

# Aventura Update

The Official City of Aventura Newsletter  
cityofaventura.com #CityofAventura  
Fall 2016



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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, 2016. The budget adopted the same tax rate as the prior year of 1.726, which is the lowest rate in Miami-Dade County. This represents a 21 year period, since the incorporation of the City, with no property tax increase. In addition, General Fund reserve funds were not utilized to balance the budget and no additional debt is proposed. The City's portion of the total property tax bill represents only 10% of the total. The other large portions represent the County and School Board. 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.

The budget process produced a total budget of \$58,386,179 or 8.3% less than the previous year. A large number of one-time capital projects were completed in the prior year which resulted in the decrease. Capital Outlay expenditures are budgeted at \$3,728,225 and decreased by \$7,025,449 compared to the prior year. Projects included a range 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.

The budget includes a reorganization plan that creates a new Public Works/Transportation Department by transferring some functions and services previously provided by the Community Services Department and City Manager's Office. A new Department Director position was created to lead this department. This plan will provide the framework to meet the future needs of the City and address the expansion of public transportation and protection of our infrastructure.

*(continued on page 2 & 3)*

# Aventura Update

## Mayor

Enid Weisman

## Commissioners

Teri Holzberg    Marc Narotsky  
Denise Landman    Robert Shelley  
Dr. Linda Marks    Howard Weinberg

## City Manager

Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM

## City Clerk

Ellisa L. Horvath, MMC

## City Attorney

Weiss Serota Helfman Cole &  
Bierman

## Art Director/Designer

Annette Gonzalez

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## Directory

Main Number . . . . . 305-466-8900  
Main Fax Number . . . . . 305-466-8939  
Mayor and Commission . . . . . 305-466-8901

City Manager . . . . . 305-466-8910  
*Eric M. Soroka, ICMA-CM*

City Clerk . . . . . 305-466-8901  
*Ellisa L. Horvath, MMC*

Aventura Arts & Cultural Center 305-466-8002  
*Jeff Kiltie, General Manager*

ACES Charter School . . . . . 305-466-1499  
*Julie Alm, Principal*

Community Development . . . . . 305-466-8940  
*Joanne Carr, Director*

Community Services . . . . . 305-466-8930  
*Kimberly Merchant, Director*

Finance . . . . . 305-466-8920  
*Brian K. Raducci, Director*

Information Technology . . . . . 305-466-8928  
*Karen J. Lanke, Director*

Police . . . . . 305-466-8989  
*Steven Steinberg, Police Chief*

Public Works / Transportation . . 305-466-8970  
*Joseph S. Kroll, Director*

Operating costs increased by \$1,259,794 or 3.8% as compared to the previous year. The budget maintains our current level for all City services except funding for the following areas:

- Building Inspection and Review costs were increased to response to the upswing in building activity.
- Shuttle bus costs were increased by \$275,000 to fund expanding the starting and ending times and adding a route to provide service during peak times during the year.
- Funds were included for the operating costs associated with opening the new Peace Park on NE 188th Street.
- Added 2 positions in the Police Department. One is a Detective position to address increased workload demands associated with investigating identity theft. The other new position is a Police Officer to assist with expediting the hiring process for vacant police officer positions.

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.

The following represents the pre-established priorities and goals that provided a framework for the preparation of the 2016/17 Budget Plan.

- Maintain current service levels and programs.
- Increase police staffing to address service needs and workload requirements.
- Provide funding for the operating costs associated with opening the new Peace Park on NE 188th Street.
- Implement the reorganization plan to create a new Public Works/Transportation Department.
- Address drainage infrastructure improvements in areas subject to flash flooding and the long range impacts of climate change.
- Provide funding to maintain landscaped areas, City facilities and the City's infrastructure to continue to provide a high quality maintenance program.
- Continue to adopt "Go Green" initiatives, including the first phase of retrofitting the street lights to LED fixtures, in order to save energy, conserve natural resources and reduce our impact on climate change.

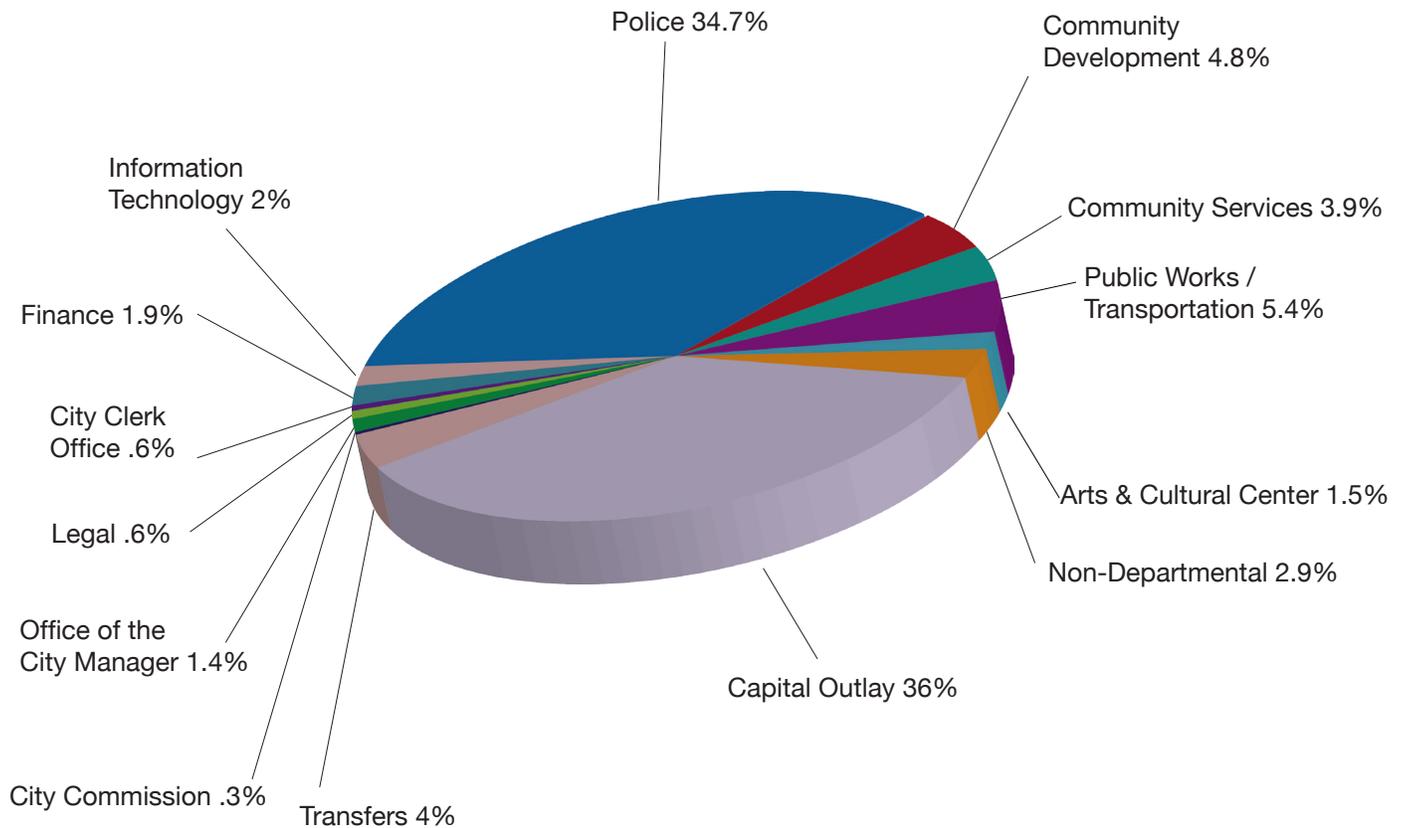
- Continue to utilize technology to improve productivity and lower costs of providing services.
- No additional debt by implementing and funding the “pay-as-you-go” Capital Improvement Program to address the City’s infrastructure needs.

The budget continues to support the following goals/priorities that the City Commission adopted to focus on over the next few years:

1. Continue to explore alternate transportation modes to alleviate traffic and support pedestrian and bicycle friendly initiatives. Collaborate with North East Miami-Dade cities to review traffic issues.
2. Monitor and participate in regional efforts to address the impact of rising sea level.
3. Create opportunities for greater community engagement.
4. Ensure that redevelopment projects that require land use/zoning revisions do not have a negative impact on the community.

## Budget Highlights

The chart below outlines the percentage that each department of the City derives from the total budget.



## Voter Precinct Number and Polling Locations



If you are a registered voter in the City of Aventura, you should have received a new Voter Information Card from the Miami-Dade County Elections Department within the past year. To verify your precinct number and polling location, please go to [miamidade.gov/elections](http://miamidade.gov/elections) or contact the Miami-Dade County Elections Department at 305-499-VOTE (8683).

The **precinct numbers** and **polling locations** for registered voters in the City of Aventura are as follows:

### **Precinct Number 99**

Williams Island Club House  
4500 Island Boulevard

### **Precinct Number 109**

Aventura Government Center  
19200 West Country Club Drive

### **Precinct Number 113**

Point East  
2895 Point East Drive

### **Precinct Number 102**

Aventura Community  
Recreation Center  
3375 NE 188 Street

### **Precinct Number 111**

Commodore Plaza Tower II  
2750 NE 183 Street

### **Precinct Number 114**

Northeast Aventura  
Branch Library  
2930 Aventura Boulevard

### **Precinct Number 103**

Aventura Government Center  
19200 West Country Club Drive

### **Precinct Number 112**

Plaza Del Prado  
18051 Biscayne Boulevard

### **Precinct Number 184**

Aventura Community  
Recreation Center  
3375 NE 188 Street

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## Charter Revision on November Ballot Aims to Save Tax Dollars

This November 8, 2016 voters in the City will have an opportunity to vote for a City Charter amendment that will result in a cost savings to the City. Section 7.06 of the City Charter provides that at the first regular meeting of November every five years, the City Commission shall appoint a Charter Revision Commission. Any recommended changes are required to be submitted to the City Commission by January 1 of the upcoming year. Currently, the Charter requires that the City Commission shall, not less than 60 days or more than 150 days after the submission of the proposed amendments to the City Commission, submit them to the electors of the City.

This procedure worked well when City Commission elections were held in March. However, in 2008 the voters approved a Charter Amendment that placed the elections for the City Commission in November. Therefore, each time the Charter

Revision Commission meets and places items on the ballot a special election is required along with its associated additional costs.

The proposed Charter Amendment provides that future proposed amendments arising from the periodic Charter Revision Commission process be submitted to the electors at the next general election or at a special election, if any which is sooner called by the City Commission for such purposes. If approved by the majority of City voters who vote on the charter amendment it will help to eliminate the need for a special election along with its associated additional costs. If not approved by the voters, special elections and additional costs may be expected to continue for future periodic charter amendments.

**OFFICIAL SAMPLE BALLOT  
BOLETA OFICIAL DE MUESTRA  
ECHANTIYON BILTEN VÒT OFISYÈL**

<p align="center"><b>GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS AVENTURA, FLORIDA NOVEMBER 8, 2016</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>ELECCIONES GENERALES Y ESPECIALES AVENTURA, FLORIDA 8 DE NOVIEMBRE DEL 2016</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>ELEKSYON JENERAL AK ESPEYAL AVENTURA, FLORID 8 NOVANM 2016</b></p>
<p><b>TO VOTE, COMPLETELY FILL IN THE OVAL  NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use only a black or blue pen.</li> <li>• If you make a mistake, don't hesitate to ask for a new ballot. If you erase or make other marks, your vote may not count.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PARA VOTAR, RELLENE COMPLETAMENTE EL ÓVALO  UBICADO JUNTO A SU SELECCIÓN.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilice solo un bolígrafo de tinta negra o azul.</li> <li>• Si comete un error, no dude en solicitar una nueva boleta. Si usted borra o hace otras marcas, es posible que no se cuente su voto.</li> </ul>	<p><b>POU VOTE, RANPLI OVAL LA OKONPLÈ  AKOTE CHWA W FÈ A.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Itilize sèlman plim nwa oswa ble.</li> <li>• Si w fè yon erè, pa ezite mande yon nouvo bilten vòt. Si w efase oswa fè okenn lòt mak, vòt ou ka pa konte.</li> </ul>

CITY COMMISSIONER  
SEAT 5  
COMISIONADO DE LA CIUDAD  
ESCAÑO 5  
KOMISYONÈ VIL LA  
SYÈJ 5  
(Vote for One)  
(Vote por uno)  
(Vote pou youn)

Joshua Mandall      109  
Gladys Mezrahi      110

**Revised Time for Scheduling Charter Amendment Elections on Charter Amendments Proposed by Charter Revision Commission**

The City Charter currently requires the City to hold charter amendment elections within 60 to 150 days after receipt of charter amendment recommendations from the City's charter revision commission. It is proposed that the Charter be amended to enable charter amendments to be presented to the voters of the City at the next upcoming general election in the City or a special election sooner called by the City Commission.

Shall the Charter amendment be adopted?

**Plazo modificado para programar elecciones de enmienda a la Carta Constitucional sobre enmiendas a la Carta Constitucional propuestas por la Comisión de Revisión de la Carta Constitucional**

La Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad actualmente exige que la Ciudad celebre elecciones para enmendar la Carta Constitucional en los 60 a 150 días posteriores a la recepción de las recomendaciones de enmienda a la Carta Constitucional realizadas por la Comisión de Revisión de la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad. Se ha propuesto enmendar la Carta Constitucional de modo de permitir que se presenten las enmiendas a la Carta Constitucional a los electores de la Ciudad en la próxima elección general en la Ciudad o en una elección especial que tenga lugar antes y que haya sido convocada por la Comisión de la Ciudad.

¿Deberá aprobarse la enmienda a la Carta Constitucional?

**Modifie Tan ki Etabli pou Planifye Eleksyon Amanman Konstitisyonèl yo sou Amanman Konstitisyonèl Komisyon Revizyon Konstitisyon an Pwopoze**

Konstitisyon Vil la aktyèlman egzije Vil la fè eleksyon amanman konstitisyonèl nan lesplas 60 a 150 jou apre li resevwa rekòmandasyon komisyon revizyon konstitisyon Vil la pou amande konstitisyon an. Yo pwopoze amande Konstitisyon an pou pèmèt yo prezante amanman konstitisyonèl yo bay elektè yo nan Vil la nan pwochen eleksyon jeneral nan Vil la oswa nan yon eleksyon espesyal kap fèt pi bonè ke Komisyon Vil la mande pou fèt.

Èske se pou yo adopte amanman Konstitisyonèl la?

YES/SÍ/WI      220  
NO/NO/NON    221

# Community Services

The City of Aventura Community Services Department is dedicated to provide Aventura residents with quality service, parks, facilities, events, programs, and activities.

## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, October 29, 2016**

Halloween Monster Mash & Movie Night

**Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

Teacher Planning Day

**Friday, November 11, 2016**

Veterans Day

**Sunday, November 13, 2016**

21st Annual Founders Day & Green Market Kick-Off

**Saturday, November 19, 2016**

Movie Night

**Wednesday, November 23, 2016**

Teacher Planning Day

**December 26, 2016 – January 6, 2017**

Winter Camp

## Sports Calendar

### Seasonal Leagues

#### Adult Softball

Through Dec. 2016

#### Basketball

Through Nov. 2016

#### Cheerleading

Through Nov. 2016  
Dec. 2016 – Feb. 2017

#### Girls Soccer

Through Nov.  
Dec. 2016 - Feb. 2017

#### Boys Soccer

Dec. 2016 - Feb. 2017

### After-School Leagues

#### Basketball

Oct. - Dec. 2016  
Dec. 2016 - March 2017

#### Soccer

Through Dec. 2016  
Dec. 2016 - Feb. 2017

## Directory

### 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

**Founders Park, Veterans Park, Waterways Park, and Waterways Dog Park** are open daily from 8 AM - 7 PM. Waterways Park will remain open until 8 PM for Youth Sports programming, as needed.

The **SplashPad** at Founders Park is open on weekends only from 10 AM - 6 PM and officially closes for the season on Sunday, October 23, 2016.

## Registration

Registration for classes, programs, sports, and events can be completed at the Aventura Community Recreation Center, Waterways Park, Founders Park, or online using the City's **Online Registration System (ORS)** at [cityofaventura.com/ors](http://cityofaventura.com/ors)



# Community Services

## Recreational Programs

### Aventura Fall Activities

A complete and balanced program of recreational classes are offered throughout the Fall. Browse through the official catalog of classes online at [cityofaventura.com/ors](http://cityofaventura.com/ors). Registration is open.

Registration for upcoming Aventura **winter** activities is scheduled for residents on **Monday, December 5, 2016** and **Monday, December 12, 2016** for non-residents.

### Winter Camp

**December 26, 2016 - December 30, 2016**

**January 2, 2017 - January 6, 2017**

A fun themed camp will be held Monday - Friday from 7:30 AM - 6 PM at the Community Recreation Center. Fees vary for weekly and full sessions as well as for residents and non-residents.

### Teacher Planning Days

**November 8 and 23, 2016**

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.

### Active Adults

The City of Aventura's active adults continue to make the Trips and Tours program a success! Here's a brief summary of what is next:

- **December 13, 2016**  
Wick Costume Museum and Lunch at the Tavern Room
- **February 8, 2017**  
Carousel at the Actors' Playhouse
- **February 25, 2017**  
Alvin Ailey Dance Theater at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

- **March 14, 2017**  
Joe's Stone Crab lunch followed by the Jewish Museum of Florida and/or South Pointe Park

For additional information about the trips, please contact the Community Services department at 305-466-8930.

## Community Recreation Center Membership

Community Recreation Center members of all ages enjoy a variety of benefits including: the use of an indoor basketball court; a fitness room with a waterfront view; fun activities; and a variety of classes including free classes in yoga, bridge, body-sculpting, Mahjong, Pickleball, knitting, Zumba, and strength circuit.

**Community Recreation Center membership registration** is accepted in person only at the Community Recreation Center, Founders Park or Waterways Park. For details about becoming a member, visit [cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com).



# Community Services

## Sports Programs

### Private Sports and Wellness Coaching

Private lessons are available for all ages at Founders Park and Waterways Park to improve game or fitness level with coaches that focus on the whole athlete.

### Tennis

Founders Park is the place for tennis. The City offers the following classes: Mommy and Me Tennis for ages 3-4, 10 & Under Tennis for ages 5-10, and Junior Tennis for ages 8-12.

Private lessons are available for all ages. An hour of customized 1-on-1 instruction is a great way to learn all the basics at the player's own pace before joining a group lesson.

### Youth Sports

Children ages 5-15 have the opportunity to participate in **regular seasonal sports leagues** including cheerleading (ages 3-10), flag football, basketball, girls soccer, and boys soccer.

### After-School Sports

**After-school sports leagues** including basketball and soccer are available for students in grades K-8 and are designed with a convenient time slot which allows students to enjoy sport activity right after their regular school day ends. Leagues are open to both boys and girls.

### Adult Sports

Adults can get in on the sports by joining a softball league, playing a social round-robin tennis match, participating in adult tennis clinics, or enrolling in a high-energy, cardio tennis workout.



**City of Aventura 2016-17**  
**YOUTH SPORTS**  
**August 2016 - June 2017**

For complete **details and schedules**, visit [cityofaventura.com/sports](http://cityofaventura.com/sports).  
**Registration** is open and can be completed online at [cityofaventura.com/ors](http://cityofaventura.com/ors)  
and in person at the Community Recreation Center, Waterways Park or Founders Park.

<b>Seasonal Leagues</b>	<b>After-School Leagues</b>
Flag Football	Basketball
Basketball	Soccer
Cheerleading	
Girls Soccer	
Boys Soccer	



cityofaventura.com/sports #CityofAventura 305-466-8008  
Community Recreation Center Waterways Park Founders Park  
3375 NE 188 Street 3301 NE 213 Street 3105 NE 190 Street





*City of Aventura 21st Annual*  
**FOUNDERS  
DAY**

**Including Green Market Kick-Off**

**NOVEMBER 13, 2016**

**Noon - 5 PM**

Celebrate the City's 21st anniversary bash amidst stilt walkers, jugglers, activities, food, the launch of the **Green Market** season, and pure entertainment!

Enjoy a variety of outdoor and recreational activities; Participate in fun games; Get creative at the interactive art and science stations, or unleash fun personal style in the Makeover Madness station; Share the excitement with little ones at Toddler Town; Relax under the dining tents while catching a game of football on HDTVs and feast on a bite from any of the fantastic food trucks; Become dazzled by the acts on the community stage featuring the Aventura STAR talent competition and many more surprises!

**Parking**

Free parking at the Aventura Government Center Parking Garage just west of Founders Park and at the Harbour Centre on the corner of NE 188 Street and NE 29 Avenue. Free shuttle service between the Harbour Centre and Founders Park will operate on Founders Day from 11:30 AM - 6 PM.

**Founders Park**

**3105 NE 190 Street 305-466-8930**

[cityofaventura.com/foundersday](http://cityofaventura.com/foundersday) #CityofAventura



# Arts & Culture

## AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

*Celebrating 5 years of the Arts in Aventura*

### Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Announces its Spectacular 2016-17 Season

The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center (AACC) presents a stellar seventh season of breathtaking entertainment that will encompass popular and classical music, the best of Broadway, dramatic dance, theater for adults and children, sidesplitting comedy and poignant foreign film.

Founders Day Weekend is center stage at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center on November 12 when the City of Aventura presents **Bravo Amici**, the group whose emerging “contemporary classical crossover” genre has taken the music world by storm.

The Aventura Marketing Council presents **Young Stars Showcase** on November 6, the 8th-annual performance of sensational young South Florida singers.

#### The Best of the Great White Way

Don't miss the **Broadway Concert Series** featuring Broadway's Little Mermaid Sierra **Boggess** (Jan. 25); Tony Award winner for his role Hamilton, **Leslie Odom, Jr.** (March 15); Tony and Golden Globe winner **Linda Lavin** (March 29); and Tony Award, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Choice award winner for his role in Kinky Boots, **Billy Porter** (April 2).

#### Enthralling Theater

Much-acclaimed Slow Burn Theatre Company stages Tony Award “Triple Crown” winner for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book, **Avenue Q** (Dec. 1 - 4); and **Xanadu** (February 2 - 5), the adventurous roller-skating musical based on the cult classic film of the same name.

#### Popular Music

From the Music of Nat King Cole to Liberace, highlights include **Too Marvelous for Words** (Jan. 8); **Side by Side: A Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme Tribute** (Jan. 20); **Roslyn Kind** (Feb. 11); **Defying Gravity – The Music of Stephen Schwartz** (Feb. 16); **The Hands of Liberace Starring Phillip Fortenberry** (Feb. 23); **Rock Legends** (March 8); and **Jump Jive & Wail Featuring the Jive Aces** (March 10).



## Magic and Variety

Audiences will thrill to South Florida's renowned Taiko Drum ensemble **Fushu Daiko Spirit Drummers!** (Nov. 18); **Forbidden Broadway's 35th Anniversary Tour** (Jan. 5, 6); and **The Magic of Bill Blagg Live!** (March 26).



## Hilarious Comedy

Ever popular **Sarge** returns with his **Chanukah Chutzpah Tour** (Dec. 22, 23); while this year's Comedy Series features **Bobby Collins** (Nov. 19); **Bobby Slaton... The Pitbull of Comedy** (Jan. 21); and **Jeff Laub... Laughing Out Laub** (Feb. 25). Also just for laughs, enjoy **Steve Solomon's My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish and I'm in Therapy** (Jan. 14).



## Dance

The AACC's 7th season of dance started with **TANGObsession** (Oct. 22) and continues with **New World Dance Ensemble** (Nov. 4), **Arts Ballet Theatre's The Nutcracker** (Dec. 9 – 11) and **Step Afrika!** (Jan. 28).

## Classical Piano

The Miami International Piano Festival opens its five part season with **Fabio Martino** (Nov. 20), followed by **Pietro De Maria** (Jan. 15), **Kotaro Fukuma** (Feb. 19), **Misha Dacic** (March 19), and **Francesco Libetta** (April 23).

## Family Fun Series

The popular Family Fun started the year with **Pete the Cat** (Oct. 14, 15), and continues with **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** (Nov. 20), **Biscuit the Little Yellow Puppy** (Jan. 28) and **Havana Hop!** (April 30). Each Family Fun Series performance provides the ultimate family theater-going experience with a complimentary pre-show art activity and post-show sweet treat provided by Hoffman's Chocolates. Stage Matinee performances include: **Fushu Daiko: Spirit Drummers!** (Nov. 18), **The Nutcracker** (Dec. 9), **Step Afrika!** (Jan. 27) and **MatheMagic!** Starring Bradley Fields (Feb. 9).



## Aventura Foreign Film Series

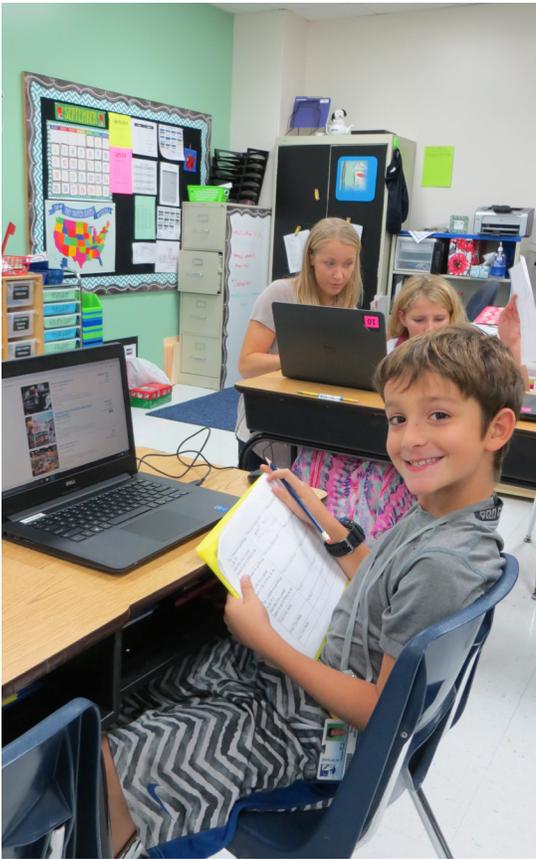
This year's popular series started with **Mustang** (Oct. 18) and continues with **Once in a Lifetime** (Nov. 1), **Our Little Sister** (Nov. 22), **Mia Madre** (Jan. 3), **In Harmony** (Feb. 7), **Rams** (March 7), **Sweet Bean** (April 4) and **The Brand New Testament** (May 2). Host Shelly Isaacs, founder/programmer and commentator for South Florida's popular Café Cinematheque International programs, will introduce each of the films and lead post-screening discussions.

**Buy tickets online** at [aventuracenter.org](http://aventuracenter.org); by **phone** at 877-311-7469; **in person** at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center box office Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and 90 minutes prior to each performance.



# Education

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## Educating and Technology at ACES

The Digital Age, Information Age and Computer Age are all terms we are familiar with to describe the almost incomprehensible shift of society to everything technological. As technology applications are growing at an exponential rate, how is Aventura City of Excellence School (ACES) keeping up with the progress and informing our students?

ACES is starting the 2016-2017 school year off by strengthening its commitment to making sure its students are equipped with the 21st century skills they will need to thrive in all they do. With the pressures of Florida's mandated standardized testing, it is easy to get caught up in the habit of test preparation, but the teachers and staff at ACES have been working diligently to ensure they are offering a balanced education for all students.

### Teacher Commitment

During the last week of July 2016, a group of ACES teachers volunteered a week of their summer to begin the lengthy process of creating a comprehensive and holistic educational program that not only addresses academics and the arts but ensures students are being prepared from their very first days in school to become critical thinkers and problem solvers. ACES's commitment to the whole child goes back to its founding in 2003, but this new effort is meant to strengthen the integration of 21st century skills into a student's everyday educational experience.

The committee spent time investigating skills and traits that are vital to the development of creative, resilient, and open minded learners. After much research and discussion, nine categories were identified which spanned from digital health and safety to creativity and problem solving and even social and cross cultural skills. The teachers dove into their K-8 academic curriculums to pinpoint natural tie-ins where these 21st century skills can be used to strengthen the content and provide students the opportunity to collaborate, create, and curate their own work. Over the next year, this committee will continue to refine the curriculum and gather resources. The long term goal is to have all ACES teachers trained by the committee on meaningful and effective integration of these skills and traits.

### 21st Century Learning

With an eye on the skills needed by a 21st century learner, ACES began an exciting journey during the Spring of 2016 to become an active Google Apps for Education (GAFE) School. GAFE provides schools free access to a suite of cloud-based applications which allows users to communicate, collaborate, and create with their peers in real time.

This year, all teachers and middle school students at ACES were issued a Google account and are diligently working to becoming familiar with the ins and outs of the many Google Apps available to them. In addition to creation tools such as Google Docs and Google Slides, teachers and students are also utilizing Google Classroom - an online hub for all of the communication, resource distribution, and assignments that happen in a regular class. The Google Classroom environment offers students a one stop shop to help them stay organized and optimize the time spent on their school work. Google Classroom is proving to be an invaluable communication tool between teachers, students and parents. It is one place where students and parents can go to find all resources needed to stay current and organized with the assignments and announcements for all six middle school classes.

As with any new system there is a learning curve, but the overall consensus is one of excitement for the new opportunities offered with the introduction of Google Apps for Education. However, this is only the tip of the iceberg for Google Apps. ACES is working towards a school wide community where effective implementation of the many resources within GAFE will provide students with increased chances for collaborative and authentic learning experiences. It is with this style of implementation that ACES will move towards the cutting edge of educational technology.



## Expanding ACES Network and Increasing Hardware

Keeping current with the newest trends in educational applications isn't enough. In order to give the students of ACES the chances to actively engage in meaningful work, there must be a robust network and ample devices to support their endeavours. It is in this area that ACES has been tirelessly striving to keep ahead.

Over the summer, Information Technology(IT) staff members strengthened ACES's Wi-Fi network by adding additional Wi-Fi access points to enhance connectivity. This enhancement facilitated the expansion of the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program, which was launched during the 2015-2016 school year. Today, the program provides fifth through eighth grade students access to school Wi-Fi when they bring their personal computing device to school. This accommodation allows teachers to incorporate computer rich learning experiences into their classroom activities on a more regular basis.

ACES has also added three additional mobile laptop carts this year. Now at a fleet of almost 300 laptops and 90 ipads, these devices are used by all grade levels to provide students with access to many educational resources. Students can be found conducting their own virtual science experiments, recording individual reflections to document their learning and then submitting these digitally to their teacher, as well as conducting research and working collaboratively on a shared file to develop student-created resources and materials.

## Software for Success

As we build our capacity through extended Wi-Fi access, added laptops and Bring Your Own Device policies, we have the capability to offer an increasing number of technology based learning programs to ensure student success. ACES utilizes multiple programs to remediate, instruct and engage students to learn in this world of technology.

Two of the major internet based programs being utilized across the K-8 grades are I-Ready and Reading Plus. I-Ready is used in both language arts and math. Reading Plus is used in language arts classes. Both I-Ready and Reading Plus use intuitive technology to determine where learners are in terms of skill gaps and then provide them with lessons to strengthen skill weaknesses. These programs individualize instruction for each learner based on a diagnostic assessment to give each student exactly what he/she needs to improve or accelerate. These programs also provide teachers with data about where students are in terms of standards and how to best remediate or enhance their learning of the standards.

# Education

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Currently all students at ACES are enrolled in a formal technology class. Elementary students have technology as part of their specials rotation schedule, and every grade of middle school attends technology daily. In these classes students engage in learning how to use various technologies and apply these skills to enhance their learning opportunities. Activities range from learning basic word processing and presentation skill to investigating the use of code within our everyday lives and then learning basic coding.

Other programs being implemented include Typing Pal, Accelerated Reader, Brainpop, Quizlet, Kahoot!, PowToons, Algebra Nation, Kahn Academy and Quia. These programs can be used for any number of purposes ranging from providing instructional videos to online quizzing and grading. In addition, all of our current textbooks provide online resources and support for teachers, parents and students.

## Forging On

As technology makes our society ever more global and smaller all at the same time ACES will continue to forge ahead with technological education that prepares our students to compete in the 21st century. We prepare our students to not only be users of technology but to create and think critically about the applications of the Digital Age. We are ever vigilant as a staff and school community to bring our students the best of what technology has to enhance our educational endeavors on a daily basis.



## Bike Share is Here

The City of Aventura launched **Aventura BCycle**, a bike share program which aims to support green transportation by reducing car pollution, reduce traffic, and provide the opportunity for great exercise around the City of Excellence!

The Aventura BCycle program is operated in partnership with Broward BCycle. For complete information about the Aventura BCycle program including membership registration, visit [aventura.bcycle.com](http://aventura.bcycle.com) or call BCycle at 888-852-8665. Start Biking!

# Police Department

Stop.Think.Connect.™

## Be Safe, Be Alert

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

**Shopping Malls** and stores are crowded places where potential thieves are likely to distract victims. There is safety in numbers, so shop with friends!

### Parking Lots

- Park and walk in well lit areas. Lock your vehicle and hide valuables in the trunk or locked compartment.
- Stay alert when loading and unloading children and/or items in and out of your vehicle.

## Online Shopping

When shopping online, be sure to save all records including emails regarding transactions, and review credit card statements for suspicious activity.

## What is Ransomware?

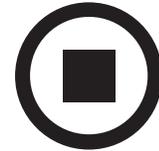
**Ransomware** is a type of malware installed on a computer or server that encrypts the files, making them inaccessible until a specified ransom is paid. Ransomware is typically installed when a user clicks on a malicious link, opens a file in an e-mail that installs the malware, or through drive-by downloads (which does not require user-initiation) from a compromised website.

### Protect Your Computer from Ransomware

- Make sure you have updated antivirus software on your computer.
- Enable automated patches for your operating system and web browser.
- Have strong passwords, and don't use the same passwords for everything.
- Use a pop-up blocker.

- Only download software—especially free software—from sites you know and trust.
- Don't open attachments in unsolicited e-mails, even if they come from people in your contact list, and never click on a URL contained in an unsolicited e-mail, even if you think it looks safe. Instead, close out the e-mail and go to the organization's website directly.
- Use the same precautions on your mobile phone as you would on your computer when using the Internet.
- To prevent the loss of essential files due to a ransomware infection, it's recommended that individuals and businesses always conduct regular system back-ups and store the backed-up data offline.

Tips for keeping your personal information safe, your family protected, and our national security intact.



**Stop** hackers from accessing your accounts — set secure passwords. **Stop** sharing too much information — keep your personal information personal. **Stop** — trust your gut. If something doesn't feel right, *stop what you are doing.*



**Think** about the information you want to share before you share it. **Think** how your online actions can affect your offline life. **Think** before you act — don't automatically click on links.



**Connect** over secure networks. **Connect** with people you know. **Connect** with care and be on the lookout for potential threats.



STOP | THINK | CONNECT™

Securing one citizen, one family,  
one Nation against cyber threats.

[www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect](http://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect)



# Aventura Update

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# Aventura Update

Fall 2016

## City Commission Meetings

Commission meetings are held at 6 PM the first Tuesday of every month at the Aventura Government Center Commission Chambers located at 19200 West Country Club Drive.

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

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

## Calendar Highlights

### City Events

- October 29 . . . . . Halloween Monster Mash & Movie Night
- November 8 . . . . . Teacher Planning Day
- November 11 . . . . . Veterans Day
- November 13 . . . . . Founders Day & Green Market Kick-Off
- November 19 . . . . . Movie Night
- November 23 . . . . . Teacher Planning Day
- December 26 - January 6 . . . . . Winter Camp

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

#CityofAventura



### Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Events

- November 4 . . . . . New World Dance Ensemble
- November 12 . . . . . Bravo Amici
- November 18 . . . . . Fushu Daiko: Spirit Drummers
- December 1-4 . . . . . Avenue Q
- December 9-11 . . . . . The Nutcracker

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

#AventuraCenter

