1650 AM WPZQ420

The City's radio station launched a year ago advises residents of the latest news information about the City. Tune in to hear:

- > Public Information Radio
 - Traffic Alerts
 - Publicize City-Sponsored Events & Programs
- > Hurricane Updates
 - Station will switch to Weather Feed from NOAA in the event of severe weather alerts
- > Public Service Announcements
 - Raise awareness about City Services & Benefits
 - Inform citizens of health and education issues ☎



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, CMC
- > COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Joanne Carr
Planning Director(305) 466-8940

Mariano Fernandez
Building Director/Official(305) 466-8937
- > COMMUNITY SERVICES(305) 466-8930
Robert M. Sherman, Director
- > FINANCE SUPPORT SERVICES ..(305) 466-8920
Harry M. Kilgore, Director
- > POLICE DEPARTMENT(305) 466-8989
Thomas E. Ribel, Police Chief
- > CHARTER SCHOOL(305) 466-1499
Dr. Katherine Murphy, Principal
- > COMMUNITY
RECREATION CENTER(305) 466-3883
- > JOB HOTLINE(305) 466-8955

AVENTURA UPDATE



> MAYOR Jeffrey M. Perlow

> COMMISSIONERS

Zev Auerbach

Jay R. Beskin

Ken Cohen

Bob Diamond

Manny Grossman

Harry Holzberg

> CITY MANAGER Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM

> CITY CLERK Teresa M. Soroka, CMC

> CITY ATTORNEY

Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza

Guedes Cole & Boniske

> EDITOR

Judy Appelgren

Assistant to the City Manager



Community Services Update

DOG DAY HOWL-O-WEEN

The first annual Dog Day Howl-o-Ween event took place on October 30, 2004 at the newly opened Veterans Park and was attended by over 200 people and their pets. This fascinating day featured a doggy costume contest, tricks for treat and music for all to enjoy. Several local vendors were on hand to give information on health and safety for the pet owners. The event brought many different sizes of dogs to enjoy the day full of fun. For upcoming pet events, please call 305-466-8556 or e-mail mcquaggea@cityofaventura.com. Please visit the website at www.cityofaventura.com.



HALLOWEEN FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

A safe and entertaining family Halloween special event was held on October 31, 2004. Activities included costume contests; DJ; arts and crafts; and children chose their own pumpkins to decorate from the magical pumpkin patch at Founders Park Bayside. Once the sun went down, all the costumed creatures settled in for the feature animated film that was shown on the outdoor screen. Over 2,000 residents enjoyed Halloween with their friends and neighbors at this exciting and innovative event.

VETERANS DAY

The City paid tribute to our veterans at a special ceremony that was held on November 11, 2004 at the Aventura Government Center, complete with a 21 gun salute. Over 200 residents and veterans joined the City in honoring the brave men and women who have fought for our country and preserved the American way of life.



WINTER WONDERLAND

On December 12, 2004, it snowed at Founders Park at the annual Winter Wonderland Celebration. Approximately 1,000 residents enjoyed a beautiful winter afternoon playing games, listening to holiday music, creating winter crafts and enjoying a wonderful cultural show performed by the ACES chorus and a local professional Dance Company. The annual visit from the Aventura Snowman made everyone's holiday spirit reach high levels just in time for the winter break. We thank you all for a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to seeing everyone at future events.



WINTER CAMP

Over 50 children enjoyed two weeks of holiday Camp at the Aventura Community Recreation Center. This year's camp featured tons of fun which included; field trips, arts and crafts, sports, games and a wide array of exciting activities. For more information on upcoming camps, in the City of Aventura, please call 305-466-3883 or e-mail crcenter@cityofaventura.com

SENIOR TRIPS AND TOURS

Call the Community Services Department at 305-466-8930 or visit www.cityofaventura.com for more information regarding our popular series of day trips to local museums, cultural events, performing arts, sporting events, and local restaurants. ☺

Building Division

WHEN IS A BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED?

The City of Aventura uses a uniform building code called the Florida Building Code. The Code is in effect since March 1, 2002.

Section 104.1.1 of the Florida Building Code states: "Any owner, authorized agent, or contractor who desires to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy or occupant content of a building or structure, or any outside area being used as part of the building's designated occupancy (single or mixed) or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert, or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by the technical codes, or to cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit for the work. *Permits are required for all work except carpets and painting.*

The FBC code can be purchased from the Miami-Dade Building Code Compliance Office located at 140 West Flagler Street, 16th floor.

HOW DO I GET A BUILDING PERMIT?

Building permits are issued in the name of the person(s) performing the work. Only licensed contractors or owners/builders may obtain a building permit. Owner/builder permits are limited to the new construction of one single family residence per 24 month period.

The following is a description of the steps required to obtain a permit:

- > Fill out a Permit Application including a folio number (13 digit number from property tax statement or Miami-Dade County Property Appraisers, 111 N.W. 1st Street, 7th floor).
- > Owner/builder must attach proof of ownership (warranty deed, closing statement or tax receipt) and sign the Instructions to Owner/Builder Form.
- > Submit two sets of plans to include (as applicable) site/plot plan, floor plan with location of plumbing and electrical fixtures, elevations, electrical service panel, cross sections of structural walls with details of materials and fasteners, roof framing plan, and energy calculation (when new structures or additions are air conditioned).
- > Submit your permit application and stamped plans at the Permit Counter to obtain a processing number.

WHY GET A PERMIT?

It's the law! A permit brings you the service of the Building Department Plans Reviewers and Inspectors who are experts in their field. In addition to giving advice, they approve each phase of your project, checking to see that the work is done in accordance with the code and the approved plans. Working without a permit is illegal and can result in fines.

WHO ASSUMES THE RESPONSIBILITY IF A CONTRACTOR TELLS ME TO GET AN OWNER/BUILDER PERMIT?

The owner is responsible. It is up to the owner to ensure that the contractor obtains his own permit. This permit makes the contractor legally responsible for their portion of the work.

If you hire a contractor, it is your responsibility to ensure that the contractor is licensed and insured. Always ask to see the permit for your project. If no permit is obtained, you (the owner) are legally responsible.

The status of a contractor's license can be verified with the Office of the Miami-Dade Building Code Compliance at (305) 375-2901. 📞

PERMITS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

The City's Noise Ordinance requires any business or private property planning a special event with music, fireworks, tents, signs, banners or food to apply for a Special Event Permit through the City Manager's Office. Applications should be submitted a minimum of ten days prior to the event. Special Event Permit applications are available on the City's website under E Government at www.cityofaventura.com. There is no fee for the permit. The City may place conditions on the permit to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City prior to granting approval.

FILM PERMITS

Any person wishing to film commercial still photos, live or motion picture productions within the City must apply for a Film Permit from the City Manager's Office. A permit fee in the amount of \$100 is due and payable at the time of the permit application. The applicant must also provide proof of public liability insurance. The City Manager may impose certain conditions on the film permit activities. Anyone interested in obtaining a Film Permit should contact the City Manager's Assistant at (305) 466-8911. 📞

CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commission Meetings are held
at 6:00 p.m.

Aventura Government Center
Commission Chambers
19200 West Country Club Drive

City Commission Meeting
Tuesday March 10, 2005

City Commission Meeting
Tuesday April 5, 2005

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

Mark Your Calendars!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| > March 21 – 25 | SPRING CAMP |
| > April 22 | ARBOR DAY |
| > May 14 | SENIOR PROM |
| > March 18 & April 22 | TEACHER PLANNING DAY ACTIVITIES |
| > June 6 – July 29 | SUMMER CAMP |
| > July 4 | JULY 4TH CELEBRATION |



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

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U.S. POSTAGE
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