

City of Miami Springs

News Bulletin



The City of Miami Springs pays for the News Bulletin

City Officials:
Mayor Xavier Garcia
Vice-Mayor Billy Bain

Councilwoman Roslyn Buckner
Councilman Bob Best
Councilman Jaime Petralanda

201 Westward Drive, Miami Springs, FL 33166 • City Hall: 305.805.5000 • Police: 305.888.9711 • Water/Sewer Emergencies: 305.274.9272 • Fire & Rescue: 911

MARCH 2016

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

RECYCLING:

WEDNESDAY, April 13, 2016

WEDNESDAY, April 27, 2016

SPOTLIGHT ON ... Summer Camps

When the exams are over and summer vacation arrives, keep your children well-cared for and busy by enrolling them in day camp. They'll have the best summer ever, filled with indoor and outdoor activities, adventure, friendship, and fun. Day camps in City facilities offer a safe and nurturing environment that encourages their growing ability to make healthy choices, work with others, learn new skills, and develop their unique talents.

Don't wait another month to make your decision, as these popular camps fill up quickly. **Registration for Recreation Department camps for Miami Springs and Virginia Gardens residents only begins at the Community Center Monday, April 4th from 6 to 9 p.m.** (Proof of residency is required, i.e. current utility bill.) Registration will open to non-residents on Monday, April 25th, SPACE PERMITTING.

Rec. Department Summer Day Camp offers both a full 10-week program from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and the option of two-week sessions, beginning June 13th. Camp activities include sports, arts and crafts, weekly field trips to fun places including Sky Zone, bowling, ice skating, laser tag and much more! The full summer program registration fee (\$50), activity fee (\$150) and first week of camp (\$100/child, \$75/each additional child) MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION. The remaining nine weeks

will be charged in three-week blocks by automatic bank draft or credit card withdrawal. PLEASE NOTE that you will be responsible for all ten weeks of the program. For the two-week sessions, the registration fee is \$50 per child (one-time), an activity fee of \$30 per child per session and the session fee of \$200/child, \$150/each additional child. SESSIONS MUST BE PAID IN FULL AT TIME OF REGISTRATION. Session Dates: June 13th – 24th, June 27th - July 8th, July 11th – 22nd, July 25th - August 5th and August 8th – 19th. All campers receive a camp shirt and a camp bag.

Rec. Department Summer Basketball Camp is being offered to 30 kids ages 11-14 at all levels of play and fitness backgrounds. The Summer Basketball Camp will focus on skill-building and the fundamentals of the game: dribbling, passing, defense, rebounding, etc. There are two four-week sessions that begin June 13th and July 11th and run Monday through Friday; from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (An 8 a.m. drop off option is available.) Registration and activity fees are \$500 per session, and include a camp shirt.

Rec. Department Summer Get Fit Camp is geared to help kids ages 9-11 and 12-17 at all fitness levels to reach their peak

fitness and performance. The Get Fit Camp will be packed with fun activities and field trips designed by highly-experienced coaches / trainers who will be working with the campers to achieve top-notch strength, flexibility, speed, balance, cardiovascular and respiratory endurance.

There are two four-week sessions that begin June 13th and July 11th and run Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (An 8 a.m. drop off option is available.) Registration and activity fees are \$500 per session, a camp shirt is included and spaces are very limited.

For additional information on the above camps, contact the Recreation Department at 305.805.5075

Camp Invention at the Curtiss Mansion The Curtiss Mansion, in its third year of partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame (of which Glenn H. Curtiss is an inductee), is offering the nationally-acclaimed Camp Invention program from July 11th to 15th to children entering grades 1 - 6. It's a weeklong summer adventure in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

See SPOTLIGHT, next page



Art in City Hall



MIAMI SPRINGS CITY HALL GALLERY

MONDAY APRIL 4, 2016

6:30 to 8:30 PM

THE RECENT ARTWORK OF

R.C. BAILEY

Miami Springs resident R.C. Bailey will be the featured artist for the "Art in City Hall Exhibit" during the month of April, 2016. Known throughout the world for his beautiful work, R.C. has been accepted into the International Guild of Realists, and has been an international top finalist in Art Renewal four times. His murals adorn the Port of Miami, the Mayfair Hotel and the Miami Museum of Science. Recently, he has completed two murals for the Miami Children's Museum. His work may also be seen on most of Royal Caribbean's fleet of ocean liners.

You are invited to a reception in the City Hall lobby to meet the artist on Monday evening, April 4th from 6:30p.m. to 8:30 p.m. If you cannot attend the reception, be sure to come see his paintings Monday through Friday during the month of April between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.

ELDERLY SERVICES DEPT.

305.805.5160 • SENIOR CENTER, • 343 PAYNE DRIVE

THE CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS SENIOR CENTER, located on Prince Field at 343 Payne Drive, offers a variety of activities and services to older residents age 60 and over. The city's senior center is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. and provides older citizens with numerous opportunities to: improve their health by participating in the nutritionally balanced, daily lunch program, free nutritional counseling, and in health support screenings and activities; improve their knowledge through health, nutrition, and consumer education workshops and classes scheduled each month; obtain information and referral assistance to services available throughout the county; stay active by socializing with their peers, volunteering to help others and participating in recreational activities; and improve their use of leisure time.

Older citizens may also be eligible to utilize the center's transportation service or the home delivered meal program for those who cannot leave their homes without assistance.

In addition to these core service offerings, the following programs, screenings and educational presentations have been scheduled for April:

- **FREE SPECIALIZED TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE** at the SENIOR CENTER -- A variety of specialized phones is available free to Floridians with hearing loss or speech disabilities. To qualify, you must be able to show proof of permanent residence and disability. Under the State of Florida Telecommunications Access Systems Act, specialized telephones are made available free to new clients with a hearing aid or to those who are hearing or speech impaired. Current clients who have an inoperable telephone (that was previously issued through this program) may exchange it for a new one at this time.

There will be a free amplified phone distribution on Thursday, April 7th, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., at the Miami Springs Senior Center. For more information, contact the City's Elderly Services at (305) 805-5160 or call the Center for Independent Living of South Florida at (305) 751-8025 (V) or (305) 751-8891 (TTY).

- **"COUNCIL REPORT"** -- On April 13th, Councilman Bob Best will present information on current Council actions and other topics of interest to the citizenry.

- **"CRIME WATCH" PROGRAM** -- Officers Jorge Capote and Janice Simon from the MSPD's Community Policing Office will present the monthly Crime Watch Program at the senior center on April 19th at 12:15 p.m. The Officers will inform attendees about current crimes being committed in the City and will provide tips on how to avoid becoming a victim.

- **"MAKING SMART FOOD CHOICES"** -- Jacquelyn Gibson, MS, Family & Consumer Science Agent IV with the UF/M-D Extension Services, will present a nutrition education program on April 20th at 12:15 p.m..

- **"COMPULSIVE GAMBLING"** -- On April 27, 2016 at 12:00 p.m., the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling will sponsor an informative presentation on problem gambling for older adults and seniors. Senior citizens are the fastest-growing population of problem gamblers in South Florida today, and arguably the most vulnerable due to multiple factors. Learn more



Camille Wildenburg, a current high school art teacher and graduate student attending the University of Florida, with participants of her Senior Center art classes at their Spring Art Exhibit. Local artists who might be able to provide a few hours of instruction as a community service are asked to call Karen at 305-805-5160.

about the various signs and symptoms of problem gambling, the ways in which it can be prevented, and resources available that can help those struggling with this difficult issue.

Special health support and recreational activities are scheduled in April to include the following classes:

- **TAI CHI for SENIORS** -- Tai Chi exercises, designed for individuals age 60 and over, are taught by Judd Zisquit on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 12:30–1:30 p.m., at the Community Center to seniors who register with the City's senior center. Classes focus on improving joint flexibility, balance, muscular strength, and general fitness and health.

- **CHAIR EXERCISE CLASSES**, instructed by Elizabeth King and free for registered seniors, are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30–11:00 a.m. at the Senior Center.

- **CHAIR YOGA CLASSES** are offered free to local residents, age 60 and over, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00–10:30 a.m. at the City's Senior Center. Registration with the City's Elderly Services Department is required.

- **"LET'S DANCE" EXERCISE CLASSES**, free to area seniors, are scheduled on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30–11:00 a.m. at the senior center facility. Registration is required.

- **FLOOR YOGA CLASSES** are offered free to Springs' seniors, age 60 and over, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00–11:00 a.m. at the Curtiss Mansion. Students must pre-register.

- **"CELEBRATION WORKOUT"** classes, designed to work on memory and physical fitness, are held every Friday morning from 9:00–11:00 a.m. at the City's Senior Center and is free to those age 60 and over who register with the City's Elderly Services Department.

Upcoming events also include: a field trip to Wal-Mart (4/14); weekly Bingo games (4/4, 4/11, 4/18 and 4/25); the monthly meeting of the MS/VG Senior Citizens Club (4/5); and the monthly birthday and anniversary party (4/21).

For further information, please contact the Elderly Services Department's office at (305) 805-5160.

WELCOME

The City of Miami Springs welcomes the following new businesses to our City, and wishes them every success:

Pedro R. Albanes, MD

232 Westward Dr
Medical Offices

Amores & Associates, P.A.

255 Westward Dr
Law Offices

M.R.C. Café

700 S. Royal Poinciana Blvd.
Cafeteria

Basil M. Yates, MD, PA

232 Westward Dr
Medical Offices

POLICE DEPARTMENT

305.888.9711

Tips for Avoiding Travel Scams

As temperatures are heating up, consumers' thoughts are increasingly turning to making vacation plans. Unfortunately, scammers will be on the lookout as well ... for unwary victims.

Travel has always been an area where consumers should have their anti-fraud antennae perked. So, before you head out on your dream vacation, here are some tips for avoiding travel-related scams:

1. Watch out for unsolicited e-mails, phone calls and faxes offering hard-to-believe deals on travel to desirable locations. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

2. If you are working with a travel agency or vacation planning service, make sure to get all details about the trip in writing. Watch out for vague promises that you'll be staying at "five-star" resorts or riding on "luxury" cruise ships at cut-rate prices. Get as much information as you can including the total cost, any restrictions that may apply, and the exact names of the promised airlines and hotels.

3. Free is usually not free. Think again before you believe promises that you've won a "free" vacation. Often, these are just thinly-veiled ploys to get your credit card information to "verify" your eligibility or to pay a "processing fee." You should never have to pay to collect a prize.

4. Check out the travel company BEFORE giving them any money. Call the company service yourself to see if the prices match or simply if they legitimately exist. A Better Business Bureau search is a good first step. Also make sure that the company is registered with the American Society of Travel Agents (<http://www.asta.org/>).

5. Watch out for "travel clubs" that offer "free" memberships. Often these services do little except charge your credit card every month and provide few, if any, benefits.

6. Use your credit card when purchasing a trip. If you feel that you've been swindled, you can dispute the charge with your credit card company.

7. Beware of any offers that involve high-pressure sales pitches that urge you to commit right away because the offer will "expire" otherwise. For example, Timeshare seminars are often thinly-veiled ways to get con-



sumers to sign up for timeshare often featuring a come-on like "free" lunch or "free" vacation that are full of hidden fees and traps.

8. If you'll be travelling overseas, call your credit card company and bank to let them know what countries you'll be visiting and when you plan to return. This way they can be on the alert for any suspicious charges from a scammer that gets your credit card information while you're on the road or after your get back home.

9. Ask questions and be cautious. Read all of the fine print carefully. Companies need to tell you how your trip will operate. Even if they make their policies difficult to read, look them over before sending any money. If you can't get answers to your questions, avoid using that company.

10. Read your invoice. Confirm that it includes every cost, including fees. Take the time to understand the purpose and amount of each fee. Some common hidden fees to watch out for: International Departure and Arrival Taxes, Processing Fees, Peak Week Surcharges, Late Booking Fees, Departure City Surcharges, Travel Insurance, Fuel Surcharges.

11. Be aware of cancellation policies. Before sending any money, you should know how much you will lose if you need to cancel.

12. Avoid any company that mandates arbitration for disputes. Don't give up your legal rights.

File a complaint if you have a dispute. In most states, you can do this through the Attorney General's office. This calls attention to the company so that future travellers will not repeat your experience. Also, the attorney general may mediate your dispute to help resolve it.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.

305.805.5075/76 1401 WESTWARD DRIVE
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @MIAMISPRINGSREC

FACILITY RENTAL:

The Multi-Purpose Room is available for rentals

The 10x10 Pavilions at Prince Field are available for rentals

The 20x20 Pavilion at Stafford Park is available for rental

Contact the Main Office at the Community Center for availability & pricing. 305.805.5075

Open Gym Basketball Hours:

Monday – Friday: 12:00 p.m. – 3 p.m.: 18 & Over \$4. 3:00 pm – 5:30 p.m.: 17 & under ONLY, Free

Saturday: 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.: 17 & Under Free, 18 & Over \$4

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.: 17 & under Free 18 & over \$4

Open Gym Volleyball:

Friday Evening: 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.: 17 & under Free 18 & over \$4

Walking Club: Register Now! Members will be rewarded for miles completed. We'll not only walk on the Indoor Jogging/Walking Track in our Gymnasium, we'll also do different trails located throughout the Miami Springs area. For additional information, contact Caitlin Smith.

FITNESS:

Fitness Room & Jogging Track Hours: Monday – Friday 6:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m., Saturday 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. & Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Fitness Room Memberships:

Adults: 18 & over \$150.00
Senior: 60 & over \$75.00
Youth: 13 – 17, \$150.00 (must be accompanied by a PARENT)
Family of 2: \$188.00
Family of 3: \$263.00

Additional family members \$75.00*

*Immediate Family Members ONLY

Seniors 60 & Over: Use of the Fitness Room is FREE, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Participants must fill out the registration form at the Main Office of the Community Center

GET FIT PROGRAM: THIS IS A TWICE-WEEKLY PROGRAM WITH HIGHLY-EXPERIENCED COACHES / TRAINERS, TRAINING ATHLETES FOR TOP-NOTCH STRENGTH, FLEXIBILITY, SPEED, BALANCE, CARDIOVASCULAR AND RESPIRATORY ENDURANCE, CONDITIONING AND COORDINATION DESIGNED TO HELP KIDS REACH PEAK FITNESS AND PERFORMANCE!

This fitness program is for kids of all fitness levels and backgrounds between the ages of 9 – 15 years old. The Get Fit Program will be held on Tuesday & Thursday evenings, 6:15pm – 7:15pm.

The cost is \$50 per participant and SPACE is LIMITED.

Registration is OPEN!

JAZZERCISE:

Burn up to 600 calories in one fun and powerfully effective 60-minute total body workout. Every Jazzercise group fitness class combines dance-based cardio with strength training and stretching to sculpt tone and lengthen muscles for maximum fat burn. Monday through Thursday: 6:00 p.m. Saturday: 10:00 a.m.

Jr. Jazzercise: is a fitness class for girls ages 5-11. The format combines dance and aerobics with group games & special activities to make the class fun and challenging.

Tuesday & Thursday: 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.
For information visit jazzercise.com or call 305.888.7625

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

305.805.5170

HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL WASTE DISPOSAL

If you have household or hazardous chemicals to dispose of, please remember that it is illegal to dispose of them in your garbage container or bulk trash pile. The proper method of disposal is a site designated for such items. Fortunately for Miami Springs residents, we are only minutes away from the Miami-Dade County Home Chemical Collection site, which is located at 8831 NW 58 Street. The collection site is open from Wednesday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. For more information, please call 3-1-1.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINTS 24-HOUR HOTLINE

The Department of Regulatory & Economic Resources (RER) responds to environmental complaints and emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If your complaint is an emergency please call 305.372.6955. The following situations should be reported to RER immediately:

1. Discharges or spills into storm drains, street drains, parking lot drains, waterways, or onto the open ground.
2. Tanker trucks dumping waste into manholes, drainage structures, or waterways.
3. Any spill or discharge to the environment of suspected hazardous waste, including sewage.

Are you 90 years of age or older???

... if so, the City of Miami Springs is looking for you!

In honor of the City's 90th Birthday, we want to celebrate our wonderful long term residents as a thank-you for making our city great. You will be recognized at one of our Council Meetings and receive a gift to show our appreciation. For more information, please contact Vicky Panoff at 305.805.5010.



SPOTLIGHT, from preceding page

that's all about big ideas – kids working together to find innovative solutions to real-world problems and sharpen critical learning skills through four modules that reinvent summer fun. In the Crickobot module, kids make and adopt a robotic cricket fueled by a solar cell. In Epic Park, they design a mini theme park with tree houses, zip lines and water rides, then create a commercial to pitch their model. In the I Can Invent: Maker Studio, National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees

challenge them with reverse engineering, 3D printing and circuits as they invent the Next Big Thing. During the Where Pigs Fly and Anything is Possible module, campers have fun with cup tower explosions, programming, coding, the chemistry of polymer slime and spinning disco ball circuits. Registration is open now, and the camp fee of \$220 includes a camp shirt. Visit www.campinvention.org or call 800.968.4332 to reserve your child's spot today!

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. 305.805.5009

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to the following City employees:

Carlos Matilla	Rosita Hernandez	Darryl Cates
Janice Simon	Chad Johnson	Lourdes Taveras
William O'Neal	Albert Sandoval	
Jorge Fonseca	Ramon Tamargo	

Recognizing long term employees:

The following employees had his anniversary date in March

Rafael Perez	completed 17 years of service.
Ronald K. Gorland	completed 12 years of service.
William O'Neal	completed 10 years of service.

Thank you for your loyal service to the City of Miami Springs.

BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE DEPT.

305.805.5030

Attention homeowners

Are you planning on remodeling, replacing your air-conditioning unit, building an addition, or maybe selling your home? Then we at the Building and Code Compliance Department want to inform you that prior to issuing any permits, we will be checking for open permits and active code violations that involve work without a permit or safety hazard issues.

We will require that the "current" property owner address these issues. To avoid any inconveniences, take a few minutes to download a "Public Records Request" form from our website, complete it and send it to our department requesting a report on open permits and active code violations. Once you receive your report please make sure to follow up on resolving any issues with your property. We would be very happy to assist you in closing any open permits or advising on active code violations.

Follow the steps below to start your process of bringing your property to compliance:

Visit: www.miamisprings-fl.gov
Download: "Public Records Request" form from the City Clerk Department.

Send: Complete and signed form to us, in person, via email at bzcp@miamisprings-fl.gov or fax at 305-805-5036.

Resolve: Contact us to obtain instructions on how to close open permits or comply with code violations at our office or by email, since no information will be given over the phone for security reasons.

In most cases permit renewal fees will apply, copies of documents will be required, and final inspections will need to be scheduled. For more details on fees, Visit our website and view our New Fee Schedule. We appreciate your concern and hope to be of assistance in this process.

APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 PARKS & PARKWAYS: 7:00 P.M.	7	8	9
10	11 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: 7:00 P.M.	12	13 CURBSIDE RECYCLING	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: 7:00 P.M.	26	27 CURBSIDE RECYCLING	28	29	30