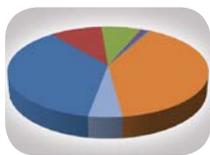


# AVENTURA *update*

A NEWSLETTER DESIGNED TO INFORM THE RESIDENTS OF AVENTURA



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## Important Message from the Aventura City Commission

### The Facts Regarding a Charter High School

Over the past year, a grass roots petition has been circulating in the City, requesting the City Commission to build a charter high school in Aventura. In consideration of our residents request, we have an undergone an initial feasibility study and would like to share the facts of this issue with all of our residents.

### The School Board, NOT the City, is responsible for building schools in Aventura.

Under State law, the School Board of Miami-Dade County is responsible for building and operating schools that serve the County as well as our City. 45% of your property taxes already go to the school board to support this responsibility. As a community, the City of Aventura sends \$55 million to the school board each year.

### Why did the City open a charter elementary and middle school?

Back in 2001, after unsuccessfully working with the School Board for many years in locating a school to serve Aventura's growing student population, the City Commission voted to move forward with the construction of a Charter School.

### We have no guarantee every Aventura child can attend a City Charter School.

The enrollment to all Charter Schools are capped and most admissions to the school is based on a lottery system. Residents of Aventura receive preference as well as siblings of students currently attending the school. Once that cap is exceeded; it may not be financially feasible to balance the budget to operate the school. The same cap would apply to a charter high school which means there would be no guarantee that every Aventura student would attend.

### There is financial risk to any City that opens a Charter School.

ACES budget is \$7,685,000 and is largely funded from school board tax dollars and state funding formulas. Charter schools receive LESS funding per student than traditional public schools. This year due to State funding cuts, ACES budget was balanced by utilizing \$500,000 from the school's reserve funds.

### The school capacity issue in Northeast Dade has gotten better in the last 10 years.

The City, over the years, has pressed the School Board to address the school capacity issues. The public schools that serve the City are less overcrowded than they were 10 years ago. Since the construction of our Charter School, the Miami-Dade County School Board has built a new K-8 "Aventura Waterways" school which serves the entire City and a K-8 School in Sunny Isles Beach. The County has also expanded the capacity at Dr. Michael M. Krop High School as well. *(continued on page 2)*

Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES) was the first municipal run charter school in Miami – Dade County. ACES opened in the fall of 2003 as a K-5 school with 600 students. In 2005, a middle school wing was added and the number of students grew to 900. In order to meet State mandated class size requirements, ten additional classrooms were built in 2009 which allowed the school to increase to 972 students.





# AVENTURA update

## MAYOR

Susan Gottlieb

## COMMISSIONERS

Zev Auerbach Billy Joel  
Bob Diamond Michael Stern  
Teri Holzberg Luz Urbáez-Weinberg

## CITY MANAGER

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## CITY CLERK

Teresa M. Soroka, MMC

## CITY ATTORNEY

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<i>Karen J. Lanke, Director</i>	
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<i>Steven Clark, General Manager</i>	
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<i>Julie Alm, Principal</i>	
Community Recreation Center.....	305-466-3883

## The Facts Regarding a Charter High School (continued)

### Dr. Michael M. Krop High School, which serves Aventura residents, is an A Rated School.

Krop High School also boasts a 94% graduation rate with 97% of graduates attending a two-year or four-year university. Multiple Ivy League and prestigious school acceptances for the Class of 2012 include Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Cornell, Stanford, University of Pennsylvania, Duke, MIT, and the University of Chicago. Krop is a full service school that offers a wide range of education programs, as well as sports teams and service clubs to provide the necessary foundation for students to gain acceptance to the college of their choice.

### What would it cost Aventura residents to open a Charter High School?

The City is 98% built out and the cost of land is very expensive. The petitioners have suggested that the vacant land adjacent to the Gulfstream Casino and Race Track be used for a school site. The City does not own the land and the owners are not interested in selling it to the City, as they have plans to develop the property in the near future.

- ▶ The average cost of construction for a high school is between \$35-\$45 million NOT including land costs. As comparison, the City's total yearly operating budget is \$32 million and includes all City services from police to parks,
- ▶ The cost of operating a high school, based on figures from the School Board, is about \$8,000 a student or \$8,000,000 a year for a high school with 1,000 students.
- ▶ If the City was to undertake the creation of a charter high school we would be responsible for raising the funds to buy the land, build the facility and then operate the school. This would have a tremendous impact on each and every one of our tax payers and would cause our tax rate to drastically increase.
- ▶ **To fund the proposed charter high school, it is estimated property taxes would have to increase 5 to 6 times their current rate for every taxpayer.** The City's taxpayers would also be responsible for any shortfalls in operating the school.
- ▶ Since Charter Schools have enrollment caps **there is still no guarantee that every Aventura student would be admitted.**

### OUR CONCLUSION

The fact is, it is not fiscally prudent to embark on a massive project like a charter high school that would dramatically increase our property taxes. The City Commission has been and will continue to be committed to working with the community to ensure that the Miami-Dade School Board lives up to their responsibility to provide the best possible schools for all our children.

All of our efforts are better spent on working together to **first** making Dr. Michael M. Krop High School the best possible option for our community and **second** urging the Miami Dade School Board to address the High School issue in their proposed \$1.2 billion bond issue that is on the ballot this November.

Sincerely,

Aventura Mayor and City Commission

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to join with our community to make Aventura a city of the highest quality and a City of Excellence. We do this by providing RESPONSIVE, COST EFFECTIVE and INNOVATIVE local government services.

# Budget Adopted Without Tax Increase or Service Reductions

Recently the City Commission adopted the budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2012. The budget adopted the same tax rate as the prior year of 1.726 mills, which is the lowest rate in Miami – Dade County. The City’s portion of the total property tax bill represents only 10% of the total. The other large portions represent the County and School Board. Keeping your taxes low was accomplished while maintaining the current service levels and programs our residents and businesses currently enjoy.

After three consecutive years of decline due to the economic recession, the City’s taxable value has increased this year and overall property values are beginning to stabilize. This year, the City experienced a 2.89% increase in property values. The new value of \$7.501 billion is still sharply down from the pre-recession value of \$9.609 billion.

The Miami-Dade County Property Appraiser reported that coastal cities with a concentration of high-end properties experienced the most growth in property values. Cautiously, it appears we may have turned the corner toward recovery. Recently, we have witnessed positive signs that the local economy has shown some improvement. The number of building permits and applications for commercial and residential projects are on the upswing. Importantly, these new projects will produce jobs for the local economy. The new construction values rose moderately to \$42.2 million. However, as we continue to observe, the recovery from this economic downturn is slower and longer than previous recoveries. All indications are that for the next several years we will experience slow growth in the South Florida economy.

In these economic times, it is important that we continue to provide a high level of service to our residents, while preserving our long term financial viability. Although the local economy has made strides, we need to continue to remain prudent and conservative in our financial management of the City.

The budget process produced a total budget of \$53,127,375 or 4.3% more than the previous year. This was due primarily to the capital project expenditures including the proposed Government Center Parking Garage. Operating costs were limited to a 1.5% increase as compared to the previous year. The budget does not include any expansion or additional services. Lower costs associated with service delivery contracts and implementing various energy saving measures throughout the organization assisted greatly in reducing our overall costs. The City’s “Go Green” efforts have been very beneficial in keeping our operating costs down.

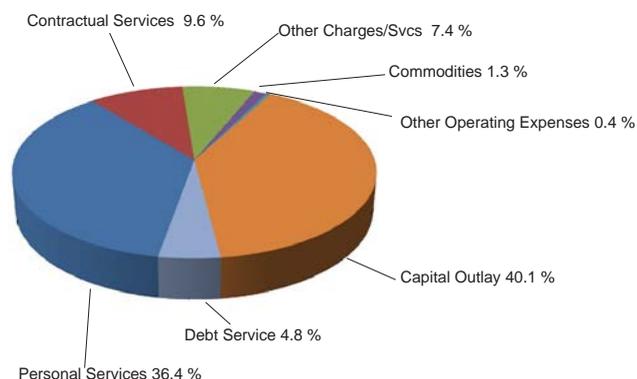
In order to balance the budget, \$3,942,564 was utilized from the City’s reserve funds in order to fund a portion of the non-recurring capital projects contained in the budget. The use of the reserve fund was pre-planned and contained in our Five Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) document. The City very prudently

set aside reserves during better economic conditions. The key to our long-term fiscal stability is to ensure that the amount used from the reserves is kept to a minimum and in accordance with the CIP. Every effort should be made to ensure fund balances are only utilized to fund non-recurring capital projects and not annual operating costs.

## Some of the major points emphasized in the proposed budget are as follows:

- For the 17th year, no property tax increase.
- Total expenditures in all funds increased by 4.3%.
- The operating cost increases were held to less than 2.0% without reducing current service levels or laying off employees.
- Approximately \$3,943,000 was utilized from the City’s reserve funds to balance the budget and fund non-recurring capital projects such as \$3.3 million for the Government Center Parking Garage Project.
- Funds Phase 3 of upgrading the street lighting on the east side of Biscayne Boulevard.
- Includes \$450,000 for traffic safety improvements that includes adding a traffic signal at the intersection of NE 185th Street and NE 28th Court and a new turning lane at N Country Club Drive and NE 34th Avenue.
- Funds \$685,000 to resurface the north portion of Country Club Drive.
- Continues to implement and update technology enhancements that develop our “Electronic Government” to allow the public to interact more easily and conveniently with the City and to automate City operations.
- Continues contracting most maintenance functions, engineering, plan review and inspection services, as well as the operation of the Arts & Cultural Center to the private sector.
- Funds police equipment needs from laptop computers to new police vehicles in the amount of \$864,400.
- Includes \$200,000 to upgrade the City’s drainage system.
- Continues to adopt “Go Green” initiatives in order to save energy, conserve precious natural resources and reduce our impact on climate change.

## Category Summary by Percentage



**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Founders Day**

The 17th Annual Founders Day will be held on **Sunday, November 11, 2012** from **Noon – 5 PM** at **Founders Park, 3105 NE 190 Street**. Enjoy Aventura’s “Salute to our Veterans and Troops” with a variety of lawn games, bingo, card games, a toddler play area, and activities including arts and crafts for all ages, fun hairstyling, face painting, rock climbing, and watching the nationally televised Sunday football game on HDTVs.

Join us for continuous entertainment including live music and see who will be the next Aventura Star as the Aventura Star Talent competition takes the stage! Sample great food from the various food trucks at the Aventura Café and the new sweets ‘n treats area. Come celebrate Founders Day with the entire family!

Parking and shuttle service will be available at the Harbour Centre beginning at 11:30 AM. The Aventura Express will operate from 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

**Halloween Harvest**

Join us on **Sunday, October 28, 2012** for a howling good time at this year’s Halloween Harvest event featuring tricks, treats, and more! This family fun event is located at the **Community Recreation Center, 3375 NE 188 Street**, from **1 - 4 PM** and is the perfect way for kids to experience Halloween in a safe and enjoyable environment. The afternoon will be spent playing games, trick or treating, journeying through the Halloween fun maze, and showing off your costume at the costume parade.

Parking and shuttle service to the Community Recreation Center will be available at the Harbour Centre beginning at 1 PM. The Harbour Centre is located at the corner of NE 29 Avenue and NE 188 Street.

**Veterans Day**

**Sunday, November 11, 2012** at **10 AM**, the City of Aventura will be recognizing and remembering all the brave men and women who have served in the armed forces. Please plan to join City officials, community leaders, veterans, heroes and neighbors at the **Aventura Government Center located at 19200 West Country Club Drive** for this important ceremony.

**PROGRAMS**

**Active Adult Programs: Trips and Tours**

The City of Aventura has three exciting trips for the fall 2012 season. Miami City Ballet at the Adrienne Arsht Center on **Sunday, October 21, 2012** (matinee performance); “Americana Quilts” at the Boca Museum of Art featuring the 9/11 National Tribute Quilt on loan from the Folk Art Museum followed by dinner at the Mason Jar Café on **Wednesday, November 28, 2012**; and the New World Symphony Orchestra rehearsal and docent tour of the New World Center on **Thursday, December 13, 2012**. Seats are still available for the November and December trips.

Our next registration in December will include “Other Desert Cities” at the Actors’ Playhouse on **Wednesday, January 23, 2013** (matinee performance); “Waist Watchers” the Musical at The Plaza Theatre (formerly Florida Stage Door Theatre) on **Wednesday, February 27, 2013**; and “War Horse” at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts on **Wednesday, May 15, 2013** (matinee performance).

**Teacher Planning Days**

When school is out, the adventures begin! The City of Aventura offers fun-filled days of activities for children ages 5-14 at the **Community Recreation Center, 3375 NE 188 Street**. Spend the day participating in games, arts & crafts, special events and more! The next Teacher Planning Day

is scheduled for **Friday, October 26, 2012**, and themed *Magnificent Mystery*. The day begins at 7:30 AM and ends at 6 PM. Fees include all activities, supplies and lunch. Resident fee is \$43 and non-resident fee is \$52.

**Winter Camp**

**December 24 – 28, 2012 and December 31, 2012 – January 4, 2013**

Don’t be late to the “Whimsical Wonderland” held at the City of Aventura Community Recreation Center. Join us as we take the journey through wonderland celebrating everyone’s un-birthdays while participating in the Mad Hatter Tea Party. Winter Camp is available for children ages 5-14 at the **Community Recreation Center, 3375 NE 188 Street**, from **7:30 AM – 6 PM**. The cost for residents is \$296 for the two week session or \$153 for 1 week session.

*Note: Camp will end at 12:30 PM on Monday, December 24, 2012 and Monday, December 31, 2012. Camp will not be in session on Tuesday, December 25, 2012 and Tuesday, January 1, 2013.*

For more information on any of the City of Aventura special events, programs, parks or athletics, contact the Aventura Community Services Department at **305-466-8930** or visit us on the web at [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com).





### Community Recreation Center (CRC)

Members enjoy a variety of benefits including an indoor basketball court, a technical center, a fitness room with a waterfront view, a variety of classes including free classes and activities for all ages. Membership includes free classes in yoga, bridge, body-sculpting, mahjong and strength circuit.

### Trips & Tours Membership Special

During the months of August – December, CRC members who register for any of the Trips and Tours programs will receive one extra month on their Community Recreation Center membership. Sign up today, space is limited!

### CITY PARKS

#### Fall Park Hours

Through November 3, 2012:

8 AM – 7 PM

Starting Sunday, November 4, 2012:

8 AM – 6 PM

Founders Park  
3105 NE 190 Street

Veterans Park  
18375 NE 31 Avenue

Waterways Park  
3301 NE 213 Street

Waterways Dog Park  
3301 NE 213 Street

### Founders Park SplashPad

Come splash around at the City of Aventura SplashPad located at Founders Park **3105 NE 190 Street**. The SplashPad is free to Aventura residents with a photo ID and \$10 plus park admission for non- residents.

Don't forget to bring your sunscreen! During the fall season, the SplashPad is open **September 8 - November 3, 2012, 10 AM - 6 PM only on weekends**.

### ATHLETICS

#### Basketball

Youth basketball registration is open and the season is offered from **October 2012 - December 2012**. Participants will have one practice and two games per week. Get ready for another exciting season! Community Recreation Center Membership not required for participation.

#### Girls Soccer

Ready, Set, GOAL! Registration is open and available for girls ages 4-14. The soccer season runs from **October 2012 - March 2013**. All participants will have one game and one practice per week. Last year we had a great season and we are ready to do it again this year!

#### Boys Soccer

The City of Aventura will be offering boys soccer from **December 2012 - February 2013**. Registration will start November 19th and the season will consist of one practice and two games per week. See you on the field for another exciting season!

#### Tennis

Throughout the fall, Founders Park is the place for tennis. Mommy and Me Tennis is offered to encourage toddlers to start enjoying tennis at an early age. QuickStart Tennis is the USTA's official play format for children ages 4-5 to learn tennis.

Junior Tennis caters to children ages 6-12 and focuses on different swings, fancy footwork and rally capabilities. Participants are grouped by age and skill level.

Private lessons are available one-on-one for up to one hour of customized instruction. This is a great way to learn all the basics at your own pace before joining a group lesson. Packages are available.

# FOUNDERS DAY WEEKEND

## NOVEMBER 9- 11, 2012



### Friday - Saturday, November 9 - 10 8 PM

**November 9:** The Broadway Tenors

**November 10:** Aventura Comedy Series  
Bobby Collins

Location: Aventura Arts & Cultural Center  
3385 NE 188 Street  
aventuracenter.org

### Sunday, November 11 10 AM

Aventura Salutes Our Veterans & Troops

Location: City of Aventura Government Center, 19200 West Country Club Drive  
cityofaventura.com

### Noon - 5 PM

Founders Day Events: Aventura Star Talent Competition, Jeopardy, arts & crafts, games and much more!

Location: Founders Park  
3105 NE 190 Street  
cityofaventura.com

# The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Turns Three, and **THIS** is the Season to See Broadway's Best to Family Fare and Foreign Cinema

The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center has become the cultural heart of the city since opening in 2010. With a wide range of shows, thousands have already enjoyed performances at Aventura's beautiful waterfront theater. Season three officially launches during Founders Day Weekend (Nov 9-11) with two outstanding shows which are a harbinger of the great entertainment to come throughout the year.

On **Friday, November 9th**, the acclaimed **Broadway Tenors** take the stage. Three of Broadway's award-winning leading men put on a full scale theatrical production reprising many of the hits they popularized on the Great White Way, plus some of the best work of the Broadway and pop music repertoire. The talented tenors include Brent Barrett, Matt Cavanaugh and Ron Bohmer. Together, these three Broadway sensations lend some New York style razzle dazzle to the Aventura Center's season roster.



The following night, on **November 10th**, comedy is king as funnyman **Bobby Collins** brings his unique brand of stand-up comedy to the Aventura Center. Bobby is known for his biting humor and spot-on observations about everyday life. Bobby joins the phenomenal Broadway Tenors for a season that is packed with such a powerhouse line up that audiences will agree: **THIS** is the season to see.

## A SEASON OF SONG

*American Idol* **Kimberley Locke** has gone on to cut hit records and perform with some of the biggest names in the business. Now the velvet-voiced singer performs in the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center (Dec 7-8). Other concert highlights include



**Hal Linden** (Feb 28), **Too Marvelous for Words – The Songs of Johnny Mercer** (Apr 7), **Lindsey Alley**, a former Mouseketeer (Jan 18-19) and TV star **Sally Struthers** (Mar 8-9).

## A SEASON OF THEATRE

Neil Simon's **Biloxi Blues** (Mar 29) is just one of the dramatic and musical theatre presentations coming this year. Joining this Tony® award-winning play on the roster is the madcap musical theater romp **Forbidden Broadway** (Jan 4-5), the visually stunning **Cirque d'Amour** (Jan 20), **Sister Robert Anne's Cabaret Class** (Feb 7-10), **Capitol Steps** (Mar 20-24), and the South Florida premiere of a riveting new work, **Wiesenthal "The Conscience of the Holocaust"** (Mar 13-17).



## A SEASON OF STORYTELLING & INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

The Aventura Center joins the adult storytelling act with **First Person Singular: Adventures in Solo Storytelling**. In this series, artists combine music, humor and powerful narrative with stories that touch hearts, souls and emotions. The stellar line-up includes four-time Grammy® Award winner **David Holt** in *Freight Trains, Jesse James, Uncle B and Me* (Jan 22) and Broadway star **Avery Sommers** in *"I'm Through with Love: The Dinah Washington Story"* (Mar 12). Sit back, take the ride, and get set to go way beyond "once upon a time" with First Person Singular.

## WHERE TO GO

3385 NE 188 Street, Aventura, FL 33180  
1-877-311-7469 | [aventuracenter.org](http://aventuracenter.org) |  
Twitter @aventuracenter

## BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

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

## CALL CENTER INFORMATION

Open Monday – Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM & Sunday, Noon-5 PM  
Toll-free 1-877-311-7469 (SHOW)  
Tickets and group sales 954-462-0222

*All programs, artists, dates and times are subject to change.*

# Municipal Elections

The City of Aventura will be conducting its municipal election on Tuesday, **November 6, 2012**. Those individuals who have qualified to run for office are:

Seat 1: Teri Holzberg, Sergio Vuguin  
Seat 3: Rosa Naccarato, Howard Weinberg  
Seat 5: Enbar Cohen, Ian Llobregat, Gary Pyott



Any questions regarding the November 6th election should be directed to Teresa M. Soroka, MMC, City Clerk/  
Municipal Supervisor of Elections at 305-466-8901 or via email at [tsoroka@cityofaventura.com](mailto:tsoroka@cityofaventura.com).

## Community Services Advisory Board

The City is accepting applications for the Community Services Advisory Board through **October 31, 2012**. All applicants must be residents of the City of Aventura.

Applications may be obtained by contacting the City Manager's Office at 305-466-8910 or at [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com).

## The New APD Training Center



Recognizing that the foundation for improved officer safety, professionalism and liability reduction relies on officer training, the City of Aventura Police Department (APD) created a professional training center equipped to effectively deliver quality classroom and practical lessons.

Located on the 3rd floor of the City of Aventura Government Center, the training center includes a state of the

art classroom which supports both in-house and hosted training events; an interactive video technology, simulation room; a defensive tactics room; and office space.

The defensive tactics training room is designed for physical skills training with protective padding on its walls and floors; multiple punching and kicking bags; a full-mirrored wall; and a television used as a source for instructional media.

The interactive and video technology room is equipped with a cutting - edge advanced training simulation device. The simulation device allows officers to interact with its custom scenario video screen where scenarios range from domestic violence situations to active shootings. Officers can deploy real life, traditional tools carried on the field such as batons, pepper spray, tasers and handguns or rifles to communicate their actions to the scenario being played on screen. The officers' actions affect the scenario's progression and cultivates his/her skills out on the force.

# AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

## CURTAIN UP!



IF YOU GO:

When: Oct 14 Noon - 3 PM

Where: **Aventura Arts & Cultural Center**  
3385 NE 188 Street, Aventura, FL

Info: Call 1-877-311-7469 | [aventuracenter.org](http://aventuracenter.org)  
Twitter @aventuracenter

Bring family and friends and enjoy a day of free activities including...The hot sounds of the **LATIN FUSION JAM** concert, Characters from *Charlotte's Web*, family fun ticket giveaways, art activities with Young at Art Children's Museum, the hottest new food truck sensation, pre-sale tickets to **KIMBERLY LOCKE**, **CAPITOL STEPS**, and more!

This event is free and open to the public. So come and experience Aventura's beautiful waterfront theater complex.



# AVENTURA *update*

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

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Miami, FL  
Permit No. 3157



## CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS

Commission meetings are held at 6 PM the first Tuesday of every month.

*Aventura Government Center*  
Commission Chambers  
19200 West Country Club Drive

For more information on upcoming Commission meetings and workshops, please visit [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com).

To confirm all meeting dates, times and locations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 305-466-8901.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CITY EVENTS

- October 28 . . . . . Halloween Harvest
- November 9 - 11 . . . . . 17th Annual Founders Day Weekend
- November 11 . . . . . Veterans Day
- November 11 . . . . . 17th Annual Founders Day
- December 24, 2012 - January 4, 2013 . . . . . Winter Camp

Follow us on Twitter [@cityofaventura](https://twitter.com/cityofaventura) & visit [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com)

### AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER FALL EVENTS

- October 14 . . . . . Curtain Up!
- October 20 . . . . . Family Fun Series: Martha Speaks
- November 2 . . . . . NWSA Repertory Dance Ensemble
- November 9 . . . . . The Broadway Tenors
- November 10 . . . . . Aventura Comedy Series: Bobby Collins
- November 11 . . . . . Marta Brankovich, Classical Piano
- November 13 . . . . . Foreign Film Series: Chinese Take-Away
- November 17 . . . . . Family Fun Series: Charlotte's Web
- November 19 . . . . . South Florida Symphony: Lara St. John
- December 7-8 . . . . . My American Idols with Kimberly Locke
- December 9 . . . . . Miami Int'l Piano Festival: Jorge Luis Prats

Follow us on Twitter [@aventuracenter](https://twitter.com/aventuracenter) & visit [aventuracenter.com](http://aventuracenter.com)