

SUMMER 2014

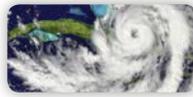
AVENTURA *update*

cityofaventura.com

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A Commitment to Community Involvement

The City of Aventura's newsletter represents the City Commission's continued commitment to keep the community updated about important City government issues and services. This newsletter is published on a periodic basis and your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Mission Statement

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



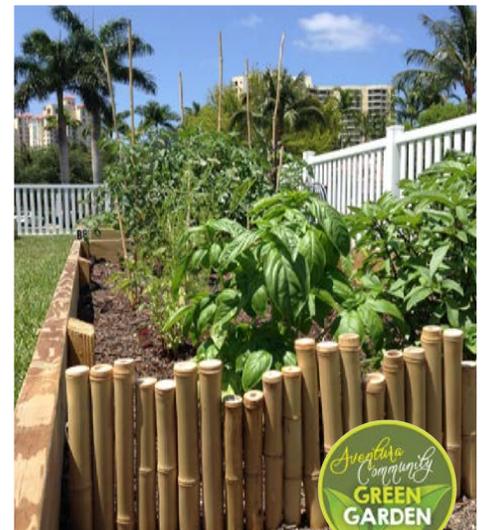
The Aventura Community Green Garden Aventura Shows a Knack for Gardening and Connects People

Since its opening in April, the Aventura Community Green Garden has successfully attracted local resident gardeners and established itself as a beautiful outdoor space to grow produce and spices, as well as a social place to connect with their neighbors.

In urban areas like Aventura, a community garden is convenient for residents without outdoor spaces of their own, and gives them an opportunity to work their green thumb.

In the short time it has been open, some gardeners have already been able to enjoy fruits, veggies and herbs harvested from their garden. While some garden for personal consumption, others are gardening for enjoyment, self-sufficiency or just get outdoors. Garden members are growing a variety of fruits, vegetables, and herbs such as: cantaloupe, watermelon, strawberries, peppers, zucchini, squash, tomato, carrot, cucumber, eggplant, thyme, rosemary and basil.

In addition to providing healthy food, the Community Garden at Founders Park South inspires social interaction, an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, and education. Membership is limited to Aventura residents and an application is available online at the City of Aventura's website, cityofaventura.com.



AVENTURA *update*

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Information Technology.....	305-466-8928
<i>Karen J. Lanke, Director</i>	
Aventura Arts & Cultural Center.....	305-466-8002
<i>Steven Clark, General Manager</i>	
ACES Charter School.....	305-466-1499
<i>Julie Alm, Principal</i>	

Calendar OF EVENTS



Summer Camp
Now through Friday,
August 15, 2014
Community Recreation Center
3375 NE 188 Street



Fourth of July Fireworks
Friday, July 4, 2014
9 PM
Along Country Club Drive

Save the Dates for Fall 2014



Halloween Harvest
Sunday, October 26, 2014
1 - 4 PM
Community Recreation Center
3375 NE 188 Street



Founders Day
Sunday, November 9, 2014
Noon – 5 PM
Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street



Veterans Day
Tuesday, November 11, 2014
Aventura Government Center
19200 West Country Club Drive



Movie Night
Saturday, November 15, 2014
Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street

For more information about any of the City of Aventura special events, programs, parks or athletics, contact Aventura Community Services Department at 305-466-8930 or visit cityofaventura.com.

Community Services Activities

Youth Athletics

The City of Aventura Youth Athletics sizzles in the summer heat with sports activities for children to enjoy.

Aventura Little League

The City of Aventura hit a home run during the recent little league season! Children ages 5–12 made new friends, created memories, and learned many new skills on and off the diamond field. Children participated in t-ball, baseball and softball. The City looks forward to seeing all returning and new participants again next year!



It's All About Tennis

Founders Park is the place for tennis during the hot summer months of June and July.

Mommy & Me Tennis is a program designed for children ages 3-4.

QuickStart Tennis is the USTA's official play format for young players ages 5-8 to learn tennis. This specially designed program uses smaller racquets, slower balls and shorter court dimensions to create a rewarding experience for younger players.



Junior Tennis caters to players ages 9-12 and focuses on different swings, fancy footwork, rules, and rally capabilities. Players are grouped by age and skill level.



Private lessons are available for custom instruction. This is a great way to learn all the basics at your own pace before joining a group lesson. Discounted packages are also available.



Flag Football

The City of Aventura's flag-football league is coming August 2014! The season will be offered to players ages 5-14. Players will learn the basics of football including proper position, throwing, catching, and running. The league promotes active and social play while fostering teamwork and confidence.



Community Recreation Center

3375 NE 188 Street
305-466-3883

City Parks

Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street
305-466-0183

SplashPad at Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street
305-466-0183

Veterans Park
18375 NE 31 Avenue
305-466-8008

Waterways Park
3301 NE 213 Street
305-466-8008

Waterways Dog Park
3401 NE 213 Street
305-466-8008

Summer Park Hours

Founders Park, Veterans Park, Waterways Park, and Waterways Dog Park are open daily from 8 AM - 8 PM.

Waterways Dog Park is closed on Wednesdays from 10 AM - 2 PM for maintenance.



The **SplashPad** is open Tuesday - Sunday from 10 AM - 7 PM, and closed on Mondays except on Labor Day, Monday, September 1st.

The SplashPad is free to City of Aventura Residents with a photo ID, and \$10 plus park admission for non-residents.



The SplashPad, located in Founders Park, is a safe and refreshing recreational water play system. The SplashPad underwent improvements to suit its guests, and has opened for the season with a variety of premium features including the new SunPad, a large shaded area with tables and chaise lounge chairs perfect for relaxation.



Visitors are also able to enjoy the newly surfaced SplashPad floor and three new fun water features including the magnificent sunflower shower, a wave splash, and a pelican squirt.



A great way to enjoy the water and sun, the SplashPad is a fun and safe open aquatic play area with an added SunPad to rest and seek shelter from the sun.

Admission to the SplashPad is free for Aventura Residents with valid resident ID card and \$10 plus park admission fee for non-residents.

SUMMER CAMP

Sessions through **August 15, 2014**

- Discovery Camp Ages 5-8
- Explorer Camp Ages 9-14
- Sports Camp Ages 7-14
- Travel Camp Ages 9-14

Fees vary for weekly and full sessions as well as for residents and non-residents. For details, visit cityofaventura.com or contact the City of Aventura Community Recreation Center at 3375 NE 188 Street 305-466-3883.

Waterways Dog Park Improvements

Been to Waterways Dog Park lately? Visitors can enjoy new benches, drinking fountains for people and dogs, doggie showers, and a waterproof rooftop in the shaded area perfect for sudden summer rain showers.

Lighting Warning System

To ensure the safety of all patrons, the City of Aventura provides a lightning warning system for Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES), the Community Recreation Center, Founders Park, Waterways Park, and Waterways Dog Park.

When conditions are favorable for lightning that may threaten the area, the lightning warning system emits siren/horn blasts in any of the two following patterns:

- One** long horn blast indicates possible lightning in the area. The park will close, and all patrons must exit the park.
- Three** short horn blasts signals the "all clear" and the park re-opens.

Hurricane Season 2014

Are You Ready?

The hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th.

What should I do to prepare for a hurricane?

Finalize your family's hurricane preparedness plan now which includes stocking up on vital supplies, knowing how to secure home and property, know your **planning zone**, and be prepared to leave if an evacuation is required.

Determine if your location is within a **storm surge planning zone**, visit: www.miamidade.gov, call Miami-Dade County Answer Center at 3-1-1, or call Miami-Dade Emergency Management at 305-468-5400.

My property is fairly elevated and couldn't possibly be touched by storm surge. Why do I have to evacuate?

Emergency Management officials work to prevent putting residents in situations where they would become isolated by water—creating an island and preventing post-storm evacuation or access by first responders.

Who will order an evacuation?

The Miami-Dade County Mayor will order an evacuation based on expected conditions and recommendations from public safety personnel.

I have a disability and do not drive. How will I evacuate if I am told to evacuate? Will the County provide transportation for me?

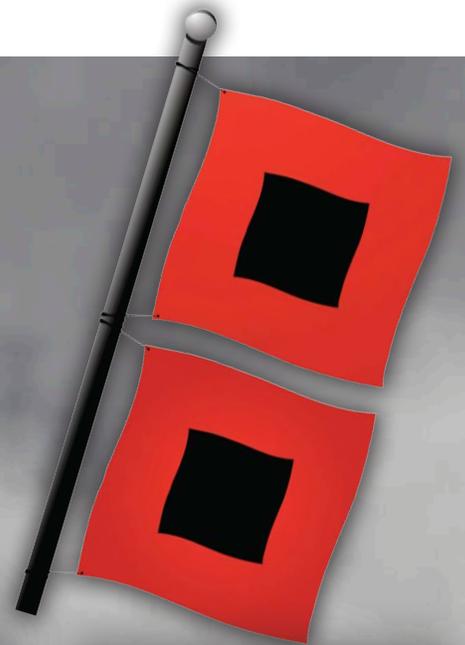
Yes, the Miami-Dade County Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program (EEAP) provides evacuation assistance to those residents who live in a storm surge planning zone and that may require specialized transportation assistance or whose medical needs prevent them from evacuating on their own.

Will the County provide me with transportation to evacuate?

Yes, Miami-Dade Transit will provide evacuation assistance utilizing designated bus stops. Evacuation pick-up points can be identified by the posted evacuation signs. A list of all evacuation pick-up points can be found at www.miamidade.gov

Does Miami-Dade County have shelters if we have to evacuate or relocate?

Yes, Miami-Dade County Emergency Management partners with Miami-Dade Public Schools and the American Red Cross to operate Hurricane Evacuation Centers. A list of potential evacuation centers can be found at www.miamidade.gov



911

Emergency vs. Non-emergency

Dial 911 for all emergencies. Dial 305-466-8989 for non-emergency police related matters. Using the 911 system for non-emergencies could prevent someone with a legitimate emergency from getting immediate access to help.

Be Ready!

Helpful Hurricane Resources

- ▶ Miami-Dade Answer Line 3-1-1
- ▶ Family Social Services 2-1-1
- ▶ Florida Power and Light 1-800-4-OUTAGE
- ▶ Miami-Dade Hurricane Guide [www.miamidade.gov / hurricane /](http://www.miamidade.gov/hurricane/)
- ▶ Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management [www.miamidade.gov / oem](http://www.miamidade.gov/oem)
- ▶ FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency ready.gov
- ▶ American Red Cross 305-644-9449



Local Flooding Facts

Visit floodsmart.gov for more information.

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

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

Floodplains are Essential

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

Floodplain Development Regulation

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

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

property.

Special Flood Hazard Area Disclosure

It is a requirement in Miami-Dade County that any purchase of improved real estate located in a Special Flood Hazard Area or Coastal Flood Hazard Area include a full disclosure to the buyer that the property lies in either of those zones. This requirement alerts potential buyers to the threat of flooding in the area, so they can make an informed purchasing decision.

Improvements to Property in Flood Hazard Areas

For properties located in Special Flood Hazard Areas, it is required that improvements to properties be done in a manner which meets the current Florida Building Code Floodplain Development Regulations.

This requirement applies to:

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

Flood Protection Methods

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

- ▶ **RELOCATION:** Perhaps the only technique for completely preventing future flood damage. This method involves moving a house out of a flood area to a new location where there is no threat of flooding.
- ▶ **ELEVATION:** This method consists of raising a house on an elevated support structure to place it above future floodwaters.
- ▶ **LEVEES:** Also known as a berm, this is a method of creating a barrier of compacted soil to keep the water away from a property.
- ▶ **FLOODWALLS:** Similar to a levee, floodwalls are designed to keep the water away from the house but are constructed of permanent materials such as concrete.
- ▶ **CLOSURES:** Used in conjunction with other techniques such as floodwalls and levees, closures provide protection for gaps that are

open for frequent usage such as sidewalks and driveways.

Flood Mitigation Steps

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

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

Flood Insurance

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

The City of Aventura is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Federally guaranteed flood insurance is available to City residents in AE Flood Zones at a discount of 15% because of the City's participation. NFIP policies are sold through licensed insurance agents and companies. You should buy flood insurance before the storm season, as there is a 30-day waiting period before coverage takes effect.

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

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

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

Flood Warnings

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

In case a hurricane threatens the Aventura area and a significant storm surge is anticipated, an evacuation order will be issued by the Mayor of Miami-Dade County. Should this occur, residents are encouraged to heed the order and evacuate. Should emergency assistance be needed once tropical storm force winds (39 mph or higher), police and fire may not be able to respond. Following a storm, residents may be confined to their residences due to standing water, debris from the storm, or other threats to safety that may exist.

Residents are encouraged to stay tuned to the local TV and radio stations for updates about storms, evacuation orders including the opening of shelters, and should evacuate as soon as an evacuation order is issued.

TV Stations

WSFOR: Channel 4
WTVJ: Channel 6
WSVN: Channel 7
WPLG: Channel 10
WLTV: Channel 23 (Spanish)
WSCV: Channel 51 (Spanish)

Radio Stations

WIOD: 610 AM
WLYF: 101.5 FM
WAQI: 710 AM (Spanish)
WCQM: 92.3 FM (Spanish)

Flood Safety Tips

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

BEFORE THE FLOOD:

- ▶ Learn and practice the safest route from your home or business to high ground in case you must evacuate.
- ▶ Listen to local news for Evacuation Orders and shelter openings. Evacuate immediately once an order is given.
- ▶ Turn off water, gas and electric service to

your home and plug drains with large corks to prevent sewer backup.

- ▶ Keep a disaster kit on hand with a portable radio, flashlight, and emergency cooking equipment, drinking water, batteries, first aid supplies, money, canned foods and sturdy shoes.
- ▶ Develop and practice an emergency communication plan with your family. Designate an out-of-state friend or relative to serve as the "family contact".
- ▶ Fill your car with gas and move it to the highest point on your property.
- ▶ Flood-proof your home by utilizing the improvement and mitigation steps outlined in this article.
- ▶ Buy flood insurance to cover the value of your home and its contents.
- ▶ Take pictures or videos of your home and valuables and keep them in a safe, dry place with your insurance policy.

DURING THE FLOOD:

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

AFTER THE FLOOD:

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



Flood Zone Insurance Information

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

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

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

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

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



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
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Permit No. 1807

AVENTURA SUMMER 2014 *update*

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 about upcoming Commission meetings and workshops, please **visit 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

- Now through August 15 Summer Camp
- July 4. Fireworks Spectacular
- October 26. Halloween Harvest
- November 9. Founders Day
- November 11 Veterans Day

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AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER EVENTS

- June 23 - August 15 Summer Theater Camp
- July 11 - July 12. Rapunzel
- October 23. Sticks and Stones

Get ready for the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center's exciting 2014-15 season!



- October 25, 2014 Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse
- December 7, 2014 Stella Queen of the Snow
- February 22, 2015 Miss Nelson is Missing!
- April 26, 2015 Cinderella

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