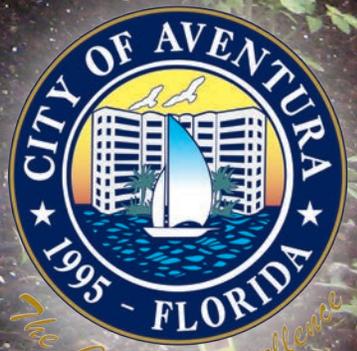


# *The* AVENTURA



ANNUAL REPORT

# 2012



AVENTURAMALL.COM

AVENTURA MALL

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS



# AVENTURA

## CITY OF EXCELLENCE SCHOOL



### Our Mission

"A"  
Rated  
School

*We believe that we have a responsibility to create a school climate that enables every individual to feel cared for, respected and to act as contributing members of the school culture. All students can learn and will be encouraged to strive for academic excellence and personal growth that will allow them to be productive and active members of society.*

**Aventura City of Excellence School**

3333 NE 188th Street  
Aventura, FL 33180  
305-466-1499

# AVENTURA

## ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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**Annette Gonzalez**  
and  
**IT Director**  
**Karen Lanke**

Special thanks to Sara Fiedelholz



# City Commission



**Susan Gottlieb**  
Mayor



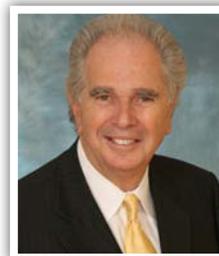
**Teri Holzberg**  
Commissioner, Seat 1



**Michael Stern**  
Commissioner, Seat 2



**Howard Weinberg**  
Commissioner, Seat 3



**Billy Joel**  
Commissioner, Seat 4



**Enbar Cohen**  
Commissioner, Seat 5



**Luz Urbáez Weinberg**  
Commissioner, Seat 6

# Office of the Mayor

19200 West Country Club Drive  
Aventura, FL 33180





Dear City of Aventura Resident:

It is my privilege as your Mayor to present the City's Annual Report for 2012. It has been eight 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.

I am pleased to report that after years of urging the County by your Aventura City Commission, the construction of the replacement facility for Northeast Miami-Dade County Library branch is well underway. The new building is being constructed on the site of the previous facility which was destroyed by Hurricane Wilma in 2005 and later demolished. At more than 26,000 square feet, the new library will include an exterior covered deck, vestibule, two courtyards, a 100-seat auditorium, two conference rooms, a coffee shop and separate reading rooms for adults, young adults and children. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of the year. The City Commission has been meeting with County staff on a regular basis to insure that this project stays on schedule.

Responding to the tragedy in Connecticut and the senseless shooting of innocent children, your City Commission recently unanimously passed a resolution supporting the adoption of uniform federal legislation to accomplish a reduction in gun violence. The City Commission is deeply concerned that the health, safety and welfare of all Americans, including residents of this City, is imperiled by the proliferation of tragic incidents of gun violence.

In our continued efforts to foster community involvement, last year the City held Aventura Government 101 - A Citizen's Academy. The Academy, presented in eight sessions over a two-month period, was designed to provide a learning forum for citizens to become more familiar with the City of Aventura Government, improve communications between citizens and government, as well as foster citizen involvement. Thirty two residents participated in the Academy. Two of them went on to be elected to the City Commission last year. November 2014 will bring many changes to your City of Aventura. The Mayor and three Commission seats will be empty due to term limits. This will alter the makeup of your City Commission, as the majority of the members will be new. I urge all residents who might be interested in serving the community to attend City Commission meetings and workshops. Familiarize yourselves with relevant issues,

policies and procedures. We will have another Citizen's Academy next year but the time to be engaged and energized is now. Aventura is our home and we want what is best for our residents as we go forward into the future. Please stay informed and get involved!!

In March 2012, the City held its annual Go Green Symposium for residents and condominium managers to learn how the City of Aventura is going green in its operations while discovering ways to establish or enhance their own Go Green initiatives. The City recognizes those businesses and condominiums that developed and implemented programs to reduce energy consumption and encouraged more recycling. I invite you to attend this year's event scheduled for April 18, 2013.

Based on the recommendation of your City Commission, recently, the Florida Department of Transportation added bike lanes to the Lehman Causeway that will connect the bike paths in our city to Collins Avenue. Along with our free shuttle bus service, we continue to look for alternatives to limit the number of vehicles using our roadways.

The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center began its third season in November 2012 with the "Curtains Up" open house and Founders Day weekend events. The season includes a variety of shows and events scheduled for the year. In our second season, the Center almost doubled the number of ticket buyers and expanded the number of days the facility was booked. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for continuing to embrace the Center and attending the numerous shows. We will continue to work towards improved programming that is reflective of the various suggestions made by the members of the community. I invite you to participate in the Center's fundraising projects; "Walk of the Arts" and "Honor Roll" which gives residents and businesses a chance to support local cultural programs while becoming part of Aventura history.

As we begin 2013, 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 the City of Aventura.

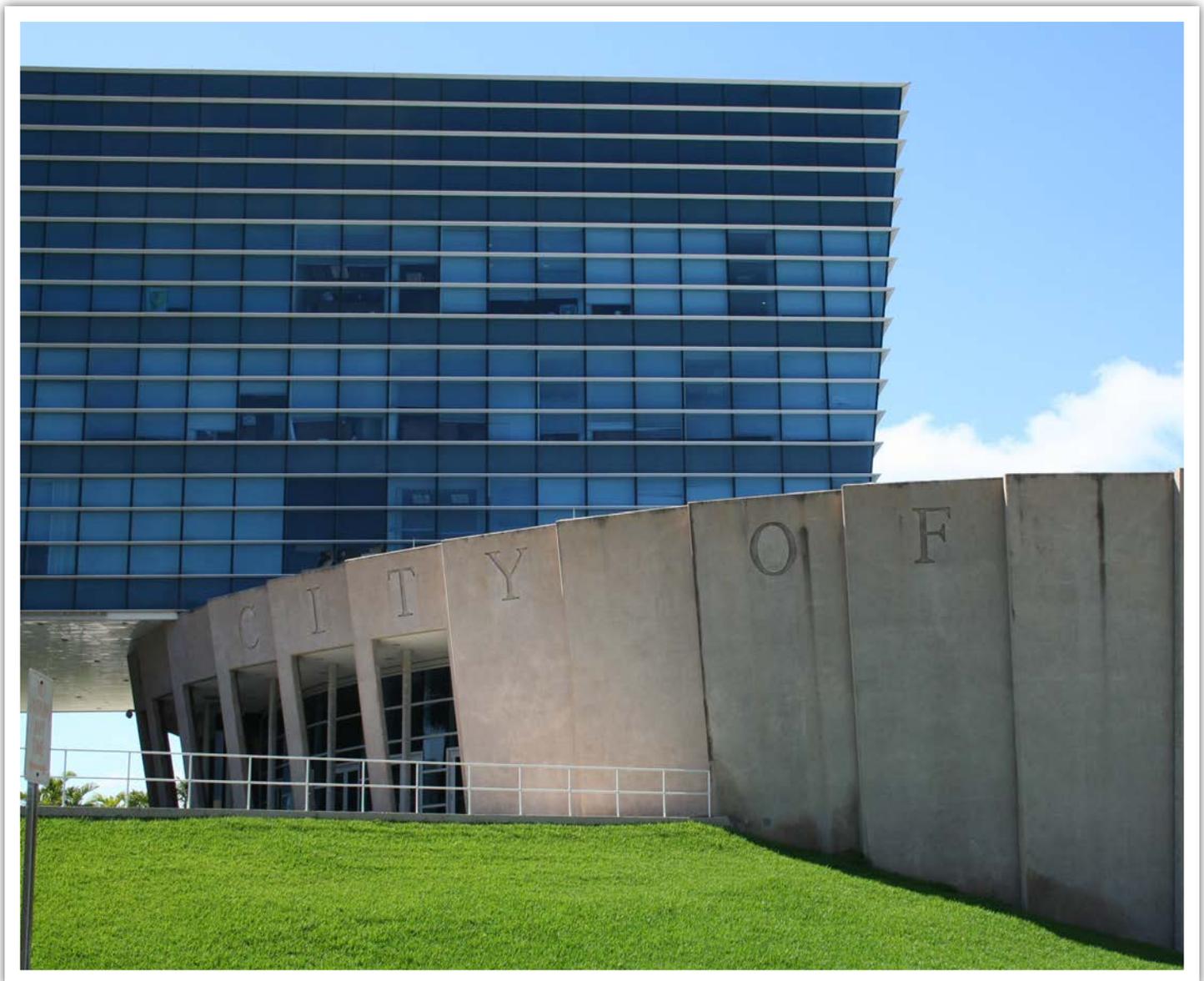
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Gottlieb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Gottlieb  
Mayor

# Office of the City Manager

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





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

communicate with you the achievements of the past and our plans for the upcoming year.

After four consecutive years of decline due to the economic recession, the City's taxable value has increased this past year and overall property values are beginning to stabilize. Last year the City experienced a 3% increase in property values. The new value of \$7.501 billion is still sharply down from the pre-recession value of \$9.609 billion. Recently, we have witnessed positive signs that the local economy has shown some improvement. Many of the shopping centers along Biscayne Boulevard have completed major renovations and added new stores. New residential construction is on the upswing for the first time in five years.

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

The crime rate for 2012 decreased by more than 2% when compared to the prior year. The City is proud of the efforts of our Police Department. 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.

During this past year, the City continued to focus on maintaining and protecting its infrastructure by completing several capital projects. In our continued efforts to improve drainage around the City, projects including road resurfacing were completed this past year along NE 191st Street, NE 188th Avenue and NE 31st Avenue. The second phase of installing more efficient decorative street lighting along the eastside of Biscayne Boulevard was recently completed. The remaining portions of Biscayne Boulevard will be completed in phases over the next two years. Additional bus shelters were installed along Country Club Drive. Over 25,000 riders a month utilize the City's free shuttle bus service to travel to their destinations throughout the City.

The following capital improvement projects are scheduled for completion in 2013:

- ▶ Traffic signal installation at the intersection of NE 185th Street & NE 28th Court.
- ▶ Resurfacing of the northern portion of Country Club Drive roadway.
- ▶ Construction of a new right turn lane at the intersection of Country Club Drive and NE 34th Avenue to improve traffic flow.
- ▶ Phase III of installing more efficient decorative street lighting along the east side of Biscayne Boulevard.
- ▶ Construction of a parking garage that will address parking needs at the Government Center and Founders Park.

The City's charter school completed a successful ninth year and scored an "A" on the School Performance Grade issued by the State of Florida. ACES ranked 2nd in both the state and county on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test for K-8 schools. The school administration, staff, teachers, parents and students should be commended for a job well done. The students at ACES have also been recognized for their fundraising efforts on behalf of local, state and international organizations.

Last year, the City launched a major overhaul to its website to address input from the community by upgrading the technology and producing a more user friendly experience. We now have over 40,000 visitors a month viewing the City's website. Residents can also view the status of building permits and inspections on the City's website. The City has embraced new technology and social media to improve communications and sharing important information with our community. At this time, we have over 3,300 Twitter followers and many of you have subscribed to the "MyAventura" email notification service.

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

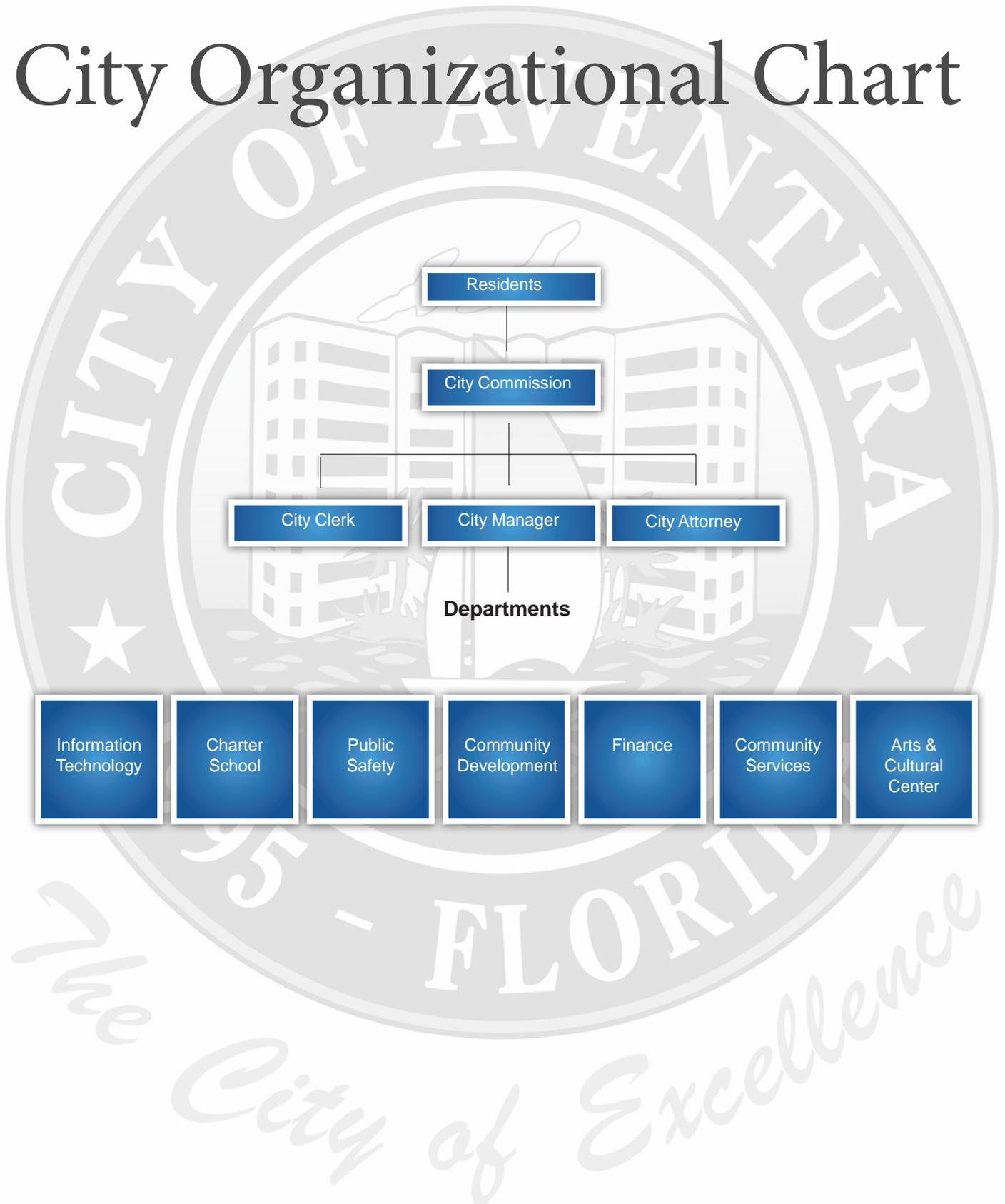
As we look forward to 2013, we are committed to continue to provide quality services to the community while maintaining a low tax rate. I hope you enjoy reading about the progress of your community, the City of Excellence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Soroka". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM, City Manager

# City Organizational Chart





# CITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

# Public Safety

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



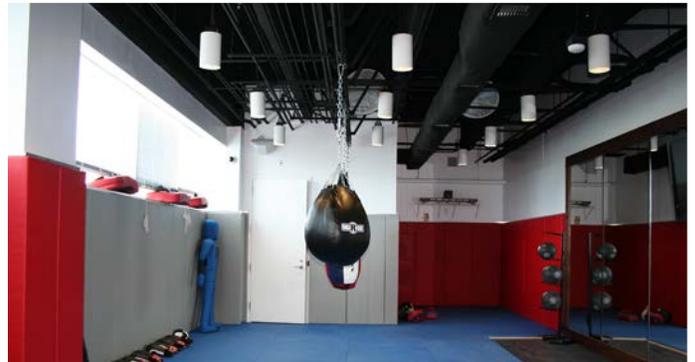
The City of Aventura Police Department (APD) is committed to its mission, and it is recognized as an outstanding police department within the law enforcement community of Miami-Dade County. APD's mission is to provide a full-service, community-oriented police department; respond to all calls for service in a timely and professional manner; ensure all crimes are thoroughly investigated and those who are arrested are successfully prosecuted; and to interact with the community to create partnerships that enhance law enforcement and quality of life issues. With such dedication, both sworn and civilian men and women perform their job duties in a superior manner.

In the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Aventura Police Department implemented programs to support crime suppression and training. Located on the third floor of Government Center, the agency completed a training center consisting of a computerized classroom, a defensive tactics area, office space for the Personnel & Training Unit and a computerized firearms/less-than-lethal weapons training area. Training is the cornerstone of professional law enforcement and every effort is made to provide constant professional training for Aventura's police officers and civilian personnel.

APD has been working on several projects for 2013 to upgrade and enhance the technology servicing the department including the 9-1-1 system, CAD/RMS system and police radio system. The system upgrades will not only enhance the safety of our officers, but ensure the delivery of efficient and professional public safety services to City of Aventura residents and visitors.

The Department supports children and community programs such as the DARE Program, Red Ribbon Week, National Night Out, Annual Food Drive, and security surveys for businesses and residences through the Aventura Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit. In conjunction with the Salvation Army, the Department also conducts a holiday toy drive where the APD supplies over 250 toys for underprivileged children.

In 2012, APD was budgeted for 83 sworn employees and 29 civilians. The crime rate for January – December 2012 is based on Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Total Index Offenses and shows an overall decrease of all crimes by 2%.



# Out in Force

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

**T**he City of Aventura Police Department provides a variety of community programs focusing on crime and drug prevention, emergency preparedness, community safety, and involvement.

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

- ▶ The Drug Abuse Resistance and Education (DARE) program provides the life skills children and teens need to avoid involvement with drugs, gangs and violence.
- ▶ By wearing red ribbons and participating in community anti-drug events sponsored by APD, the young people of Aventura pledge to live drug-free lives during the annual Red Ribbon Week, the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program.
- ▶ National Night Out is a program promoting City of Aventura neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in the fight for a safer nation.
- ▶ The Aventura Safety Kids program teaches online safety to children and brings awareness to parents and teachers about children's online activities, trends and behaviors.
- ▶ The City of Aventura works in a partnership with the Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management to help prepare the community for large-scale emergency events which may impact police services and the availability of resources for a prolonged period of time.

In addition, this past year, a successful program was implemented where officers work in conjunction with the City of Aventura Code Compliance Department to respond to community related issues and correct code violations.



# Be Bike Smart



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

Here are a few [safety tips](#) while enjoying a bike ride:

# 1

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

# 2

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

# 3

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

# 4

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

# 5

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



# Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES)

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



**A**ventura City of Excellence School (ACES), the first municipally-run charter school in Miami-Dade County, serves nearly 1,000 students from kindergarten through eighth grade.

ACES continues to lead the way in educational excellence with a challenging core curriculum, complemented by a “whole child” approach. The curriculum supports student interests and individual development which includes character education and community involvement by both the parents and students.

In 2012, ACES reached several major achievements.

- ▶ ACES earned an “A” rating for the 8th consecutive year. ACES is currently the second highest performing K – 8 combination school in the state of Florida as measured by the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test.
- ▶ The state of Florida recognized ACES as one of the states “highest performing charter schools”.
- ▶ ACES expanded its technology to include three mobile iPad labs used in all grade levels and subjects.
- ▶ ACES students outperformed all area high schools in algebra, geometry and biology as measured by end-of-course exams.
- ▶ The middle school boys’ soccer team won 2nd place in the Independent Athletic League championship, and the boys’ basketball team competed in the semi finals.

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

In 2012, students explored their interests and talents through a variety of unique programs. At the middle school level, students had an opportunity to enroll in gifted classes, high school courses, and choose from a group of elective courses such as art, drama, dance, journalism, TV production, guitar and physical education/health. Elementary students attended an assortment of special classes including art, music, physical education, dance, media, technology, and Spanish. Intramural sports offerings included volleyball, basketball and tennis. In addition to clubs, ACES students participated in Student Government Association, National Junior Honor Society, Chorus, and in the City of Aventura’s special events such as Founders Day, Veterans Day, and Arbor Day.

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



# Office of the City Clerk

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





**T**he **City Clerk** serves as the City of Aventura's corporate secretary. The clerk is the official records keeper and custodian of the City seal. The City Clerk is a constitutional officer appointed by and reports to the City Commission.

In 2012, the City Clerk's Office prepared: 33 sets of minutes and 25 public notices; published 21 legal advertisements; drafted 8 ordinances and 29 resolutions; responded to 1,817 lien requests; and prepared 460 welcome letters to new residents.

**Responsibilities of the City Clerk include:**

- ▶ Recording the meeting minutes and all official actions of the City Commission and its Advisory Boards.
- ▶ Attesting to and maintaining custody of all records of the City including ordinances, resolutions, contracts, deeds, etc.
- ▶ Publishing and distributing public notices, as required by law.
- ▶ Administering the publication and supplementation of the City Code of Ordinances.
- ▶ Serving as the municipal Supervisor of Elections, conducting all City elections in accordance with city, county and state laws.

- ▶ Establishing and coordinating the City's records management program in compliance with Florida state law.
- ▶ Responding to public records requests and lien searches.
- ▶ Scheduling code enforcement hearings and providing clerical support to Special Master.
- ▶ Providing clerical support to Commissioners and assisting the City Manager with special projects.
- ▶ Administering oaths and providing full notary services.
- ▶ Serving as Financial Disclosure Liaison.
- ▶ Preparation of proclamations, certificates of appreciation, appointment and attendance.

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

# Finance Department

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



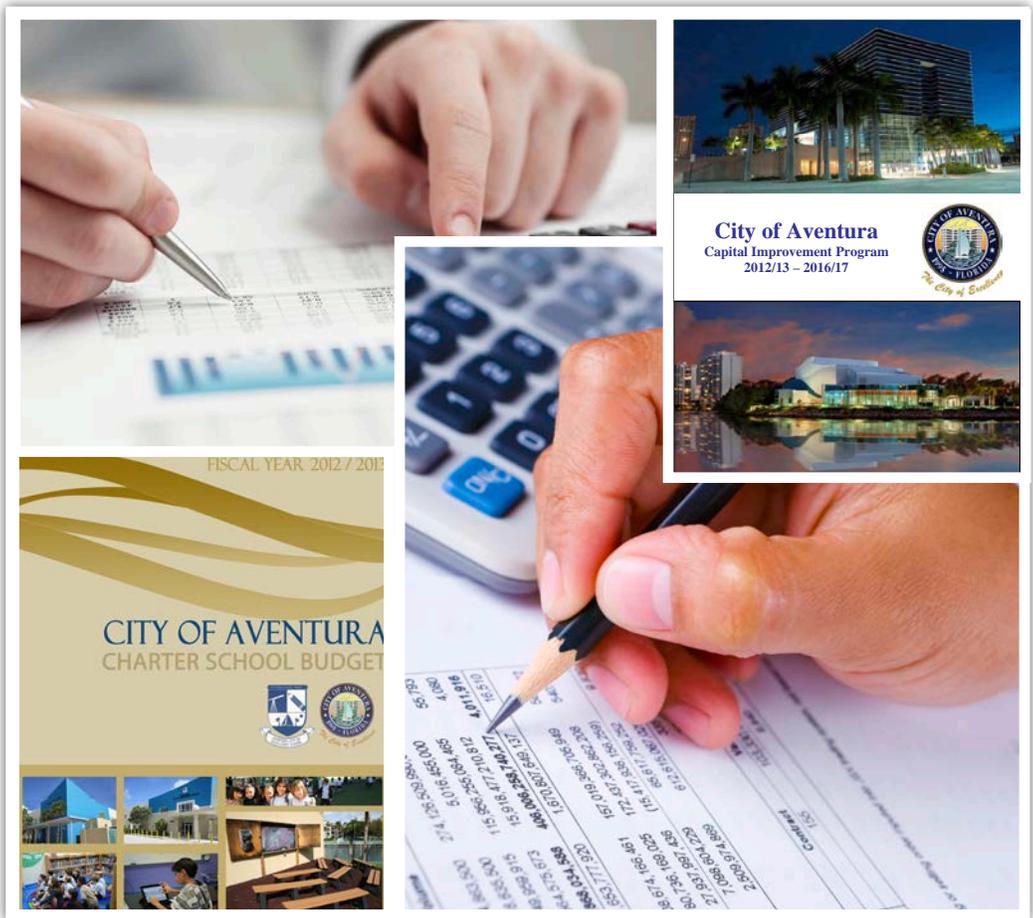
The City of Aventura Finance Department provides overall financial and administrative support to the City's operating departments. Finance's primary functions include: accounting, budget control, purchasing, risk management, payroll, cash management, and debt administration.

The department's mission is to establish and maintain effective internal controls, safeguard the City's assets and maintain the City's strong financial condition by conducting fiscally prudent business operations. Additionally, Finance provides accurate financial information to the City Manager; city departments; elected officials; outside auditors; local, state and federal agencies; and Aventura citizens in a timely and efficient manner.

In March 2012, Finance issued the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for its 16th consecutive year, the City was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The certificate is awarded based on a government's requirement to publish an easily readable and efficiently organized annual report satisfying both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

**Finance's responsibilities include:**

- ▶ Providing administrative, operational and financial assistance to the City Manager and staff.
- ▶ Providing accounting, accounts payable, payroll, budget, grant monitoring and revenue collection functions.
- ▶ Monitoring and projecting the City's fund balances.
- ▶ Providing analysis, preparation and assistance with the production of all financial reports – including the City's Annual Budget, the CAFR and the Aventura City of Excellence School Special Purpose Financial Report.



- ▶ Monitoring and developing financial strategies to ensure fiscal solvency and financial statement integrity through the maintenance of proper internal controls.
- ▶ Monitoring and implementing reporting requirements recommended by the State Auditor General, the GFOA and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).
- ▶ Maintaining the effective operation of the City's insurance programs for general and automobile liability, property insurance and workers' compensation, and coordinating the City's Safety Committee meetings.
- ▶ Overseeing the cash/investment and debt management functions.

Recently, the City was able to take advantage of a very favorable interest rate environment and in June of 2012, the City refunded (refinanced) the original Series 2002 Revenue Bonds with a Bank Loan that resulted in a more than \$2.5M net present value savings (NPV) over the life of the loan.

# CITY OF AVENTURA Summer Camp

June 10 - August 16  
2013



**Discovery**  
ages 5-8

**Session:**

June 10 - August 16



**Explorer**  
ages 9-14

**Session:**

June 10 - August 16



**Sports**  
ages 7-14

**Session:**

June 10 - June 28

July 1 - July 19

July 22 - August 9



**Travel**  
ages 9-14

**Session:**

June 10 - June 28

July 1 - July 19

July 22 - August 9

Fees vary for weekly and full sessions as well as for residents and non-residents. For details, visit [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com) or contact the City of Aventura **Community Recreation Center 305-466-3883**.

[cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com)  [cityofaventura](https://twitter.com/cityofaventura)

Community Recreation Center 3375 NE 188 St., Aventura, FL 33180





# LIVING

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

# Community Services

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

The mission of the City of Aventura **Community Services Department** is to provide its residents with quality service, parks, facilities, events, programs and activities reflecting the City's standards of excellence.

The Department provides recreational and leisure activities, as well as management of City parks, Community Recreation Center, facilities, right-of-ways, streets, landscaping, beautification efforts and the Aventura Express bus shuttle service. All is accomplished via Community Services' two major operating divisions: Public Works, and Parks and Recreation.

The Community Services Department continues to use modern practices to respond to the needs of the City's residents.

The **Public Works** Division is responsible for:

- ▶ Maintaining the City's landscaping, streets, right-of-ways, storm water drainage, decorative street-lighting, banners and informational signage, public buildings and schools.
- ▶ Managing and maintaining all City owned buildings and facilities.
- ▶ Acting as a liaison to public utility service providers and responds to citizen concerns related to the division.
- ▶ Issuing Public Works permits to utilities performing improvements on the public right-of-ways and reviewing engineering plans.



**Community Recreation Center**  
305-466-3883

**Founders Park**  
305-466-8556

**Waterways Park**  
305-466-8008

- ▶ Mapping resources with an automated Geographic Information System (GIS) to provide accurate information regarding zoning, land parcels and infrastructure.

The Parks and Recreation Division is responsible for:

- ▶ Operating Founders Park, Founders Park SplashPad, Waterways Park, Waterways Dog Park and Veterans Park.
- ▶ Youth and adult athletic leagues and programs.
- ▶ Special events and programs fostering community pride and spirit including: Arbor Day, July 4th Fireworks, Halloween, Veterans Day, and Founders Day.
- ▶ Cultural arts, theater and leisure programs designed for seniors which offers trips and tours to theaters, museums, historical places, art festivals and area restaurants. Pre-arranged activities include day trips to visit area museums, theatrical shows, and shopping excursions to Sawgrass Mills Mall or the Festival Flea Market.
- ▶ Community Recreation Center programming including arts and crafts, music, dance, aerobics, yoga and more.

In 2012, on average, 817 people per day visited a City park, the Community Recreational Center or participated in a recreational activity.

City parks provide Aventura residents a wide variety of amenities and outdoor recreation opportunities to refresh, relax and recharge including: athletics, a water playground, picnics, and exercising.

Youth athletics are provided year round and include: tennis, soccer, basketball, flag football, softball, t-ball, and Little League Baseball. In addition, the City also offers adult softball leagues and tennis programs.

In 2012:

- ▶ Over 900 children participated in the City of Aventura Youth Athletics.



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

In 2012:

- ▶ Over 76,000 people visited the CRC.
- ▶ Over 850 children registered for the 2012 Summer Camp program including Sports Camp and Travel Camp.
- ▶ Over 3,700 active seniors and adults participated in activities ranging from trips to local museums, attractions, performances and restaurants to Mahjong, health and wellness lectures, fitness, dance, socials, and lectures offered at the CRC.

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

- ▶ For its 15th consecutive year, the City was named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation and was recognized for this honor at the City of Aventura Arbor Day celebration.
- ▶ Over 240 seniors danced the night away at the annual Senior Prom.
- ▶ Independence Day was celebrated with a special aerial display of fireworks viewable from any location along Country Club Drive.
- ▶ Over 2,700 children and their parents enjoyed seasonal activities in a safe environment at the annual Halloween Harvest.

- ▶ The 17th annual City of Aventura Founders Day Weekend celebration consisted of world-class performances at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center, a Veterans Day ceremony with a special acknowledgement to all of all veterans followed by a full day of Founders Day festivities.

The Aventura Express Shuttle Bus serves Aventura's busy lifestyle with a convenient schedule to better serve the community with five ADA compliant and air conditioned buses. In 2012, approximately 267,000 passengers utilized the Aventura Express Shuttle Bus on five routes that operate 6 days per week throughout the city.



2012 Community Services Department Attendance Summary

**Park and Community Recreation Center Attendance**

Founders Park including the SplashPad	138,500
Waterways Park	61,100
Community Recreation Center Programs, Classes and Activities	76,100

**TOTAL PARK / CRC Attendance 275,700**

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

Arbor Day, Senior Prom, 4th of July, Halloween, Founders Day, Veterans Day	25,865
Winter, Spring and Summer Camps	973
Teacher Planning Days (Total 11)	178
Active Adult Trips and Tours (Total 10)	266
Tennis, Softball, T-Ball, Soccer, Basketball, Flag Football, Baseball	1,208

**TOTAL Event / Program Attendance 28,490**

# 2013 City of Aventura Calendar of Events

March - May

Little League, T-Ball, Softball and Baseball  
at Waterways and Founders Parks

April 18

GO GREEN Symposium  
at Aventura Government Center



April 26

Arbor Day  
at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center

May 18

Senior Prom  
at the CRC

June 3

Summer session for classes and programs begin



June 7

Teacher Planning Day  
at the CRC



June 10

Summer camps begin  
at the CRC

July 4

Fireworks at 9 PM  
along East and West Country Club Drives

August 26

Fall session for classes and programs begin

August - October

Youth Flag Football  
at Waterways Park



September 5

Teacher Planning Day  
at the CRC

October 28

Fall II session for classes and programs begin

October - December

Youth Basketball  
at the CRC

October 2013 - February 2014

Girls Soccer  
at Waterways and Founders Parks



October 25

Teacher Planning Day  
at the CRC

October 27

Halloween Harvest  
at the CRC

November 3

18th Annual Founders Day  
at Founders Park



November 8

Teacher Planning Day  
at the CRC

November 11

Veterans Day Ceremony  
at the Aventura Government Center

December 2013- February 2014

Boys Soccer  
at Waterways and Founders Parks

December 23, 2013 -

January 3, 2014

Winter Camp at the CRC

For more information,  
visit [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com), or follow  
us on Twitter  @cityofaventura

Community Services Department  
305-466-8930

Community Recreation Center(CRC)  
305-466-3883

Waterways Park  
305-466-8008

Founders Park  
305-466-8556

*All dates and times subject to  
change.*

# Come out to Play

The City of Aventura is home to plenty of leisure, exercise and fun. Aventura has parks, tennis courts, indoor & outdoor basketball courts, playgrounds, fitness trails, dog park, the SplashPad and open play fields.

On the City's north side is the 7-acre Waterways Park. The park has a covered playground, fitness trail with stations, an outdoor basketball court and multipurpose lighted athletic fields. Shade can be found under the covered patio and outdoor shelter.

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

The City's largest park is the 11-acre Founders Park. The northern part of the park features the popular interactive water feature playground, the SplashPad. It is a water playground for children and is open spring through early fall. The park is free for residents. Founders Park is also home to a multipurpose athletic field. In November 2010, the park's playground was completely remodeled with brand new equipment and four sunshelters.

The southern portion of Founders Park is Founders Park Bayside featuring passive lawn area facing the Intracoastal Waterway with a walkway.

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

Named after the City of Aventura's first mayor, Arthur I. Snyder Park is a beautifully landscaped ½ acre waterfront park adjacent to the Community Recreation Center. The park features covered areas and an outdoor plaza with an open quadrangle play area adorned with trees to provide shade.

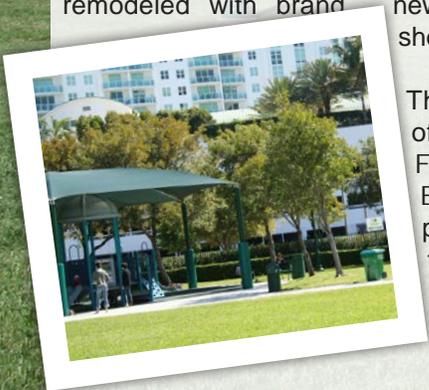


The 3.1 mile Don Soffer Exercise Trail circles the Turnberry Isle Resort Golf Course along Country Club Drive, and it is a popular location to walk, run, jog, rollerblade and bike. The trail consists of a 10 foot wide paved ADA accessible path landscaped with an abundance of shade trees, ground lighting,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

Aventura's Community Recreation Center (CRC) offers a wide range of indoor activities. The CRC offers a full-size gym including a collegiate indoor basketball court; fitness center; technology center and a myriad of classrooms to support the recreation center's classes, activities, programs and camps. The CRC has a fee-based membership which is required to use the facilities and participate in classes. The membership fees are based on household size and age groups.

The Activities Magazine is the official guide for all recreational activities in the City of Aventura. It offers a complete catalog of current classes, activities, programs, camps, special events, park guide, and registration information. The Activities Magazine is seasonally published online and available at [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com).

Get outdoors and enjoy the parks! For more information, visit [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com) or follow the City on Twitter @cityofaventura.



# Get in the Game

A quick drive around Aventura shows this is a community with a zest for sports. The City of Aventura features multipurpose athletic fields suitable for soccer, football, baseball and softball; an outdoor basketball court, as well as a lighted field for evening games at Waterways Park; and tennis courts at Founders Park. Aventura's athletic fields, courts and gym are utilized to support the City's sport related classes, clinics and athletic programs which consist of a variety of organized team and individual sports.

From fall to spring, children have the opportunity to participate in a variety of athletic sports including: **flag football, basketball, girls' soccer, boys' soccer, tennis, girls' softball, and the Aventura Little League.** Aventura's team sports follow the National Standards for Youth Sports to raise awareness through leadership and education conducive to teaching skills, physical fitness and positive self-esteem.

The City provides special sport skills training sessions for young athletes throughout the year. Specialized sessions include soccer skills, strength and conditioning, Junior Punters and Football Funatics.



*Girls' soccer is available for ages 4-14, and the season runs October - February.*

QuickStart **Tennis** is designed to make tennis approachable for younger players ages 4-6. Junior tennis teaches the basics of the game for children ages 7-12. Private tennis lessons are also available.

Adults can get in on the sports by joining a **softball league** or participating in a round robin social setting playing tennis doubles. **Adult tennis** clinics provide instruction about all aspects of the game. Combining cardio and tennis, a new, high-energy, cardio tennis workout has been offered since 2011.

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

For details, view the Aventura Activities Magazine at [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com).

Community Recreation Center  
305-466-3883

Waterways Park  
305-466-8008

Founders Park  
305-466-8556

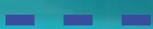
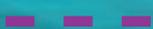


*Tennis is offered year round at Founders Park.*



For your convenience, maps are available online by visiting the residents section of [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com), or pick up a copy in the Government Center's Lobby, 19200 West Country Club Drive.

# Aventura Express Bus Service

-  Blue Express Route
-  Green Express Route
-  Red Express Route
-  Purple Express
-  Yellow Express



**When do the buses run?**

Monday - Friday:

**Blue, Green, Red, Purple:** 7:45 AM to 6:30 PM

**Yellow:** 8:45 AM to 6:30 PM

Saturday: All Routes 8:45 AM to 9:30 PM

*There is no Express Bus service on the following holidays:*

Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Year's Day.

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

Bus stops are located throughout the City and all are for drop-off and pick-up. For specific bus stop locations, visit [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com) to view and/or download the Express Bus service maps.

**May I bring my bicycle on the bus?**

Yes. All buses are equipped with bike racks.

**May I connect with county buses?**

Yes. All Express Buses stop at the Aventura Mall where you can connect with Miami-Dade and Broward County buses.

**How often does the bus come to the Aventura Mall?**

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

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

ROUTE	DAY	LAST SERVICE
All routes	Monday - Saturday	5:45 PM
Saturday Night Express bus (North route)	Saturday night	8:00 PM
Saturday Night Express bus (South route)	Saturday night	8:15 PM

**Where is the Express bus stop located at the Aventura Mall?**

The bus stop for the Express Buses is located outside Macy's east lower level entrance.

**Does the bus go to the Aventura Library?**

Yes. Take your regular Express Bus to the Aventura Mall and transfer to the Purple bus. Its first route stop is the Government Center, the temporary home for the Northeast Library Branch.

**How much does the bus cost?**

The City of Aventura offers free Express Bus service.

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

The routes cover the following areas:

**Blue** serves Northern Aventura;

**Green & Red** serve Central Aventura;

**Purple & Yellow** serve Southern Aventura.

# Aventura Green City

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

**T**he City of Aventura was named a Green Local Government at the Silver Level by the Florida Green Building Coalition in December 2010. The award was hard earned but the City's greatest accomplishment is how going green has saved energy and visibly lowered operational costs. In 2008, the City Commission officially adopted the GO GREEN Campaign which kicked off a concerted effort across City departments to make sustainability a part of their daily processes. Going green is a standard operating procedure within the City of Aventura government.

Current green practices at the City include replacing light bulbs; purchasing hybrid, electric and flexible fuel vehicles; and replacing large, energy-consuming HVAC systems with leaner and greener models and scanning documents for long term storage. The City has an environmentally preferred purchasing program providing that whenever the City purchases goods and services, the impact on the environment is considered equal with other business related factors.

The City's GO GREEN program prompted an organized effort with the community. The City's internal recycling efforts include collection at parks, the Aventura City of Excellence School and the Community Recreation Center. The public is encouraged to participate in this effort by bringing recyclables to one of these sites and drop them into the bin under the GO GREEN sign.

In September 2009, the City Commission passed an ordinance to promote a green building program for new construction. Green building practices use ecologically superior building materials and reduce waste generated during construction. Part of building green means staying green once the building is in operation using HVAC (Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning) systems and technologies promoting the conservancy of water

and energy. These methods, coupled with the use of native landscaping and natural light, can create resources for heat reduction on rooftops and energy generation for solar panels. All of these combined efforts minimize the impact on the local natural habitat and benefit the occupants of the new building. The green building program incentives are measured against the industry standard rating, the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System for New Construction.

The City of Aventura is proud of its Green Local Government Award and continues to look for additional opportunities to become a more sustainable environment. The City invites the public to join the effort and encourages participation in the annual GO GREEN Recognition Award Program for residential and commercial properties.





# ARTS & CULTURE

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

# Aventura Arts & Cultural Center

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



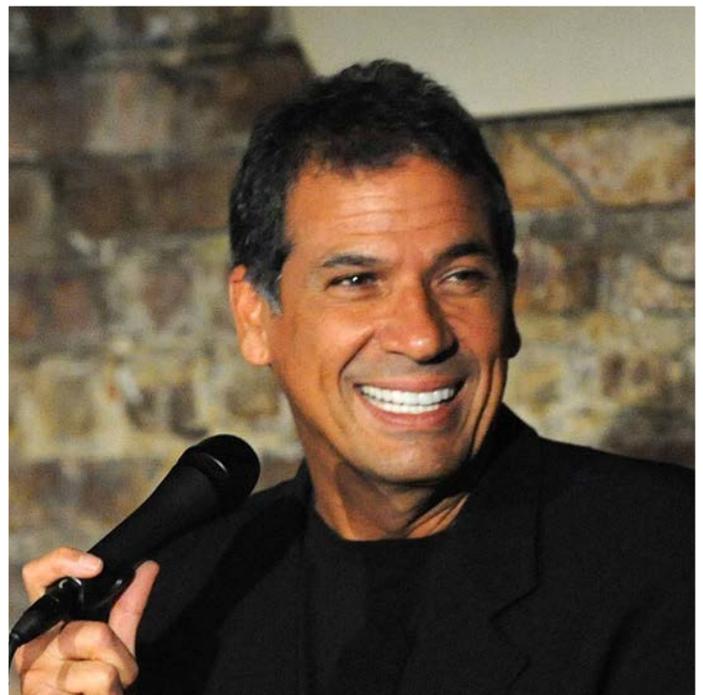
The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center (AACC) successfully completed its second season with a diversity of programming including: contemporary and Latin dance; ballet; Latin and traditional jazz; classical and contemporary music; a foreign film series; as well as shows the whole family can enjoy. Meeting its operational budget, the Center completed its second year with 176 performances and increased its attendance by 3%, surpassing 30,000 in attendance.

Under the direction of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and the Performance Project team, the AACC offered its annual summer camp. Designed to accommodate children ages 6-13, the AACC administered two sold-out camp sessions offering programs comprised of various theater elements. Campers had the opportunity to perform in four theatrical productions at the AACC including a Broadway Review, Free to Be...You and Me, Once on this Island Jr., and Peter Pan.

In order to meet its educational objective, the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center partners with the Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES) and the Broward Center for the Performing Arts Center to showcase *Smart Stage* educational programs throughout the school year. One hour *Smart Stage* matinees offer professional school-day performances for students. Performances cover themes that reinforce classroom learning and directly connect with core curriculum through literature-based shows, science and math-related productions, dramatizations of historical events and immersion into the music, dance and traditions of different cultures. In addition, the AACC hosts other educational programs including spelling bee, winter concert, drama productions, the spring talent showcase and graduation.

For the 2012-2013 season, the AACC continues its mission to provide the community with diversified programming including: Broadway Tenors, Forbidden Broadway, Capitol Steps, and additional films to the existing Aventura Foreign Film Series repertoire. To ensure exceptional and varied entertainment, the AACC also collaborates with its series presenters: the Miami International Piano Festival, Arts Ballet Theater, the Aventura Comedy Series, Ballet Etoile, and the South Florida Symphony.

- Box office hours of operation are as follows:
- ▶ Tuesday – Saturday 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM.
  - ▶ 1½ hours prior to the start of the performances.



## Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Summer Theatre Camp

American theater has a long tradition of summer stock where actors practice their craft during the off-season. Designed to provide the ultimate theatrical experience for children ages 6–13, Aventura’s young, aspiring, theatrical stars get to practice their craft at the [Aventura Arts & Cultural Center’s Summer Theatre Camp 2013](#).

The structure of Summer Theatre Camp, a partnership between the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and The Performance Project School of the Arts Team, is designed to spark interest, sharpen performance skills and develop

self-confidence.

During each four-week session, campers receive instruction in various theatrical elements including: musical theater, dance (tap, jazz, and ballet), voice, music, technical production and acting. Campers are divided into two groups according to age and prior experience. The Acting UP Program (ages 6 – 9) is for campers who are new to the performing arts. The Broadway Bound Program (ages 10 – 13) is for campers who have prior stage experience. At the end of each session, campers participate in a live theatrical performance.



The stage is set to begin inspiring tomorrow’s theatrical performers **June 24, 2013**. For more information, visit [aventuracenter.org](http://aventuracenter.org) and follow [@aventuracenter](https://twitter.com/aventuracenter) on Twitter.

## Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Frequently Asked Questions

### When is the box office open?

The box office is open Tuesday - Saturday from 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM and 1½ hours prior to the start of a performance.

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

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

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

The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center

is fully compliant with ADA rules and regulations. We have wheelchair accessible seating in rows A and L to accommodate your needs and allow you to completely enjoy the presentations. These seats are available on the website at [aventuracenter.org](http://aventuracenter.org) or can be reserved by contacting the call center at 877-311-7496.

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

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

If you believe your tickets were mailed and you did not receive them, please contact the call center at 954-462-0222 or toll free at 877-311-7469. The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center will be happy to arrange a lost ticket pass for you. To pick up your pass, present a picture ID at the box office window 1½ hours prior to curtain.

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

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

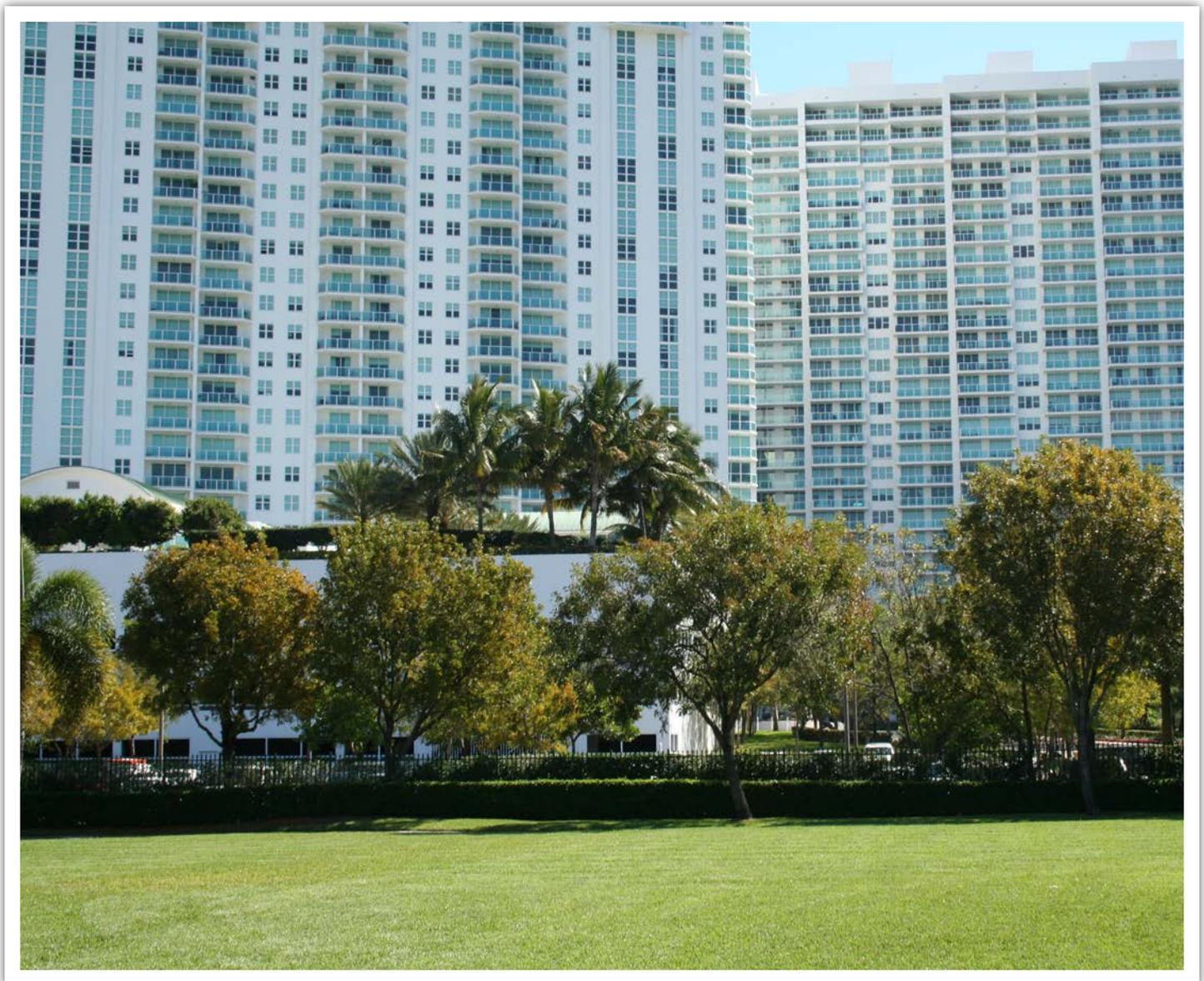


# WORKING

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

# Community Development

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



**S**triving to provide high-quality service to City of Aventura residents, business owners, developers and contractors alike, the **Community Development Department** is organized to provide “one-stop” customer service at a centralized location. The department is comprised of the Building, Local Business Tax Receipt, Planning and Zoning, and Code Compliance divisions.

The Building Division enforces the Florida Building Code by reviewing and issuing permits, inspecting all new construction and renovations in the City of Aventura. In 2012, the Building Division issued 4,615 building permits and performed 7,963 inspections. Building permits generated approximately \$1,663,161 in revenues. Inspection requests and results are available to the public via the ePermits section of the City’s website at [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com).

The Local Business Tax Receipt Division issues local business tax receipts for businesses and home occupations, as well as inspections to ensure all businesses have obtained their business tax receipt. During 2012, the division issued 2,580 local business tax receipts which generated approximately \$838,387 in revenues.

The Planning and Zoning Division processes all land development applications including: site plans, re-zonings, variances, conditional uses and comprehensive plan amendments. The City’s Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations provide a cohesive blueprint for development and redevelopment of the City. The blueprint addresses strategies to accommodate growth while maintaining neighborhood integrity, ensuring appropriate height, transitions and linkages, limiting the intensity of future development and redevelopment in a manner that is consistent with current development patterns, and minimizes further negative impacts to the City’s infrastructure and quality of life. The goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan, also referred to as the Master Plan or General Plan, are restated as specific planning and zoning regulations in the City’s Land Development Regulations. The documents are updated frequently to reflect current community goals. In 2012, there were 14 land development applications reviewed and processed by the Planning and Zoning Division.

The Code Compliance Division ensures businesses are legally operating with local business tax receipts, and assures necessary building permits are being obtained for construction at residences and businesses. Code Compliance Officers also enforce City codes such as the property maintenance ordinance, and noise and signage regulations. The Code Compliance Division issued 135 warnings and violations last year and collected approximately \$8,575.00 in fines.



## Building Permits FAQs

### When is a permit required?

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

### Are the building permit forms available online?

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

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

Yes. The ePermits system on the

City's website is available to schedule inspections and to check the status of permit applications.

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

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

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

Reviews may be expedited by submitting the following:

- ▶ A completed application, including notarized signatures of the owner and qualifier.
- ▶ Two (2) sets of plans drawn to scale and signed and sealed by a professional when required.

▶ Two (2) surveys, as required for some types of review.

▶ Two (2) sets of calculations as required by Code - these include energy calculations, heating/cooling load calculations, and/or structural load calculations.

▶ Two (2) sets of Product Approvals as required by Code - these include roofs, utility sheds, windows, exterior doors, awnings, shutters, skylights, trusses, among others.

▶ A letter from condominium association approving work being done on a unit.

▶ A letter from contractor requesting expedited review and agreeing to pay any additional costs associated with the expedited review.

## Local Business Tax Guide

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

All new Business Tax Receipt applicants require a DPERA (Department of Permitting, Environment and Regulatory Affairs) approval and a Water and Sewer Notice of Compliance per Miami Dade County. For more information visit: [miamidade.gov/pera](http://miamidade.gov/pera).

### Business Filing Requirements Include:

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

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

### Additional Requirements May Include:

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

### Penalty For Operating A Business Without Filing

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



# SUMMER Theatre Camp 2013

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN  
BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS +  
THE PERFORMANCE PROJECT SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

## 2 SESSIONS Ages 6-13

### Session 1: June 24 - July 19

### Session 2: July 22 - August 16

AVENTURA  
ARTS &  
CULTURAL  
CENTER

3385 NE 188 Street | Aventura, FL 33180  
877.311.7469

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

[@aventuracenter](https://twitter.com/aventuracenter)



# Information Technology

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



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

The IT Department performs software support and maintenance for specialized business applications and email with spam control. IT works closely with City departments to identify, select and implement cost-effective technology solutions enabling City staff to provide and deliver reliable service.

The department supports 165 desktop computers, 90 laptops, 7 touch-screen tablets and 35 servers throughout the City. Help Desk services are provided 24/7 for all City departments.

Throughout 2012, the City of Aventura continued using computer and network innovations to increase operational effectiveness. Upgrades were made to existing software applications and computer equipment incorporating new technology where appropriate.

In 2012, Information Technology completed major projects including:

- ▶ Upgrades to the public safety applications used by police officers in the field.
- ▶ Review and implementation of cloud-based application solutions when appropriate.
- ▶ Deployment of touch-screen tablet computers (iPads) for the students and faculty at Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES).
- ▶ Redesign and implementation of both the City of Aventura and ACES websites.



- ▶ Implementation of an email-marketing service to create and manage email newsletters and subscribers for ACES.

IT continues its contribution to greening efforts with its server virtualization project which allows the City to reduce the number of physical servers while increasing the number of servers available to support computer operations. Virtualization reduces electrical and air conditioning requirements in the data center resulting in lower energy use and costs.



# EGovernment

## Online Services For Speed And Convenience

The City of Aventura is deeply committed to its mission of innovative delivery of services to its community. Online services bring convenience and increased accessibility.

The City of Aventura provides several eGovernment services through its websites:

- ▶ Online Registration System (ORS) – Register for recreational activities, classes and programs.
- ▶ ePermits – Check building permits status and inspection appointments.
- ▶ MyAventura – Sign up to receive e-Notifications about the City’s latest news.
- ▶ Service Requests – Make a customer service request for City service.
- ▶ FAQs – Review a listing of city-related frequently asked questions.
- ▶ Public Records – The City’s public document repository.
- ▶ Document Central – A library of downloadable electronic forms available in PDF format.
- ▶ Online Ticket Purchase – Purchase tickets for Aventura Arts & Cultural Center shows and events at [aventuracenter.org](http://aventuracenter.org).

In its effort to provide the most efficient user-friendly services, the City is continually upgrading its current systems as the technology becomes available and financially prudent.

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# Keep in Touch @

### On the Internet

**cityofaventura.com:** The official website for the City of Aventura is home for all City related information regarding its government, resources, forms and eGovernment features.

**aventuracharter.org:** The official website for the Aventura City of Excellence School has information online for parents and students including its popular Google calendar to stay current on the school’s latest events and special days.

**aventuracenter.org:** The official website for the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center provides detailed show information and the ability to purchase tickets.

**@cityofaventura:** The official Twitter handle for the City of Aventura functions as an additional resource for the City to disseminate up-to-the-minute information about City events and breaking news. The City’s latest tweet is also available on its website.

**@aventuracenter:** The official Twitter handle for the Aventura Arts and Cultural Center provides show updates and ticket sale alerts.

### On the Go

The City’s website dynamically presents a mobile version for smart phone users to easily find City information.

### On the Tube

Comcast Channel 77 is home to Aventura TV (AVTV), the City’s information channel. AVTV runs listings of City events, programs and resources for its residents 24/7. Programming provided by The Florida Channel offers educational shows about Florida history and Florida legislative news. Presentations of City meetings and events are also broadcast.

### On the Airwaves

The City of Aventura’s information radio broadcasts on 1650 AM. The AM station keeps the community informed with traffic alerts.

# City Communications

The City Commission supports a highly accessible government that shares information using both traditional and innovative methods to expand its reach into the community.

The City's website, [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com), is the center of all city-related digital information and can be used to access the Aventura City of Excellence School site, [aventuracharter.org](http://aventuracharter.org); and the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center site, [aventuracenter.org](http://aventuracenter.org). The City provides My Aventura, an email subscription service which allows interested parties to receive information about City Commission Meetings, news, events and emergency notifications sent directly to their email.



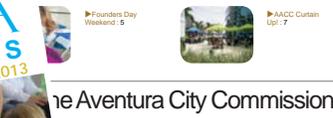
The City uses Twitter to communicate City related information. Residents, visitors and businesses are informed about City meetings, events, services, weather related cancellations, traffic alerts and Aventura City of Excellence School information. The City's latest tweet is simultaneously posted on the home page of [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com).

Twitter followers of @cityofaventura reached nearly 3,300 by the end of the year - over a 100% increase of new followers. Twitter followers of @aventuracenter receive Aventura Arts & Cultural Center event and ticket sales information.

Digital signs are used to communicate with those on the road to provide information about:

- ▶ City events, classes and athletic registration
- ▶ Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES)
- ▶ Following both the City of Aventura and the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center on Twitter
- ▶ Upcoming shows at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center

The City also relies on the more traditional communications methods of TV, radio, in-person meetings, and printed publications.



- ▶ AVTV broadcasts on Comcast cable channel 77 and runs listings of City events, programs and resources for its residents 24/7 including encore presentations of special events and commission meetings.
- ▶ The radio station, 1650 AM, broadcasts information about local traffic, special events and recreational activities.
- ▶ The City Manager meets with the owners of new businesses located in Aventura on a regular basis at "Meet your City Manager" meetings.
- ▶ The City Commission meets monthly and encourages community participation at its meetings.

In 2012, the City produced several print publications including: The Aventura Annual Report; the Aventura Update newsletters; the Activities Magazine containing a catalog of the City of Aventura's classes & programs; promotional flyers and posters for City events; and the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center calendar of events brochure as well as the Aventura Arts magazine.

# AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

AVENTURA, FLORIDA *The City of Excellence*

# 2013

## SPRING / SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### Dance

April 4

Ballet Etoile:  
The House of Bernarda Alba



### Classical

April 6

South Florida Symphony:  
Zuill Bailey



### Concert & Theatre

April 7

Too Marvelous for Words:  
The Songs of Johnny Mercer



### Family

April 14

Family Fun Series:  
Aladdin and the Magic Lamp



### Foreign Film Series

April 16

Le Havre



### Classical

April 21

Michael Klotz and Kemal  
Gekic



### Dance

May 12

Arts Ballet Theatre of  
Florida: Spring Gala



### Dance

June 13

Ballet Etoile:  
Soiree with Les  
Biches



### Summer Camp 2013

June 24-July 21

Session 1: June 24 - July 19

Session 2: July 22 - August 16



### Family

July 19-20

The Little Mermaid

## Box Office Information

Box Office is open Tuesday - Saturday,  
Noon - 5 PM and 1.5 hours prior to performances.

## Call Center Information

Open Monday - Saturday, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Sunday, Noon - 5:00 PM  
Toll free 877.311.7469 (SHOW)

Groups of 10 or more SAVE!  
General Orders and Group Sales 954.462.0222

Valet parking and self parking are available for all  
events.

*Vi at Aventura, proud sponsor of the Aventura  
Center.*

3385 NE 188 Street | Aventura, FL 33180 | 877.311.7469

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

 @aventuracenter



# FUTURE

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

# 2012/13 Budget Priorities/Goals



The following represents the pre-established priorities and goals that provided a framework for the preparation of the City of Aventura 2012/13 Budget Plan.

- ▶ Avoid increasing the property tax rate in light of the economic times our residents and businesses are experiencing.
- ▶ Bridge the revenue gap by utilizing reserve funds to support non-recurring capital improvements.
- ▶ In response to decreased revenues, limit increases in operating costs to 2% while maintaining current service levels and programs.
- ▶ Expedite plan review and permitting for projects that create jobs and spur economic activity.
- ▶ Continue to adopt GO GREEN initiatives in order to save energy, conserve precious natural resources and reduce our impact on climate change. These initiatives over time will also reduce our annual operating costs and impacts on the environment.
- ▶ Funding for a high quality maintenance program to maintain landscaped areas and the City's infrastructure.
- ▶ Continue to utilize technology to improve productivity and lower costs of services provided.
- ▶ Implement and fund the "pay-as-you-go" Capital Improvement Program to address the City's infrastructure needs.



# Budget Highlights



Some of the major points emphasized in the City of Aventura adopted 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 \$3,300,000 for the Government Center Parking Garage Project.
- ▶ Funds for Phase 3 of the Street Lighting Project to upgrade street lighting on the eastside of Biscayne Boulevard.
- ▶ Includes \$450,000 for Traffic Safety Improvements for a traffic signal at the intersection of NE 185th Street/NE 28th Court and a new turning lane at N Country Club Drive/NE 34th Avenue.
- ▶ Funds \$685,000 to resurface the north portion of Country Club Drive.
- ▶ Continues to implement and update technology enhancements that develop the City's electronic government (eGovernment) which allow the public to interact easily and conveniently with the City and automate City operations.
- ▶ Continues outside contracting of most maintenance functions, engineering, plan review and inspection services, as well as the operation of the Arts & Cultural Center to the private sector.
- ▶ Funds \$864,400 for police equipment needs from laptop computers to new police vehicles.
- ▶ 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.

# did you know?

▲ **Aventura ID** cards can be obtained at any City park with proof of residency.



▲ To enroll your child at **ACES**, an application must be completed. Preference is given to residents of Aventura and dependants of military personnel on active duty. If the number of applicants exceeds availability, a lottery is conducted to determine admission.

▲ **Building permits** are required to ensure the consumer that the work is being done properly and with the appropriate materials. The Building Permits division is located on the 4th floor of the Aventura Government Center, M-F 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

▲ Dial **911** for all emergencies. Dial **305-466-8989** for non-emergency police related matters.

The 911 system for non-emergencies could prevent someone with a legitimate emergency from getting immediate access to help.

▲ To stay connected and get information about the City of Aventura's news & events, follow us **@cityofaventura**, sign-up with MyAventura for eNotifications, or visit [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com).



▲ An **intersection safety violation** occurs when a motorist enters an intersection after the traffic signal has turned red.

▲ Most areas within the City have been designated "Special Flood Hazard Areas" by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). For insurance purposes, the City can review the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) prepared by FEMA to determine if your property is located in a Special **Flood Hazard Area**. Call the Community Development Department at 305-466-8940.

▲ **Community Recreation Center memberships** are available for families, couples and individuals. Applications are available online, however they are only accepted in person at the Center. Proof of Miami-Dade County residency is required.



▲ Purchasing tickets for events at the **Aventura Arts & Cultural Center** can be done online at [aventuracenter.org](http://aventuracenter.org), or at the box office. Follow **@aventuracenter** on Twitter for both show and ticketing information.

▲ The Aventura branch of the Miami-Dade Public **Library** is temporarily located at the Aventura Government Center, 19200 West Country Club Drive. Call 305-931-5512 for more information.



great entertainment in a beautiful waterfront setting



# AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

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AVENTURA, FLORIDA *The City of Excellence*

3385 NE 188 Street | Aventura, FL 33180

877.311.SHOW (7469)

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

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