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# AVENTURA update

VOLUME 9 | NUMBER 3 | NOVEMBER 2006

*A Newsletter Designed to Inform the Residents of Aventura*

## A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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

## MISSION STATEMENT

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



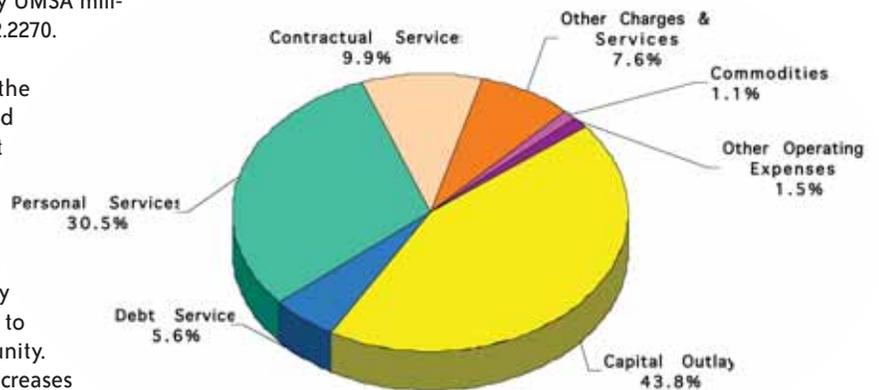
## The City of Aventura Maintains Tax Rate and Increases Services

Recently the City Commission adopted the budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2006. The budget reaffirms the City Commission's commitment to developing a strong financial base for the City while maintaining the lowest tax rate in Miami-Dade County. For the eleventh year in a row, no property tax increase was required and the budget adopts the 1995 County UMSA mill-age rate of 2.2270.

Overall, the proposed budget maintains the quality and level of services currently provided to the community. However, increases in services to the community are also included in the budget. This budget document and its related policies represent our continued commitment to excellence and to our residents.

The total proposed budget for 2006/07 is \$48,645,840. This is \$652,571 or 1.4% more compared to the prior year. This budget

includes important projects that address more parks and recreational opportunities for our changing younger population and improving the E911 emergency response system for our community. However, our number one priority remains - preserving the community's quality of life.



In response to last year's hurricane season, a great deal of time and effort was focused on enhancing the City's ability to respond to emergency conditions during the aftermath of a hurricane. Our goal continues to be able to provide and sustain essential governmental services to the community as quickly as

**Continued on p.2**

## CITY AND COUNTY WORK TOGETHER TO RE-BUILD DAMAGED LIBRARY



The Miami-Dade County Library Division (County) operated the library branch located at 2930 Aventura Boulevard. Hurricane Wilma destroyed the roof of the facility and caused severe damage to the inside of the building. In order to expedite the reconstruction of the library, the County and City have tentatively entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to authorize the City to manage the project from preparation of plans to final construction. The County will maintain final design approval of the project. The new library branch is proposed to be 26,000 square feet.

Along with the library branch, the City is exploring the possibility of developing a combined Library and Performing Arts Center (PAC) on the site located at 2930 Aventura Boulevard. The PAC will be owned and operated by the City and the Library will be owned and operated by the County. Each party will be responsible for its costs associated with the respective component of the building(s). However, prior to the City Commission making any decisions relative to the PAC, a consultant was retained to study and prepare a business plan to determine the financial feasibility of such a facility and its impact on the City budget. The study is scheduled to be complete in November of this year.

During the interim period the library has been temporarily relocated to the City's Government Center located at 19200 West Country Club Drive. The hours are Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 5pm. For more information regarding the Library please call 305.931.5512.

### Continued from cover

possible. The budget addresses many of the enhancements and suggestions that were discussed at the "after incident" meetings held after last year's events.

Also included in this budget is the largest increase in the size of our workforce in over 7 years. This is necessary to address the 911 emergency response system and expanded recreational facilities for our community. It is important that both our infrastructure and services keep up with the growth that has occurred in the City. The increased cost of fuel for our vehicles has also had an impact on our budget. In spite of these limitations

the budget does not contain a tax increase and continues to expand services to the community.

The City's economic base continues to be strong, as witnessed by the increase in the tax base. It allows the City to build a proper reserve fund to facilitate the preservation of our assets and keep taxes low in the future. Importantly, as new development decreases it will provide assistance in funding future budgets and needs based on a sound business plan. The budget continues our conservative approach by outsourcing many services to the private sector.

### SOME OF THE MAJOR POINTS EMPHASIZED IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- > For the eleventh year, no property tax increase. Adopts 1995 County UMMA millage rate of 2.2270.
- > Funds are included to construct the expanded 7 acre Waterways Park project, which will provide more recreational and open space opportunities in the community.
- > Provides funding to implement City operated E911 system with the Police Communications Center becoming a Public Safety Answering Point to improve emergency response times.
- > Expands the number of park attendant positions to provide increased supervision at dog park section of Veterans Park and address operational needs for splash pad to be located at Founders Park.
- > Increases staff to respond to increase in building permit requests for hurricane repair items and workload requirements.
- > Expands recreational and cultural opportunities for all age groups at the Community Recreation Center and other City facilities. Includes Special Events such as July 4th, Founders Day, Veterans Day, Arbor Day and recreational activities.
- > Creates new Information Technology Department to address the continued emphasis on the importance of information technology systems to increase productivity and provide government services.
- > Establishes an annual \$500,000 emergency fund to respond to hurricane recovery efforts that may be required during the year.
- > Proposes to improve traffic management by integrating video monitoring devices at key intersections throughout the City.
- > Provides for \$7,722,963 worth of capital improvements and \$13,606,474 CIP reserve. The City's infrastructure needs are addressed through a broad mix of Capital Improvement projects, which will enhance the City's quality of life, and the attractiveness of the City.
- > Includes funds to add splash pad water feature at Founders Park.
- > Continues to implement 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.
- > Continues contracting most maintenance functions, engineering and inspection services to the private sector.
- > Funds police equipment needs from laptop computers to new police vehicles in the amount of \$984,160.
- > Includes \$640,000 to upgrade the north drainage system connector outfall at NE 213th Street and NE 30th Avenue.

# City Commission Adopts Traffic Study Recommendations

Last year, the City Commission appointed residents of the City to a Traffic Advisory Board to provide input on suggestions to improve traffic flow in the City. A list of recommendations were made and accepted by the City Commission in April for the City's Traffic Consultant to study.

At the October Meeting the City Commission adopted the following traffic study recommendations prepared by City's Traffic Consultant:

1. NE 213th Street/Biscayne Boulevard - Perform minor signal timing changes to give more green time to westbound approach and the southbound left-turn movement.
2. NE 209th Street/Biscayne Boulevard - Construct one additional westbound approach lane. The lane assignment on the approach should include a shared left-turn/through lane and an exclusive right-turn lane.
3. NE 203rd Street/Biscayne Boulevard - Provide dual right-turn configuration by adding a second right-turn lane in the eastbound direction at Biscayne Boulevard.
4. NE 196th Street, NE 195th Street/Biscayne Boulevard - Improve the two intersections as required as part of the Aventura Mall Expansion Program Site Plan approval process.
5. William Lehman Causeway/Biscayne Boulevard - Continue to explore direct access to the Aventura Mall from the Causeway.
6. NE 192nd Street/Biscayne Boulevard - Construct a raised curb barrier along the entire length of the first parking space located on the southeast corner of the intersection.
7. NE 191st Street/Biscayne Boulevard - Re-stripe the westbound approach to provide triple westbound left turns and one exclusive right-turn lane. This will require additional right-of-way on the north side of the street. Remove the first center median and modify the signal timing to improve turning movements.
8. NE 187th Street/Biscayne Boulevard - Eliminate parallel parking on the north side of NE 187th Street. Add a triangular channelization in the alley between NE 187th Street and Miami Gardens Drive to eliminate the

northbound left turn movement. Re-stripe south side parking spaces. This intersection will be re-evaluated once Miami Gardens Drive is complete.

9. NE 183rd Street/Biscayne Boulevard - Construct a second left-turn lane westbound by removing part of the median barrier. Add new striping and revise signal timing to accommodate this turning movement. The left turn southbound movement to the shopping center and from the bank would be eliminated.

10. NE 182nd Street/Biscayne Boulevard - Perform minor signal timing modifications to improve turning movements.

11. NE 180th Street/Biscayne Boulevard - Add signs that require right lane must turn right and left lane must turn left.

12. Point East Drive/Biscayne Boulevard - Add new signs for U-turners southbound to yield to right turners exiting NE 178th Street. Perform minor signal timing changes to improve turning movements.

13. NE 203rd Street - Implement street marking changes immediately and pursue driveway modifications at Biscayne Gardens/ Shopping Center intersection.

The City Manager was authorized to proceed with the implementation of the recommendations. Based on the fact that the majority of the recommendations affect Biscayne Boulevard, FDOT and County approval would be required prior to any action being implemented. In addition, several recommendations require the approval of the private property owners or a POA. Future updates will be forthcoming.

The City Commission wishes to thank again the members of the Traffic Advisory Board for their invaluable input and suggestions.



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- > CHARTER SCHOOL .....(305) 466-1499  
Dr. Katherine Murphy, Principal
- > COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER .....(305) 466-3883
- > JOB HOTLINE .....(305) 466-8955

## AVENTURA UPDATE



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> COMMISSIONERS

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Harry Holzberg • Billy Joel

Michael Stern • Luz Urbáez-Weinberg

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> CITY CLERK Teresa M. Soroka, MMC

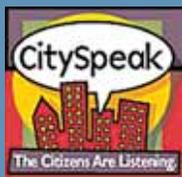
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# Dranoff International Two Piano Competition Concert

*Two Award-Winning Duos Featured*



The Murray Dranoff Foundation has teamed up with the City of Aventura for the second year to hold a concert by award winning pianists from the Dranoff International Two Piano Competition. The Murray Dranoff Foundation has a wonderful and accomplished presence in South Florida for the past 20 years. The founder, Loretta Dranoff introduced this competition in 1987 and it was the very first international competition dedicated exclusively to duo pianism. This Competition, open to young artists from every country, has grown in stature and international prestige. Today it is the only two piano competition accredited by the World Federation of International Music Competitions in Geneva, Switzerland. The two award winning duos to be showcased at this special Aventura concert are Duo Antithesis and Duo Turgeon.

One of the two duos, Petros Moschos and Dimitris Karydis, were born in Greece and became a piano duo in 1997 while studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London. As Duo Antithesis, they perform regularly in Italy, Germany, Greece, Czech Republic and the UK. The duo has recorded for BBC Radio3 and the Hellenic, Czech and Bavarian Radios. They have won the XII International Schubert Piano Duo Competition in the Czech Republic, 1st Prize at the XVI "V. Bellini" International Piano-Duo Competition and 1st Prize at the "Rovere d'Oro International Music Competition".

The other duo consists of Canadian pianists Anne Louise-Turgeon and Edward Turgeon. Duo Turgeon is featured in the PBS documen-

tary "Two Pianos - One Passion". They have been heard in numerous radio broadcasts, on classical music stations throughout the world, including several appearances on National Public Radio's "Performance Today". Their European debut was at the Concertgebouw of Amsterdam, and they also have appeared at New York Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall. They received special prizes at the Dranoff, including the award for best performance of works for one piano, four-hands, and a special award for best performance of the commissioned work "Chiaroscuro," by John Corigliano.

Duo Turgeon appears on six compact disc recordings, including "New Music for Two Pianos" (Vanguard Classics) "Romantic Dances" (Marquis Classics) and "Latin American Journey" (Marquis / EMI Music Canada), the latter of which received five out of five star ratings from both CBC's radio CD review program "Sound Advice", and the classical music periodical "La Scena Musicale". Duo Turgeon's "Latin American Journey" CD shared a top position with violinist Pinchas Zuckerman, in a CBC Galaxie classical "top 10" list.

This concert will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2006 at 6 PM at the Aventura Government Center 19200 West Country Club Drive. This free concert is for Aventura residents only. Tickets are limited to the first 150 people and will be available at the Community Recreation Center 3375 NE 188th St. after October 23, 2006. For more information, call 305-466-3883 or e-mail [crcenter@cityofaventura.com](mailto:crcenter@cityofaventura.com). ☺

# Jeannette Claudine Romeu Piano Concert

The city is offering a free concert with the talented pianist, Jeannette Claudine Romeu. On November 5, 2006. She is a classically and jazz trained musician who also pursues her career in the electronic music genre. For this performance she will be playing classical and jazz pieces on piano.

Romeu is Cuban-French and has five generations of ancestors that were classical and jazz musicians. Jeannette was born with "Perfect Pitch" which relates to a unique individual who can recognize tones, chords or notes in the music language by ear without the aid of any instrument or device. Her first professional recordings were when she was only four years old. "Bebe' Jeanny" is a master piece obtained by her grandmother, the music director Zenaida Romeu, and a full orchestra in Havana, Cuba. In this recording, Jeannette sings in Spanish, English and the French language. At the age of six, Jeannette traveled to what was then the Soviet Union to study in Russian Music Conservatories.

At the age of 13 she moved to Europe and became infatuated with jazz and popular music. This made her stray from her years in the classical career path. As a teenager Jeannette came to America and continued her music plans at the University of Miami where she excelled in her academic achievements, making her part of The National Honor Society for her outstanding jazz piano performances. Her first major success came in 1999 as the writer of the number one hit "Transatlantic Love" in more than thirteen countries. This brought a tremendous amount of attention to Romeu, and she was renamed by her young fans as The Galaxy Girl.

Jeannette will be joined by her talented guest artists, Mirtha de La Torre and Zulema Romeu. Mirtha de la Torre, a Cuban guitarist, known for her extraordinary sensibility and musical versatility, performs on both classical and popular guitar. She has a Masters in Music from the Superior Institute of Arts of Havana and has taken postgraduate courses in the Real Conservatory of Madrid, Spain.



She has performed with chamber and traditional music groups and in solo recitals throughout Europe and South America, with major orchestras in Cuba and on radio and television. She has played with well known artists like Paco de Lucia, Leo Brouwer, Mikis Thodorakis and Maria Farantouri throughout the world at festival concerts. She has recorded for EGREM in Cuba, EMI in Mexico and Nubenegra in Spain. Nowadays she lives, teaches and performs in Miami.

Zulema Romeu is a Cuban accordionist and composer with a fascinating and versatile career. She grew up in the illustrious Romeu Family with the tutelage of her father, Armando Romeu and later her sister Zenaida. In addition to accordion, she has studied the piano and the violoncello as parallel instruments in Cuba and Spain and studied Choral Direction at FIU. She was a professional dancer for thirteen years at the Sociedad Pro-Arte Musical in Vedado, Havana, Cuba. Currently she performs solo recitals with her own orchestra of violins throughout Miami and at the Steinway Piano Gallery in Coral Gables. Furthermore, she performs for radio and television and teaches private lessons.

This concert will be held at the Government Center, 19200 West Country Club Drive and is a free concert for Aventura Residents only. Tickets are limited to the first 150 people. For ticket information, contact the Community Recreation Center located at 3375 NE 188th Street or call 305-466-3883. You can also send email to [crcenter@cityofaventura.com](mailto:crcenter@cityofaventura.com).

## HALLOWEEN HARVEST & FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

*No Tricks and Lots of Treats*



Aventura will be hosting another Halloween Harvest and Family Movie Night on Sunday, October 29th. Founders Park Bayside will be bursting with activities for the whole family. Residents can enjoy all of the traditional Halloween activities safely centralized in the heart of the city.

Children can trick or treat with their families as they wind around hay bales and a pumpkin patch where friends will be on hand to help paint pumpkins. Then pure imagination will be on display as everyone shows off their creative attire in the costume parade. There will be a station for face painting, various craft activities, music, games and an inflatable bounce house. This year we will also be holding a family scarecrow building contest. Parents and children can assemble characters that are sure to ward off errant pelicans if not crows. Prizes will be awarded for the best scarecrows.

We will show our outdoor movie presentation at 6 PM. All other activities will conclude and families can set up lawn chairs and blankets to relax under the stars of one of our pleasant Florida fall evenings. The feature presentation will be the recently released "Over the Hedge".

So get yourself dressed up in costumes and join the fun at the Aventura Halloween Harvest & Family Movie Night. Gates open at 4:00 pm. Park at the Harbour Centre on the corner of 29th Avenue and NE 188th Street, where shuttle service to the event will be provided starting at 3:30 PM.

## MDFR PROTECTS THE CITIZENS OF AVENTURA



Fire Station 8



Fire Station 33

Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue provides the City of Aventura with both fire protection and emergency medical services. The City is covered by two stations, Station 8 and Station 33. Fire Station 8 is located at 2900 Aventura Boulevard, and Station 33 is located at 2601 Point East Drive. The stations house sixteen firefighters ready to respond around the clock to any and all emergencies. In the event of a large emergency, Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue is able to muster all necessary additional personnel and equipment from the neighboring areas. Last year, Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue responded to over 5,000 calls in the City of Aventura. As well as providing fire protection services and emergency medical services, the stations also provide free blood pressure screenings during business hours. The men and women of Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue are proud to be serving the citizens of Aventura and live by the motto, "Always ready, Proud to serve!"

# Aventura Police Officers Win Law Enforcement Officer Awards

## OFFICER MARC FRIEDER

The LEO Foundation presented Officer Marc Frieder with the LEO Award for Uniform Services at its annual banquet held at the Sheraton Bal Harbour. Officer Frieder was recognized for successfully solving a series of gypsy crimes.

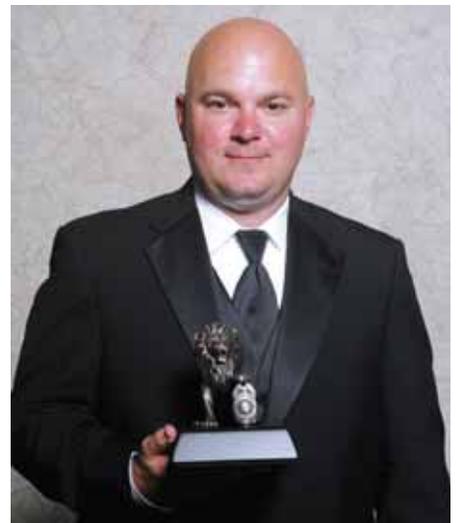
Officer Frieder was contacted by fraud victims in California, and advised of several transient offenders who took advantage of widows in California through ads in *Cosmopolitan Magazine* for psychic readings. The victims were defrauded of \$140,000.00 of their life savings. Officer Frieder took a personal interest in this case, and began a thorough investigation. Officer Frieder was able to locate the prime suspect, and was referred to their attorney. Officer Frieder demonstrated strong negotiating skills, and was the key facilitator in the return of more than \$80,000.00 to the California victims. Officer Frieder also assisted the Hollywood Police Department with a



transient murder investigation. Through his informants he was able to locate the current location of the suspect and assist with apprehension of the murder subject. The subject was extradited to Broward County and charged with the murder of one of their senior residents.

## CORPORAL CHARLES "BRYAN" TRAVIS

The LEO Foundation presented Corporal Charles "Bryan" Travis with the LEO Award for Specialized Services. Corporal Travis is currently assigned to the Special Services Division of the Aventura Police Department where he oversees the supervision of the Traffic and Marine Units. He is an original member of the Aventura Police Department and is a dedicated, hardworking employee who regularly goes the extra mile to accomplish a task. In addition to his everyday duties, Corporal Travis is responsible for all Traffic Homicide Investigations within the City and has received advanced training in THI investigation. He serves as the Department's Chief Range Officer and Instructor. He is a member of the Department's Dive Team and he oversees the management and maintenance of the equipment. He is an instructor for Safe and Legal Traffic Stops, Human Diversity, TASER,



firearms, and Personal Protection Equipment. Corporal Travis assisted in implementing the TASER program within the Department and he implemented TOTAL STATION technology for Traffic Homicide and Crime Scene functions.

# 11th Annual Founders Day Celebration

On November 12th, celebrate eleven years of excellence at the Founders Day Celebration. Founders Park Bayside will come alive with a variety of events and games for the whole family. Activities include crafts, interactive games, non-stop entertainment, music and performances for all ages. Residents can spend the entire day at Founders Park, enjoying the daytime activities as well as the twilight concert.

There will be bubbles, balls, blocks and sidewalk chalk for the toddlers and some great craft activities for the children. Jugglers, magicians and comedians will entertain throughout the day. A DJ will keep the afternoon moving and there will be food vendors on hand with tasty food and treats. If parents can pull the children away from the giant gator double obstacle course, they can test their climbing skills on the 28' rock wall or stroll into the entertainment tent to compete in game shows and contests. The afternoon wraps up with the "What's the Deal" game show with \$500 worth of prizes on the main Bayside stage and "Bingo" with \$100 worth of prizes in the entertainment area.

The fourth annual "Aventura Star Competition" finals will showcase local talent from 12 to 3 PM on the main Bayside stage. Residents will test their talent against each other. There are six categories ranging from youth to senior. Acts vary from singing and dancing to acrobatics. Aventura Star Talent Competition is based on overall performance so a vocalist or dancer may compete against another type of performance. Contestants are rated on quality of performance pertaining to audience response and relationship, stage presence and of course overall talent. For those not talented enough for the Aventura Star competition, there will be a Karaoke station where people can still have fun and be entertaining.

Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and join your friends and neighbors for an amazing outdoor concert starring **AMERICA** and special guests, **BEATLEMANIA NOW**. Both



groups have enjoyed long careers entertaining and are sure to provide a great night of entertainment. The concert will be held on the north side of Founders Park and gates will open at 4 pm.

The captivating rhythms and haunting harmonies of the rock band America created a sound that has echoed in the souls of their listeners for a quarter of a century. With such resonating ballads as Horse With No Name, Ventura Highway, Tin Man and Lonely People they established themselves as gold record, rock legends. They also topped the charts with uplifting hits such as Sister Golden Hair and You Can Do Magic. Over the years, they have produced fourteen full-length studio albums and seventeen charted hits. This timeless musical group has performed across the globe bringing their captivating sound to worldwide audiences, and this year the City of Aventura is included in their current concert tour.

Beatlemania Now is opening up for America. They have been touring for close to a decade, and have become the premier multi-media Beatles tribute show in America today. The performers skillfully and effectively recreate the sights and sounds that were and still are... The Beatles!!!

Spend the day with your neighbors in celebration of our community. Aventura is a great place to live, work and play, and Founders Day offers plenty of fun for everyone. For details and concert ticket information, please call the Community Services Department at 305-466-8930.

## MY SAFE FLORIDA HOME GRANT PROGRAM

The State of Florida has announced a hurricane damage mitigation program for single-family, owner-occupied residential properties and for multifamily properties with four or less units. Financial grants are available to encourage retrofits to make these properties less vulnerable to hurricane damage.

To be eligible for a grant, a residential property must have a homestead exemption, have an insured value of \$500,000 or less and have a wind certification and hurricane mitigation inspection by a qualified inspector. The inspection will be arranged by the State free of charge to eligible residences.

Eligible mitigation projects are roof deck attachments, secondary water barrier, roof covering, brace gable ends, reinforce wall to wall connections, opening protection and exterior doors including garage doors.

The grants must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis to a maximum of \$10,000, with the state's contribution not to exceed \$5,000. Homeowners can select from a list of participating contractors to perform the work and all required permits must be obtained. Residents can apply online at [www.mysafe-floridahome.com](http://www.mysafe-floridahome.com). An online eligibility survey will let you know if this grant is available for your property.

Application deadline is October 31, 2006.

Homeowners who receive grants from the My Safe Florida Home program must use only licensed contractors that have successfully completed the following course: Blueprint for Safety - Retrofit - An Introduction to Disaster Resistant Building Techniques (DBPR Provider Course #0005849, Credits: 4). The course is offered for free by the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes - FLASH, Inc.

Interested contractors may now register for the course online by clicking on the Blueprint for Safety icon at the bottom left of [www.flash.org](http://www.flash.org).

Dates and locations are provided on a drop-down menu on the registration form.

Interested contractors with questions may email FLASH at [flash@flash.org](mailto:flash@flash.org) or call FLASH toll free at (877) 221-7233.

# CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS

**Commission Meetings are held  
at 6:00 pm:**

*Aventura Government Center*  
Commission Chambers  
19200 West Country Club Drive

**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 8, 2006**

For information on upcoming  
Commission meetings and work-  
shops and to confirm all meeting  
dates, times and locations,  
please contact the City Clerk's  
Office at (305) 466-8901. ☎

## Watch for These Upcoming Events!



- > November 5, 2006      JEANNETTE CLAUDINE ROMEU CONCERT
- > November 10, 2006      VETERANS DAY CEREMONY
- > November 12, 2006      CITY OF AVENTURA FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION AND CONCERT
- > December 7, 2006      DRANOFF INTERNATIONAL TWO PIANO COMPETITION
- > December 10, 2006      AVENTURA WINTER HOLIDAY FESTIVAL



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