

Aventura Update

The Official City of Aventura Newsletter
cityofaventura.com #CityofAventura
Fall 2017



Community Services
Recreation Programs
5-6



Hurricane Irma Relief
for the Florida Keys
7



AACC Announces
2017-18 Season
8



ACES Eagles Prepare
for Jobs of Tomorrow
10

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.



City Commission Approves New Budget Low Tax Rate and Excellent Services Continue

Recently the City Commission adopted the budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2017. The budget adopted the same tax rate as the prior year of 1.726, which is the lowest rate in the Miami-Dade County. This represents a 22 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 presents only 10% of the total. The other large portions represent the County and School Board. Just as important as it is to keep taxes low, this was accomplished while maintaining the current service levels and programs Aventura residents and businesses currently enjoy.

The budget process produced a total budget of \$58,175,949 or 11.4% 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 \$2,697,975 and decreased by \$10,540,697 compared to the prior year. Projects included range from park 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 well into the future.

Operating costs increased by \$1,254,849 or 3.6% as compared to the previous year. The budget maintains our current level for all City services except the following areas:

- Added 4 new Police Officer positions at a cost of \$363,680, in accordance with the Police Services Agreement with the Aventura Mall, to enhance safety and security as part of the opening of the new addition to the Mall this fall.

(Continued on page 2)

Aventura Update

Mayor

Enid Weisman

Commissioners

Denise Landman Marc Narotsky
Dr. Linda Marks Robert Shelley
Gladys Mezrahi 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

Directory

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City Clerk 305-466-8901
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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
Bryan Pegues, Police Chief

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

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- Added 3 part-time seasonal Park Attendant positions at a cost of \$22,821 in order to provide adequate coverage in the peak season and accommodate increased attendance at our park facilities
- A new after school program at the Community Recreation Center was added for Aventura students that attend Aventura Waterways K-8 and new youth travel soccer and basketball leagues were established to respond to increased demand for these services in the community. The cost will be offset by fees charged for this service.
- A Jazz, Wine and Cheese event to be held in April 2018, was added as part of the City's ongoing efforts to provide community events for all age groups.
- Increased funding for the shuttle bus service by \$45,000 to expand service to new developments that come on-line in the next year.
- After several years of modest increases, our employee health insurance costs rose by 9%, which had a \$215,000 impact on the budget.

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. 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 budget addresses the following priorities/ goals that the City Commission has either adopted or supported through policy or initiatives:

Enhance the safety and security of our residents and businesses:

- Implement community outreach initiatives to engage the community in joint problem solving and crime prevention techniques.
- Add 4 new Police Officer positions in accordance with the Police Services Agreement with the Aventura Mall, to enhance safety and security as part of the opening of the new addition to the Mall this fall.
- Improve communications with the community by expanding social media and community policing efforts by the Police department.
- Increase overtime costs to meet the demands of police service requirements and community safety.

Provide and support quality educational choices for Aventura students to succeed academically and become productive citizens:

- Continue to operate Aventura City of Excellence School K-8 as an "A" rated high performing school and provide support services thorough various City departments.
 - Continue to take the necessary steps to ensure the opening of the proposed Aventura Charter High School by August 2019 including the funding of the upfront construction costs.
- (Continue on page 3)*

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Maintain efficient and responsive government which embraces the highest standards of service and financial stability:

- For the 22nd year in a row no increase in the tax rate is recommended.
- Continue to focus on maintaining and protecting the City's infrastructure by funding capital outlay projects from park improvements to road resurfacing expenditures in the amount of \$1,289,500.
- Maintain healthy reserves that protect the City's ability to provide quality services no matter the economic times and address unforeseen emergencies.
- Continue the model of privatizing many service areas of the City's operations while maintaining a small workforce which has allowed for a more cost effective service delivery system, as compared to the traditional government structure.
- Continue to utilize technology to improve productivity and expand E-government applications.

Continue to explore alternate transportation modes to alleviate traffic and support bicycle friendly initiatives:

- Continue to fund the free Aventura Express Shuttle Bus system that serves almost 26,000 riders a month and extend service to new developments.
- Implement recommendations included in the Unfiled Master Plan for Pedestrian and Bicycle Connectivity.
- Expand the Aventura BCycle bike share program by adding a new station to be located at E. Country Club Drive/ Mystic Point area based on resident requests.
- Continue to collaborate with state, county and local officials to address possible solutions to traffic issues.

Community Engagement, Parks, Programs and Special Events:

- Add 3 part-time seasonal Park Attendant positions in order to provide adequate coverage in the peak season and accommodate increased attendance at our park facilities.
- Implement a new after school program at the Community Recreation Center for Aventura students that attend Aventura Waterways K-8.
- Add a Jazz, Wine and Cheese event to be held in April of 2018, as part of the City's ongoing efforts to provide community events for all age groups.

- New youth travel soccer and basketball leagues were established to respond to increased demand for these services in the community. The cost will be offset by fees charged for this service.
- Continue the "Community Ride with the Police Department" Special Event which provides opportunities for the residents to interact with the Police.
- Increase funding to support a wide variety of programming for all age groups at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center.
- Continue to fund Family Movie Nights at Founders Park.
- Provide adequate funding to maintain our parks and recreation facilities at a high level.
- Employ the use of the newly created Youth Advisory Board.

Environmental Sustainability and Go Green Initiatives

- Maintain Tree City USA status.
- Continue to improve the energy efficiency of all City facilities including the replacement of worn air conditioning systems.
- Ensure that redevelopment projects that require land use/zoning revisions do not have a negative impact on the community.
- Include funding to continue to retrofit street lighting throughout the City with more energy efficient LED fixtures.
- Monitor and participate in regional efforts to address the impact of rising sea level and the long range impacts of climate change.
- Implement strategies and recommendations included in the City's Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan to address drainage infrastructure improvements and long range impacts of climate change.
- Continue the "Go Green Award Program" sponsored by the Community Services Board to recognize condominiums and businesses that have made efforts to reduce energy consumption and implement recycling programs.
- Provide adequate funding to maintain our signature landscape, streets, rights-of-way and facilities.
- Maintain the silver level certification recognition by the Florida Green Local Government Program.

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

November 5, 2017

22nd Annual Founders Day

November 11, 2017

Veterans Day Ceremony

November 22, 2017

Teacher Planning Day

December 26, 2017 – January 5, 2018

Winter Camp

Sports Calendar

Adult Softball

Through Dec. 2017

Girls Soccer

Through Jan. 2018

Basketball

Through Dec. 2017

Boys Soccer

Through Jan. 2018

After School Basketball

Through Dec. 2017
Dec. 2017 – March 2018

Travel Soccer

Through May 2018

After School Soccer

Through Dec. 2017
Dec. 2017 – March 2018

Travel Basketball

Through May 2018



Directory

Community Recreation Center

3375 NE 188 Street

305-466-3883

City Parks

Founders Park

3105 NE 190 Street

305-466-0183

Veterans Park

18375 NE 31 Avenue

305-466-8008

SplashPad at

Founders Park

3105 NE 190 Street

305-466-0183

Waterways Park

3301 NE 213 Street

305-466-8008

Peace Park

3200 NE 188 Street

305-466-8008

Waterways Dog Park

3401 NE 213 Street

305-466-8008

Park Hours for Fall

Founders Park, Peace Park, Veterans Park, Waterways Park, and Waterways Dog Park are open daily from 8 AM - 6 PM.

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 (restrictions apply).

Registration is a click away!
REGISTER ONLINE
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. Registration is open.

Registration for the upcoming Aventura **winter** season of activities opens for residents on Monday, December 11 and Tuesday, December 26 for non-residents.

Winter Camp: Winter in the Tropics

December 26 - January 5

Camp is for children ages 5-14 and is held Tuesday - 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. Visit cityofaventura.com for details or contact the City of Aventura Community Recreation Center at 305-466-3883.

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, 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.



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, Junior Tennis for ages 8-12, and adult tennis clinics.

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.

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.



Recreational Seasonal Leagues:

Basketball, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer

Players ages 5-15 enjoy the benefits of participating in team sports.

Travel Leagues:

Soccer, Basketball

Travel leagues allow players ages 8-14 to compete in games and tournaments throughout the state of Florida.

After-School Leagues:

Soccer, Basketball

Players ages 5-10 for soccer and 5-14 for basketball enjoy sports activity right after their regular school day ends.



When school is out, children ages 5-14 enjoy a day of fun-filled activities at the City of Aventura's Community Recreation Center located at 3375 NE 188 Street! Scheduled Teacher Planning Days run from 7:30 AM - 6 PM!

Wednesday, November 22, 2017

Myths and Legends

Myths and legends of the past and present are explored to determine if they are truth or fiction.



Tuesday, December 26, 2017 - Friday, January 5, 2018

When school is out for winter break, the fun activities begin in Aventura where campers enjoy fun-filled days of activities including games, learning about fishing in the tropics, arts & crafts, and field trips. The City of Aventura Winter Camp will be held Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 AM – 6 PM at the Community Recreation Center located at 3375 NE 188 Street.

Visit cityofaventura.com for fees and additional information.



Wednesday, November 15, 2017

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts for a presentation of "Love Never Dies" Broadway show.

Friday, December 22, 2017

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts for Miami City Ballet's "The Nutcracker".

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Dania Beach Casino for a fun day with friends.



Veterans Day Ceremony

In Honor of all Who Have Served Our Nation

NOVEMBER 11, 2017 10 AM



City of Aventura Government Center
19200 West Country Club Drive
cityofaventura.com #CityofAventura

Police Department

Coming Together as a Community is the Essence of Rebuilding Florida Keys Hurricane Irma Relief

A call went out to the community by the City of Aventura and the Aventura Police Department to help those in the Florida Keys that were impacted by Hurricane Irma. Items collected were scheduled to be distributed throughout the Keys shortly after Hurricane Irma left the area, when the Keys residents were desperately in need.

The local community responded with overwhelming support. Within 3 days, enough donations including personal hygiene products, toiletries, cleaning supplies, diapers, pet food, and household items were collected to fill four box trucks to capacity.

On September 21st, a motorcade with team members from the Aventura Police Department, the City of Aventura and the Ft. Lauderdale Police Department began their humanitarian journey to the Florida Keys.

Along the way, the team met locals who were volunteering despite their own personal losses. The team was greeted with warm deep appreciation and gratitude as they dropped off the donations. Stops included locations on Islamorada, Marathon, Big Pine Key, and Key West.

While unloading the last truck, the team had a sense of relief, not because it was the last stop, but because there was a sense of overwhelming confidence that the Florida Keys will most certainly rebuild better than ever.

It is with pride, gratitude and resilience that our community came together to help our Florida neighbors in need.



Connect with us! #CityofAventura



Visit cityofaventura.com

Stay informed with **MyAventura!**

Receive City of Aventura notifications about news, events and emergencies directly to your inbox.

Sign-up for CodeRed's Emergency Notification System.

During Hurricane Irma, the City used all of these methods to reach residents and businesses with critical storm and recovery information.

AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

aventuracenter.org



Mandy Gonzalez



Foreign Film - The Teacher



A Temptations Revue

The Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Unveils A Blockbuster New Season

More than 100 events fill the spectacular **2017-18 season** at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center.

Broadway in Your Backyard

Cinderella star **Santino Fontana** with special guest **Jessica Fontana** launch the 2018 Broadway Concert Series followed by **Andrea McArdle & Donna McKechnie**, from the original casts of *Annie* and *A Chorus Line*. Fresh from her role as Angelica Schuyler in *Hamilton*, **Mandy Gonzalez** joins the series which culminates with Tony Award® nominee **Max von Essen**.

Theatrical magic continues with **Chris Mann: A Night with the Phantom** and legendary composers are applauded in ***This Joint is Jumpin': Celebrating the Music of Fats Waller; Loesser Known: The Stories and Songs of Frank Loesser*** and ***Jerry Herman: The Broadway Legacy Concert***.

The Opera Atelier presents **Great Opera Moments** providing a grand dramatic experience while ***On Golden Pond*** proves the story of one family can be unforgettable.

Aventura Arts & Cultural Center and Slow Burn Theatre Company present two of Broadway's most recent hits with ***Peter and the Starcatcher*** and ***Disaster! The Musical***.

Your Passport to International Cinema

The Aventura Foreign Film Series, hosted by Shelly Isaacs, screens acclaimed entries from the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Romania and Italy on the center's new commercial-grade projector. Don't miss ***The Teacher***, ***A Kid***, ***Frantz***, ***To Life!***, ***The Country Doctor***, ***The People vs. Fritz Bauer***, ***Graduation*** and ***Like Crazy***.

The Soundtrack of Your Life

The music you love sung by the artists that made them famous highlight the season with Latin Grammy® nominee **Yordano**, **Nestor Torres**, **Dudu Fisher Celebrates JerUSAlem**, ***A Temptations Revue featuring Barrington "Bo" Henderson*** and ***Pop, Rock & Doo Wopp Live!*** with Shirley Alston Reeves, Dennis Tufano and Emil Stucchio & The Classics.

Relive the thrill of musical greats with ***We Rock Then We Soul*** recreating the music of Earth Wind and Fire and Chicago; ***Top of the World—A Carpenters Tribute***; ***The Everly Brothers Experience***; ***Jersey Boy*** **Charles Calello**:

Tribute to the 4 Seasons; Direct from Las Vegas An Evening with Cher, Elton, Bette Midler & Streisand starring The Edwards Twins; Tapestry–The Carole King Songbook; Night Fever: The Music of the Bee Gees; Chris MacDonald’s Memories of Elvis; and Streisand and Sinatra “Memories.”

Concerts benefitting the community include the **Aventura Marketing Council Young Stars Showcase** and **Giving Thanks: A Musical Benefit**.

Fun for All

Steve Solomon’s **Cannoli, Latkes, and Guilt** finds laughs in South Florida and comedy legend **Robert Klein** is followed by his acclaimed former comedy troupe in **The Second City: Look Both Ways Before Talking**.

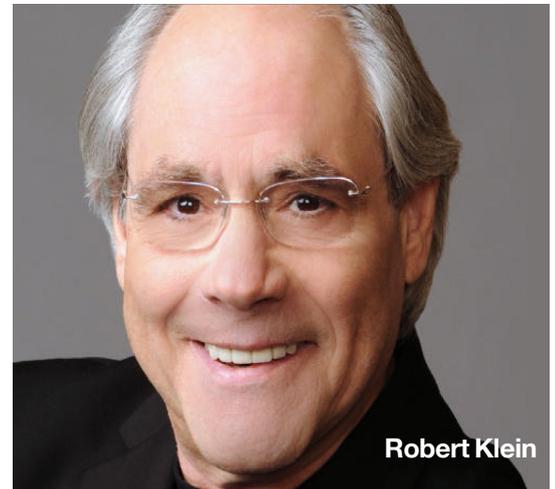
The laughs continue with the Aventura Comedy Series featuring **Sarge: The Chanukah Chutzpah Tour**, **Vic Dibitto**, **Wendy Liebman**, **Fuggedaboutit... Three Guys From the Neighborhood** and **Stewie Stone**. Venezuelan comic **Emilio Lovero** makes his debut in a Spanish-speaking performance.

You’ll be howling for more at **Mutts Gone Nuts** and be amazed by the impossible feats of **Cirque Zuma Zuma** and the unique shadow dance company **Catapult**. Explore other cultures with the famed **Tamburitzans in Concert** and celebrate the crowning of **Mr. and Miss Pride South Florida 2018**.

Children will learn and laugh with performances based on children’s books during the 2017–18 Family Fun Series presented by Hoffman’s Chocolates and the Smart Stage Matinee Series.

Celebrate South Florida

Experience the region’s best with performances by Arts Ballet Theatre, Miami International Piano Festival, The Opera Atelier, New World Dance Ensemble, the Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Miami, Carolyn Dorfman Dance, Dance Now! and the return of the Choreographer’s Ball.



Robert Klein



Cirque Zuma Zuma



Arts Ballet Theatre - The Nutcracker



Catapult

Buy tickets online at aventuracenter.org;

by phone at 877-311-7469;

in person at

Aventura Arts & Cultural Center box office

Tuesday through Saturday

from noon to 5 p.m. and

90 minutes prior to each performance.

Education



Educating for the Future with Technology at ACES

Committed to Stay Connected

ACES is committed to prepare its students with the skills necessary to succeed in a truly global and connected world. Students must be equipped to meet the needs of careers yet to be defined. As a result of this commitment, ACES is implementing technology based opportunities this year.

ACES is proud to offer:

- Eighth-grade students the opportunity to become **Microsoft Certified**, increasing their viability in the future job market.

- Middle-school students a **digital communications** class where students explore videotaping, editing, vlogging (video blogging), live broadcasting including live streaming the morning shows, social networking, and many other digital communications tools. ACES has invested in a full, live production studio.

In an effort to provide students with enriching avenues for development in collaboration, critical thinking, curation, communication, and creativity with technology, ACES:

- Continues to be a **Google for Education School**, a solution built for teachers and students with easy tools to engage students anytime, anywhere, on any device.
- Implements **Nearpod**, a program offering fourth through eighth grade students a variety of online activities ranging from participating in virtual reality field trips to receiving real time feedback from teachers.
- Pilots **1:1 programs**, which are known as 'anywhere, any time' or 'laptops for students' programs. These programs provide students with computer equipment to enhance opportunities for learning. The devices help schools engage the digital generation by nurturing individual (or 1-to-1) learning experiences. Fifth grade and eighth grade students as well as foreign language and intensive reading students will experience this program.
- Provides the opportunity for seventh grade students to embark on **Genius Hour** projects, a movement that allows students to explore their own passions and encourages creativity in the classroom. Students will have the opportunity for one class a week to take on a personal project of interest from learning to play the guitar to learning to build a successful website. The possibilities are endless.

This year promises to be one like no other at ACES!
Learn more at aventuracharter.org and follow us on social media.

f  #AventuraCharter



Founders Day

NOVEMBER 5, 2017

NOON - 5 PM

Celebrate the City of Aventura's
22nd Year of Incorporation



Founders Park
3105 NE 190 Street

cityofaventura.com/foundersday #CityofAventura



Aventura Update

CITY OF AVENTURA
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 Update

Fall 2017

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.

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

Calendar Highlights

City

- November 5 22nd Annual Founders Day
- November 11 Veterans Day Ceremony
- December 26 - January 5 Winter Camp

cityofaventura.com #CityofAventura

Aventura Arts & Cultural Center

- November 30 - December 3. Peter and the Starcatcher
- January 6 & 7 Steve Solomon's Cannoli, Latkes and Guilt
- January 19 A Temptations Review
- February 22-25 Disaster! The Musical
- March 9 Robert Klein

aventuracenter.org #AventuraCenter