

AVENTURA

update

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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.



Budget Continues Low Tax Rate and Excellent Services

Recently the City Commission adopted the budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2014. The budget adopted the same tax rate as the prior year of 1.726, which is the lowest rate in Miami-Dade County. The City's portion of the total property tax bill presents only 10% of the total. The other large portions represent the County and School Board. Just as important as keeping your taxes low, this was accomplished while maintaining the current service levels and programs our residents and businesses currently enjoy.

Our economy continues to show signs of recovery as witnessed by this years increase in the City's property values. The City experienced a 7.8% increase in property values over the prior year. The new value of \$8.394 Billion is still down from the pre-recession value of \$9.609 Billion, but continues to tract a positive upward trend for our community.

Strong fiscal policies and prudent budgeting have enabled the City to maintain the lowest tax rate in the County while providing high-quality services to our residents. The positive economic recovery signs allows the City, for the first time in 3 years, not to utilize reserve funds to balance the budget and fund nonrecurring capital projects. Importantly, it also avoids the need to increase taxes. The new construction assessed values rose by \$104 million over the prior year. Recent development applications for the Park Square Aventura mixed use project and the expansion

of the Aventura Mall will insure that this trend continues in the near future. Although the local economy has made strides, we need to continue to remain prudent and conservative in our financial management of the City.

The budget process produced a total budget of \$57,716,594 or 1.9% more than the previous year. Operating costs were limited to a 3.7% increase as compared to the previous year. The budget maintains our current level for all City services except funding for the following areas:

- ▶ Police services increased by adding two police officers to address increased service needs and workload requirements. The Motorcycle Unit was reactivated to assist activities in the Traffic Unit.
- ▶ Building inspection and review costs were increased to respond to the upswing in building activity.
- ▶ Increased funding for community events such as Movie Night, programming at the Arts & Cultural Center and special programs.

The model of privatizing many service areas of the City's operations over the years has served the City well and has allowed for a more cost effective service delivery system as compared to the traditional government structure.

(continued from page 2)

AVENTURA *update*

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Government Center Directory

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
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| Mayor and Commission..... | 305-466-8901 |
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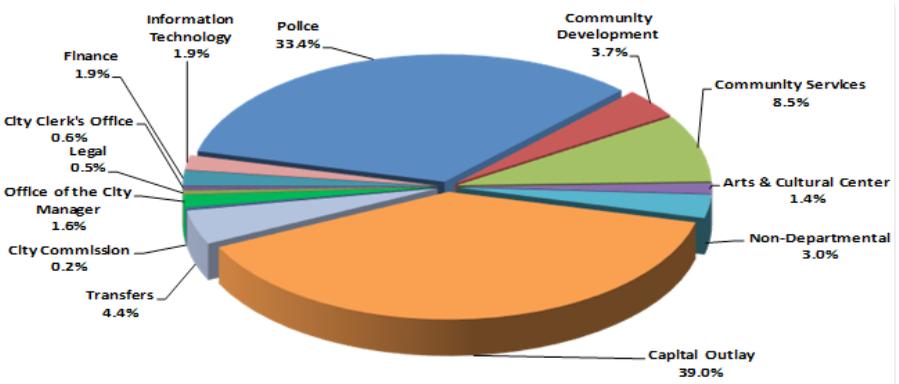
Capital Outlay expenditures are budgeted at \$4,910,421 and include projects ranging from drainage improvements to road resurfacing and the commitment to invest in state-of-the-art technology to serve and protect our residents. Maintaining our infrastructure from government buildings to our park facilities continues to be a major funding priority to protect these assets.

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

- ▶ For the 19th year, no property tax increase.
- ▶ Total expenditures in all funds increased by 1.9%.
- ▶ The operating cost increases were held to less than 4% without reducing current service levels.
- ▶ For the first time in 3 years reserve funds were not used to balance the budget and fund nonrecurring capital projects.
- ▶ Added 2 police officer positions to address increased service needs and workload requirements.
- ▶ Increases funding for community

events such as “movie nights”, programming at the Arts & Cultural Center and special programs.

- ▶ Funds \$1,328,000 for drainage, street lighting, road resurfacing and safety improvements on NE 29th Place.
- ▶ Includes \$710,000 for road resurfacing on NE 207th Street and Biscayne Lake Gardens.
- ▶ Continues to implement and update technology enhancements that develop our “Electronic Government” to allow the public to interact more easily and conveniently with the City and to automate City operations.
- ▶ Updates the City’s Traffic Video Monitoring System by funding \$1,500,000 in system upgrades and expansion to the latest state of the art equipment.
- ▶ Funds police equipment needs from laptop computers to new police vehicles in the amount of \$781,450.
- ▶ Continues to adopt “Go Green” initiatives in order to save energy, conserve precious natural resources and reduce our impact on climate change.





In-street Pedestrian Crosswalk Signs

Over the summer, the City installed in-street pedestrian crosswalk signs throughout Country Club Drives to provide enhanced visibility for motorists at un-signalized intersections and alerting them to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk. This is part of our efforts to foster a more pedestrian friendly city.

What is a driver required to do?

Drivers are **required to stop only if pedestrians are present in the crosswalk**. Do not stop when there is no pedestrian present.

What is a pedestrian required to do?

Pedestrians are encouraged to be cautious when walking into the crosswalk. Try to make eye contact with approaching drivers to be sure they can see you. Cross only when it is safe to do so and cars have come to a complete stop.



Be Safe, Be Alert

Stay safe during the holiday season by following a few simple tips.



Parking Lots

- ▶ Park and walk in well-lit areas and carry keys in your hand. Lock your vehicle and hide valuables in the trunk or locked compartment.
- ▶ Glance around for possible suspicious activity and stay alert when loading and unloading children and shopping bags in and out of your vehicle.



Shopping Malls

- Shopping malls and stores are crowded places where potential thieves are likely to distract their victim.
- ▶ Do not walk around with too many shopping bags.
 - ▶ Avoid wearing expensive jewelry and carrying valuables.
 - ▶ Never leave personal belongings unattended.
 - ▶ There is safety in numbers, so shop with friends!



Online Shopping

- ▶ Make sure the website is secure.
- ▶ Never use unsecured wireless networks.
- ▶ Keep your operating system and web browser up-to-date, and use a firewall, anti-virus and/or anti-spyware security.
- ▶ Save all records including emails regarding transactions.
- ▶ Review credit card statements for suspicious activity.



Home Safety

- ▶ If travelling, ask a neighbor or other dependable person to watch your home and retrieve your newspaper and mail.
- ▶ Always keep all entrance points into your home secured.
- ▶ Set indoor and outdoor lights on timers, and leave a television or radio on to make it appear as if someone is home when leaving for long periods of time.
- ▶ Keep blinds, shutters, drapes, and curtains closed.

Calendar OF EVENTS & ATHLETICS



Teacher Planning Day

Friday, October 24, 2014
 Tuesday, November 4, 2014
 7:30 AM - 6 PM
 Community Recreation Center



*Halloween Harvest

Sunday, October 26, 2014
 1 - 4 PM
 Community Recreation Center



**Founders Day

Sunday, November 9, 2014
 Noon - 5 PM
 Founders Park



Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 11, 2014
 10 AM
 Aventura Government Center



Movie Night

Saturday, November 15, 2014
 Gates open at 5:15 PM
 Movie starts at 6:15 PM
 Founders Park



Winter Camp

December 22, 2014 - January 2, 2015
 7:30 AM - 6 PM
 Community Recreation Center



Youth Athletics

Girls Soccer

Through January 2015
 Registration: Open for girls ages 5-14.
 Season: One practice and game per week.

Basketball

October 2014 - December 2014
 Registration: Open for ages 5-14.
 Season: One practice and two games per week.

Boys Soccer

January 2015 - March 2015
 Registration: Open for ages 5-14.
 Season: One practice and two games per week.

Little League

February 2015 - May 2015
 Registration: Open for ages 5-14.
 Season: One practice and two games per week.

Tennis

Throughout the fall, Founders Park is the place for tennis: **Mommy and Me Tennis for ages 3-4; 10 & Under Tennis for ages 5-10; and Junior Tennis for ages 8-12.** Private lessons for all ages are available one-on-one for up to one hour of customized instruction. Private lessons are a great way to learn all the basics at your own pace before joining a group lesson.

***Parking and shuttle service** for Halloween Harvest will be available at the Harbour Centre located on the corner of NE 29 Avenue and NE 188 Street from 1 PM - 4:30 PM.

****Parking and shuttle service** for Founders Day will be available at the Government Center parking garage, 19200 West Country Club Drive and at the Harbour Centre located on the corner of NE 29 Avenue and NE 188 Street from 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

Recreational Programs

Active Adult Programs: Trips and Tours

The City of Aventura's active adults continue to make the Trips and Tours program a success! All of the fall trips are sold out except for the "Meet the Dancers" luncheon at the HARID Conservatory in Boca Raton, **Thursday, November 20, 2014**.

The next Trips and Tours registration will be in **December**, and it includes a trip to the Gables Stage at the Biltmore in Coral Gables on **Sunday, June 7, 2015** for a matinee performance of "Casa Valentina".

Teacher Planning Days

Friday, October 24, 2014 and Tuesday, November 4, 2014

When school is out, the adventures begin! The City of Aventura offers fun-filled days of activities for children ages 5-14 at the Community Recreation Center. Children spend the day participating in games, arts & crafts, special events, and more! The day begins at 7:30 AM and ends at 6 PM. Fees include all activities, supplies and lunch. Resident fee is \$43, and non-resident fee is \$52.

Winter Camp

December 22 - 26, 2014 and December 29, 2014 - January 2, 2015

Celebrate winter break Florida style at "Winter in the Tropics", the City's camp theme this year for children ages 5-14. The day runs from 7:30 AM - 6 PM at the Community Recreation Center. Bring a beach towel and flip-flops as the New Year is celebrated at the Beach Towel Bash! The 2-week session resident fee is \$302 and \$362 for non-resident. The 1-week session fee for residents is \$156 and \$187 for non-residents.

Camp will end at 12:30 PM on Wednesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 31, 2014. Camp will not be in session on Thursday, December 25, 2014 and Thursday, January 1, 2015.



Tennis Camp **NEW**

December 22 - 26, 2014 and December 29, 2014 - January 2, 2015

The City's first Tennis Camp is for children ages 7-12 of all skill levels at Founders Park from 9:30 AM - Noon. Campers must bring their own racquet, water and snack. Resident fee is \$150, and non-resident fee is \$180 per week.

Camp will not be in session on Thursday, December 25, 2014 and Thursday, January 1, 2015.

Community Recreation Center Membership (CRC)

CRC members of all ages enjoy a variety of benefits including: the use of an indoor basketball court, a technical center, a fitness room with a waterfront view, fun activities, a variety of classes including free classes in yoga, bridge, body-sculpting, mahjong, and strength circuit.

Registration

Registration for classes, recreational programs, athletics and events can be completed at the Aventura Community Recreation Center, Waterways Park, Founders Park, or online at cityofaventura.com/registration.

Community Recreation Center (CRC) Membership Registration

Membership registration is accepted **in-person only** at the Community Recreation Center, Founders Park or Waterways Park.

Registration for upcoming winter activities is scheduled for Monday, **December 8, 2014** for residents and Monday, **December 15, 2014** for non-residents.

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

Park Hours for Fall

All parks are open daily.

Founders Park, Veterans Park, and Waterways Park are open from 8 AM - 7 PM.

Waterways Dog Park is open from 8 AM - 7:30 PM and is closed for maintenance every Wednesday from 10 AM - 2 PM.

Starting Sunday, November 2, 2014, all parks will be open from 8 AM - 6 PM.

The **SplashPad** at Founders Park is open on weekends from 10 AM - 6 PM and officially closes for the season on **Sunday, November 2, 2014**.

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



Art Garfunkel



Angel of Music: A Salute to
Andrew Lloyd Webber



Megan Hilty



Stormy Weather
starring Mary Wilson

The waterfront theater, the **Aventura Arts & Cultural Center**, celebrates its fabulous fifth season with stellar, world-class entertainment including Art Garfunkel, the Broadway Concert Series, the Foreign Film Series and an array of popular and classical music, dance, comedy and more.

Founders Day Weekend

Celebrate Aventura's Founders Day Weekend, Broadway style, during Angel of Music: A Salute to Andrew Lloyd-Webber on November 8. Glory Crampton and Franc D'Ambrosio, who earned the title, "The World's Longest Running Phantom" for playing the role more than 3,000 times, will perform the songs and music of Andrew Lloyd Webber from favorites including "The Phantom of the Opera," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Evita."

Broadway Comes Alive!

Forbidden Broadway: Alive & Kicking! (**Jan. 2 & 3**) parodies the best known Broadway hits, while Back on Broadway (**Jan. 23**) brings to life the most memorable songs from the Great White Way. Next, the Broadway Concert Series kicks off on **Jan. 25** with Megan Hilty (NBC's Smash; Broadway's Wicked and 9 to 5: The Musical), followed by Louise Pitre (Tony nominated star of Mamma Mia!) on **March 5** and Lea Salonga (Tony Award winner for Miss Saigon) on **March 19**.

Blockbuster Theater

The critically acclaimed Slow Burn Theatre Company returns this

season with two popular Broadway musicals, 2012's Bonnie & Clyde (**Feb. 12 – 15**) and Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning RENT (**April 30 – May 3**), one of the longest-running musicals on Broadway.

Popular Music from Doo Wop to Jazz

Highlights of this season's spectacular array of concerts include Mary Wilson of the Supremes in James Gavin's Stormy Weather: The Music of Lena Horne (**Jan. 9**); three-time Grammy-nominated Tiempo Libre (**Jan. 10**); Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and Grammy Award winner Art Garfunkel (**Jan. 16**); The Doo Wop Project, featuring former stars from Jersey Boys, Beautiful and Motown: the Musical (**Feb. 7**); and Scott Coultier in The Fella Sings Ella (**Feb. 21**).

Captivating Shows and Comedy

Combining the magical artistry of a European circus with the flirtatious camp of burlesque, CIRQUESCO (**March 6**) will draw the audience into an intimate cabaret evening of song, dance, humor and mind-blowing acrobatics. This season's Comedy Series, presented by Singer Productions and Entertainment, features Bobby Collins: Mellowing with Age . . . "on the inside" (**Nov. 14**); Sarge: the Chanukah Chutzpah Tour (**Dec. 18-19**); Richie Minervini and Friends: An Evening of Song, Dance and Stand-up Comedy (**Jan. 24**); Peter Fogel and Johnny Lombardi: The Cannoli and the Macaroon Comedy Tour (**Feb. 28**); and Vanessa Hollingshead: Because I am a Lady (**March 28**).

The Aventura Foreign Film Series

Don't miss these internationally acclaimed films with post-screening discussions hosted by Shelly Isaacs: You Will Be My Son (**Nov. 11**), Terraferma (**Dec. 9**), The Hunt (**Jan. 13**), The Broken Circle Breakdown (**Feb. 3**), Las Acacias (**March 3**) and Like Father, Like Son (**March 31**).

The amazing 2014-15 line up also spotlights world recognized classical music performers, thrilling ballet and dance events and the Family Fun Series of staged classic children's stories. Please visit aventuracenter.org for more information.

HOW TO BUY TICKETS

Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center.

In Person: Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Box Office, 3385 NE188th Street, Aventura, FL 33180. The Box Office is open from Tuesday-Saturday, Noon - 5 PM and 1½ hours prior to shows.

Online: aventuracenter.org or ticketmaster.com;

Phone: 800.745.3000 or TTD/TTY at 800.359.2525;

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

aventuracenter.org

#aventuracenter

3385 NE 188th Street, Aventura, FL 33180

Ticketmaster 800.745.3000

Groups & Info 877.311.7469

Municipal Elections

The City of Aventura will be conducting its municipal election on **Tuesday, November 4, 2014**. Those individuals who have qualified to run for office are:



Seat 2: Gustavo Blachman, Denise Landman
Seat 6: Marc E. Narotsky, Jonathan S. Rogoff
Mayor: Enid Weisman, Lesley Winston

Any questions regarding the November 4th election should be directed to Teresa M. Soroka, MMC, City Clerk/Municipal Supervisor of Elections at 305-466-8901 or via email at tsoroka@cityofaventura.com.

Building Division

New Hours of Operation

The City of Aventura Building Division located on the 4th floor of the City of Aventura Government Center is open Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

ePermits

For your convenience, check the status of building permits and inspections online at cityofaventura.com/epermits.

cityofaventura.com #cityofaventura

Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street
305-466-8008

Admission is FREE

Movie
How to Train Your Dragon 2

Time
Gates open at 5:15 PM
Movie starts at 6:15 PM



NOVEMBER 8 - 9, 2014

cityofaventura.com/foundersday #cityofaventura

Saturday, November 8 8 PM

Angel of Music: A Salute to Andrew Lloyd Webber

Aventura Arts & Cultural Center
3385 NE 188 Street | 800-745-3000
aventuracenter.org

Limited
Seats

Glory Crampton and Franc D'Ambrosio - "Christine" and "The Phantom" celebrate the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber from his many beloved musicals in this wonderful salute including an eclectic program of musical theater classics to make this evening an unforgettable experience for the audience!

Sunday, November 9 Noon - 5 PM

Founders Day

Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street | 305-466-8930

Celebrate the City's 19th annual Founders Day filled with fun games, live entertainment, food, and activities for the entire family!

Live entertainment on the big stage includes: The Aventura STAR talent showcases finalists; Cartoon character sing-along and photo opportunities; Magician and illusionist, Gary Goodman; The Community Recreation Center presents activity demonstrations; Mini performance of the hit movie "Frozen"; "What's the Deal?", a sports themed game show!

Fun activities throughout the day include: Zip-line course 20-25 feet above ground, rock climbing, trampoline bungee jumping, giant slide, field games, Putt-Putt golf, USTA Tennis demonstrations, live network TV football games broadcast on HDTVs, board games, art and science stations, Toddler Town, face painting, hair styling, and food trucks!

Parking

Parking for Founders Day will be available at Government Center, 19200 West Country Club Drive and at the Harbour Centre located on the corner of NE 29 Avenue and NE 188 Street. Shuttle service will be provided from 11:30 AM - 5:30 PM.



AVENTURA
ARTS &
CULTURAL
CENTER



AVENTURA *update*

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

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boca Raton, FL
Permit No. 1807

AVENTURA FALL 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.

Calendar Highlights

City Events

- October 24. Teacher Planning Day Program
- October 26. Halloween Harvest
- November 4. Teacher Planning Day Program
- November 9. Founders Day
- November 11. Veterans Day
- November 15. Movie Night
- December 22, 2014 - January 2, 2015 Winter Camp

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AVENTURA
ARTS &
CULTURAL
CENTER



November 14



November 15



November 23



YOUNG STARS
December 6



STELLA
QUEEN OF THE SNOW
December 7



December 12-14



THE SARGE
HANUKAH CHUTZPA
WITH
"MY NEZUMAH"
December 18-19

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