

# *MO* AVENTURA

City of Aventura Official Newsletter • August 2022 • [CityOfAventura.com](http://CityOfAventura.com)

**OFFICIAL MESSAGE**  
FROM COMMISSIONER ROBERT SHELLEY

**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
SAFETY TIPS

**FALL ACTIVITIES**  
REGISTRATION BEGINS



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## Message from Commissioner Robert Shelley

It seems like just yesterday we were attending graduations and beginning summer vacations and camps. Now the school year is upon us. I am proud to tell you that both of our municipal charter schools, ACES and Don Soffer Aventura High School received A grades from the state for last school year.



As kids get back to their classrooms, schools zones will be reactivated. Please make plans to adjust for the traffic impacts and make sure to drive safely.

Our city's summer camp programs were as popular as ever, serving over 600 kids. Our Community Services Department continues to provide wonderful experiences for our children.

Aventura continues to grow, with new developments under construction and in planning. The city will continue to prosper as these rising developments support our tax base and offer new opportunities for people to choose Aventura as their home.

As I near the end of my eight years on the Aventura Commission, I am proud of all that we have accomplished. Helping the city oversee the construction of our high school was an honor and a privilege.

The City of Excellence continues to uphold its moniker. I am as optimistic and confident about our future as I ever have been.

### MY AVENTURA Now Available!

- Access information
- Submit service requests
- Receive notifications
- And more!



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**Mayor**  
Enid Weisman

**Vice Mayor**  
Denise Landman

**Commissioners**  
Rachel S. Friedland  
Billy Joel  
Dr. Linda Marks  
Marc Narotsky  
Robert Shelley

**City Manager**  
Ron Wasson

**Assistant City Manager**  
Bryan Pegues

**City Clerk**  
Ellisa L. Horvath, MMC

**City Attorney**  
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole &  
Bierman

### Directory

Main Number	305-466-8900
Mayor & Commission	305-466-8901
City Manager Ron Wasson	305-466-8910
City Clerk Ellisa L. Horvath	305-466-8901
Aventura Arts & Cultural Center Jeff Kiltie, General Manager	305-466-8002
ACES Charter School Dr. Anthony Tyrkala, Principal	305-466-1499
Community Development Keven Klopp, Director	305-466-8940
Community Services Kimberly Merchant, Director	305-466-8930
DSAHS Charter School Geoff Mckee, Principal	786-481-3032
Finance Melissa Cruz, Director	305-466-8920
Information Technology Karen J. Lanke, Director	305-466-8928
Police (Non-Emergency) Michael Bentolila, Police Chief	305-466-8989
Public Works/Transportation Joseph S. Kroll, Director	305-466-8970

## Calendar Highlights

### City Events

August	Fall Activities Registration Opens
August 15 & 16	Teacher Planning Day
August 17	2022-23 School Year Begins

### A Commitment to Community Involvement

The City of Aventura's newsletter represents the City Commission's continued commitment to keeping the community updated about important City government issues and services. This newsletter is published periodically 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.

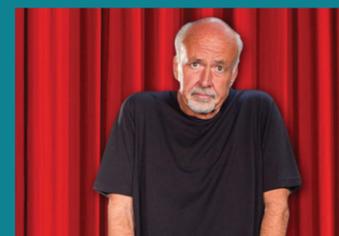
### City Commission Meetings

Commission meetings are held at 6 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month unless otherwise noted 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 meeting dates, times and locations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 305-466-8901

## AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER



THE SPOUSE WHISPERER  
SEPT 17 & 18



THIS IS ELTON, THE TRIBUTE  
SEPT 24

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

### Blast from the past

A look back at events from the month of July



Independence Day Fireworks Celebration



Summer Camp



Arts & Cultural Center  
Summer Theater Camp



Commissioner Dr. Linda Marks celebrates with Ruth Speigel, An Aventura resident, on her 101st birthday



Community Services Advisory Board  
Ice Cream Pop-up

## Police

### Back to School Safety Tips

According to the NHTSA, Florida ranks #3 in the nation for pedestrian fatalities. As students return back to school, here are a few tips provided by Sergeant Sabina Shapiro to keep students safe and ensure smooth drop offs and pickups this upcoming school year.

#### 1. Follow the speed limit

The speed limit in school zones is 15 mph and the fines are doubled. Avoid a costly ticket. Follow the speed limit.

#### 2. Use crosswalks.

Marked crosswalks alert drivers to stop and allow pedestrians to cross safely. All traffic must stop when pedestrians are on the cross walk.

#### 3. Stop for school buses.

Traffic must come to a complete stop for school bus stop signs until the student crosses safely.

#### 4. Avoid jaywalking.

Crosswalks are here for you. Use them!

#### 5. Walk against traffic.

Walk against the flow of traffic to see on-coming cars. When attempting to cross,

always look left, right, and left again.

#### 6. Don't stop in the road to drop students off.

This slows down traffic significantly. Dropping off your student to the front of the school keeps the line going smoothly and ensures your child walks into the school building.

#### 7. Pack your patience.

The first few days back to school are always a little hectic. Be patient and adhere to traffic rules to make your first day back a little easier!

## Get Social



with us!

@cityofaventura  
cityofaventura.com

### Don Soffer Aventura High School Welcomes First Graduating Senior Class

The 2022-2023 School Year Begins on August 17, 2022

### Our Schools are A-okay!

Congratulations to both Aventura City of Excellence School and Don Soffer Aventura High School for receiving an A grade from Charter Schools USA of Florida!

### City of Aventura Teacher Planning Day Program

When school is out, Teacher Planning Days at the City of Aventura provide children an enjoyable day camp filled with a variety of enrichment activities such as sports, health & wellness programs, games, arts & crafts, project based learning, and recreational activities.

**When**  
7 AM - 6 PM

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

**Fee**  
Fee includes all activities, supplies and lunch.  
Aventura residents \$43  
Non-Aventura residents \$52

**Registration**  
Participants must be registered prior to attending the program. Registration can be completed exclusively online only. Please visit [cityofaventura.com/ors](http://cityofaventura.com/ors) to complete the registration process with a valid account.

**Contact**  
Community Services Department at 305-466-3883 or email at [crcenter@cityofaventura.com](mailto:crcenter@cityofaventura.com)

**SCHEDULE**  
Monday, August 15, 2022  
Tuesday, August 16, 2022  
Monday, September 26, 2022  
Wednesday, October 5, 2022  
Tuesday, November 8, 2022  
Friday, December 23, 2022  
Monday, January 23, 2023  
Friday, April 7, 2023  
Thursday, June 8, 2023  
Friday, June 9, 2023

**AGES 5-12**

[cityofaventura.com](http://cityofaventura.com)  
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### PARENTS NIGHT OUT!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30  
6 - 10 PM

**DROP OFF**  
your children ages 5-12 years old & get the night off!

**REGISTRATION**  
Participants must be registered prior to attending the event. Complete registration online at [cityofaventura.com/ors](http://cityofaventura.com/ors).

**ACTIVITIES**  
Come join us for a night filled with camping adventures. Kids are encouraged to come in their pajamas and bring sleeping bags and/or blankets from home to enjoy a movie under the stars.

**LOCATION**  
Community Recreation Center  
3375 NE 188 Street

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

**\$30 PER CHILD**

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### Community Services

Aventura Waterways  
**AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM**  
Homework Help For Grades K - 8 Fun Games

### AVENTURA CITY OF EXCELLENCE SCHOOL

**After Care Program**  
For Grades K - 8

### Registration for Fall Activities Opens

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).

### YOUTH SPORTS 2022-23

**Youth Sports Programs**  
Girls' Soccer Ages 5-15  
Basketball Ages 5-17  
Boys' Soccer Ages 5-15  
Tennis Ages 6-17

**Where**  
Soccer Programs  
Founders Park  
3055 NE 180 Street  
Waterways Park  
3301 NE 283 Street

Basketball Programs  
Community Recreation Center  
3375 NE 188 Street

**Registration**  
Registration is open to Aventura residents and non-Aventura residents and can be completed exclusively online only. Please visit the City's Online Registration System at [cityofaventura.com/ors](http://cityofaventura.com/ors) to complete the registration for any program with a valid and existing new account.

**Fee**  
Complete fee information is available at [cityofaventura.com/ors](http://cityofaventura.com/ors).

**Contact**  
Founders Park  
305-466-0863  
[parksec@cityofaventura.com](mailto:parksec@cityofaventura.com)  
Basketball Programs  
[crcenter@cityofaventura.com](mailto:crcenter@cityofaventura.com)  
305-466-3883  
\*Facility Membership and skills rating registration required

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### RECREATIONAL CENTER CLASSES 2022-23

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). Program membership is required.

**Where**  
Community Recreation Center  
3375 NE 188 Street

**Contact**  
Community Recreation Center  
[crcenter@cityofaventura.com](mailto:crcenter@cityofaventura.com)

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### CLASSES AVAILABLE 2022-2023

**INFANTS & TODDLERS**  
Wiggles & Squiggles  
Baby Loves Shabbat  
Balletland  
Jump & Jive

**SCHOOL AGE KIDS**  
Hebrew  
Code Your Own Arcade!  
Balletland  
Dance Fusion  
Rhythmic Gymnastics  
Young Yogis  
Krav Maga  
Silly Science  
Art Masters

**ADULTS**  
Zumba  
Yoga  
Meditation & Mindfulness  
Barre Fusion  
Full Body Workout

**AND SO MUCH MORE!**  
\*2022-23 Program Membership required. 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).

### Yoga in the Park

Every Friday at 9 AM. Register today!

### Need more information? Ready to register? Visit [cityofaventura.com/ors](http://cityofaventura.com/ors)

The City's Online Registration system for fees, additional information and registration.

### ZUMBA IN THE PARK

**FREE • EVERY THURSDAY • 9 - 10 AM**  
FOUNDERS PARK • 3105 NE 190 ST

Aventura residents of all ages welcome!  
Online registration must be completed prior to attending at [cityofaventura.com/ors](http://cityofaventura.com/ors)



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.

#### What is the City of Aventura's 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.

#### Why do we regulate the floodplain?

##### To protect people and property:

Implementing Floodplain management regulations reduces vulnerability to future flood risk. If we know low lying land will flood from time to time, we should make reasonable decisions to help protect our families, homes and businesses.

#### To make sure Federal flood insurance is available:

Communities must join the NFIP and administer floodplain management requirements before residents and businesses can purchase Federal flood insurance and to be eligible for some types of Federal assistance, including flood mitigation grants.

**To save tax dollars:** Every time communities experience flood disasters local budgets are impacted. If we build smart, we'll have fewer problems the next time the water rises. Remember, Federal disaster assistance is not available for all floods. Even when the President declares a disaster, communities still must pay a portion of repair and clean-up costs, temporary housing assistance, and evacuation expenses.

**To avoid liability and lawsuits:** If we know an area is mapped as flood hazard area, and if we know people could be in danger and buildings could be damaged, doesn't it make sense to take reasonable protective steps as our communities develop and redevelop?

#### Do you know about 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.

#### Do improvements to your property in flood hazard areas meet regulations?

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.

#### How do you protect yourself from flood?

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 flood waters.

**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.

#### Protect Your Home with 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!

#### Where and when will flood warnings be issued?

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  
WLTW: Channel 23 (Spanish)  
WSCV: Channel 51 (Spanish)

#### Radio Stations

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

#### Keep Safe! Follow these 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 Dade - Aventura Branch and at the City of Aventura's Community Development Department located at the Government Center. The Community Development Department can provide 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;
- Flood protection information; and Flood mitigation financial assistance program.

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 and are available for online viewing on the City's website at [cityofaventura.com/flood](http://cityofaventura.com/flood).

The City also has information for additional FIRM information, problems not shown on the FIRM, flood depth data, special flood related hazards, historical information, and natural floodplain functions.

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



City of Aventura  
Office of the City Manager  
19200 West Country Club Drive  
Aventura, FL 33180

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