

City of Miami Springs

# News Bulletin



The City of Miami Springs pays for the News Bulletin

**City Officials:**  
 Mayor Xavier Garcia  
 Vice-Mayor Jaime Petralanda  
 Councilman Billy Bain  
 Councilman Bob Best  
 Councilman Roslyn Buckner

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

FEBRUARY 2017

## IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

**City Council Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, March 13, 2017**

**City Council Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, March 27, 2017**

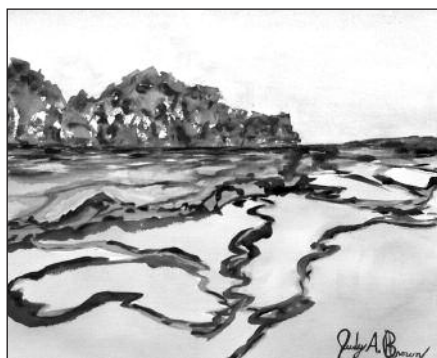
### RECYCLING:

**Wednesday, March 1**

**Wednesday, March 15**

**Wednesday, March 29**

## Art in City Hall



"Windy Waters" by Judy Brown

The paintings of Judy A. Brown, a new member of the Hibiscus Art Guild, will be featured for the "Art in City Hall Exhibit" during the month of March, 2017.

Born in upstate New York, Judy moved to Miami in 1984 and fell in love with the tropical environment. Working in watercolors and pastels, she participates in local exhibits with Miami Watercolor Society, Grove House Artists, Deering Estate, Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens and Rivet Nation-Gold Coast Railroad Museum. Several of her artworks are featured in annual calendars for Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens and she currently has artwork on display at the Rain Barrel complex in Islamorada's Art on a Whim gallery. Judy now volunteers as Director of the Grove House Artists and coordinates Plein Air meetups for the Miami Watercolor Society. In addition, she manages the Facebook business page for the Art on a Whim gallery. Judy states, "Life is complex, organized chaos and I look for simple in nature to balance me, I create artwork that reflects that to share."

You are invited to a reception in the City Hall lobby to meet Judy on Monday evening, March 13th from 6:30p.m. to 8:30 p.m. If you cannot attend the reception, be sure to stop by to see her art work Monday through Friday during the month of March between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ... Landscape and Tree Work SCAM ALERT

Senior (and other) homeowners are advised that the City has had reports of fraudulent "landscaping" and "tree trimming" firms doing door-to-door solicitation. In one instance, a senior was told by a fake vendor that their tree had a bad infestation and needed to be sprayed at once. This turned out to be FALSE. Another was told that their trees needed to be trimmed...again, FALSE.

You should have a "Let the Buyer Beware" mentality. Check any potential vendors with the Better Business Bureau ([www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)) to see if there are any complaints against the company and how they resolved it. You should also try to use companies that are licensed and

insured. Get multiple quotes and be wary of companies whose quotes seem too low or too high. Do not let a company rush you into making a decision or try to coerce you by saying that "this deal" won't last long. Companies that ask for a large portion of the payment as a deposit should also be avoided.

If you are approached by a "landscaper" that you haven't called and don't know regarding some urgent work they claim needs to be done, please contact the Miami Springs Police Department (305.888.9711). If you have concerns about any tree or landscaping issues, please call the Public Works Department at (305.805.5170) for free, professional



REAL (not FAKE) advice before agreeing to have work done. Also, if you have hired a contractor and feel uncomfortable and that something is just not right, call the Building Department at 305.805.5017.

## The Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Festivities will be held on Saturday, April 8th at Prince Field

Wristbands are REQUIRED and will be available for FREE at the Community Center beginning Monday, March 13th for Miami Springs & Virginia Gardens residents ONLY \*Proof of Residency Required\*

10:15 a.m. ages 2 & 3, ages 4 & 5 (will go at the same time/ divided by age groups)

10:45 a.m. ages 6 - 8, ages 9 - 11 (will go at the same time/ divided by age groups)

Non-resident bracelets will be available on Wednesday, April 5th, for \$5.00 each

For additional information please call the Community Center at 305-805-5075

## Summer Camp 2017

Join us for a SUMMER with new & old FRIENDS for FIELD TRIPS, SPORTS, ARTS & CRAFTS, and MORE! Summer Camp is available for children between the ages of 5 - 13 years old.

### 2 Options are available this SUMMER:

FULL 10 Week SUMMER CAMP: June 12th - August 18th

2 Week Sessions: June 12th - 23rd, June 26th - July 7th, July 10th - 21st, July 24th - August 4th, August 7th - 18th. Sessions must be PAID in FULL at the time of registration.

Summer Camp Registration BEGINS for Residents of Miami Springs & Virginia Gardens Monday evening, April 3rd at the Miami Springs Community Center from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Proof of Residency is REQUIRED (i.e. current utility bill)

Registration will open to NON-RESIDENTS on Monday, April 24th at the Community Center space permitting

For detailed information please call the Community Center at 305-805-5075

## 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.

### Special health support and recreational activities are scheduled in March 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. to seniors who register with the City's senior center. Classes are held at the Aquatic Center's Multi-Purpose Room and 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 for registered 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 are free to those age 60 and over who register with the City's Elderly Services Department.



Some of our senior participants in heart-healthy exercise!

In addition to these core service offerings, the following upcoming programs and educational presentations are scheduled:

- **TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE - FREE** tax counseling and preparation assistance for 2016 tax returns will be provided by AARP Tax-Aide Counselors again this year. Counselors will be available by appointment only every Tuesday afternoon, beginning February 7th, at the City of Miami Springs Senior Center located at 343 Payne Drive on Prince Field. If you are in need of this free service, call (305) 805-5160 to schedule your appointment as soon as possible.

- **"MOUTH - BODY CONNECTION"** -- On March 8th at 12:15 p.m., Dr. Esther Lewkovicz, from Springs Dental at 657 South Drive, will present valuable information on how oral health affects the rest of your body and how diseases and medications can affect the health of your teeth and mouth.

- **"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 March 22nd 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.

- **Free BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING** - Registered Nurses from the Miami-Dade Health Department will provide free testing for hypertension and individual counseling at the senior center on March 29th from 10-11:30 a.m.

For further information on any of the services, activities, or special programs offered, or to volunteer your time, talent and expertise at the Miami Springs Senior Center, please contact us at 305.805.5160.

## POOL IS OPEN!

**Maintenance has been completed and the Miami Springs Aquatic Center is now open on its regular winter schedule. The Pool is OPEN on TEACHER PLANNING DAYS from 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

### Pool Hours

Monday-Friday: Lap Swim: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Open Swim: 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: Open Swim: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: Open Swim: 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., weather permitting



**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
305.888.9711

**Tax Identity Theft**

With tax filing season now coming up, there's another kind of identity theft you should be watching out for: tax identity theft. In this scheme, identity thieves enter stolen personal information (primarily Social Security numbers) on fraudulent tax returns that claim tax refunds. They then cash the refund checks themselves, leaving the victims spending weeks or months trying to clear up the confusion with the IRS and get their own legitimate tax refunds.

Here are some precautions to help protect yourself, as well as steps to take if you believe you have been victimized:

**1. Read any IRS notices you might receive very carefully.** It's likely that any mail you receive with a return address that begins "Internal Revenue Service" is going to get your attention, but you should pay especially close attention to these due to the heightened risk of tax identity theft. If a thief uses your Social Security number to obtain a fraudulent tax refund or a job, you will likely receive a notice from the IRS telling you that you were paid by an employer you don't recognize, that you under-reported your income, or that more than one tax return was filed using your Social Security number. Any of these scenarios is a strong indication that you may be the victim of tax identity theft.

**2. Don't reply to any emails, texts or social media messages asking for your personal information.** The IRS will never initiate contact with you in this way to ask for your Social Security number or any other sensitive personal information. Forward the message to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov so they can investigate it further.



**3. Contact the IRS immediately if you are suspicious of fraud.** If you encounter any of the scenarios described above, call the IRS at (800) 829-0433. Trained specialists will help you sort out the mess, get your tax return filed properly, and receive any legitimate tax refund you are entitled to.

**4. Take additional steps to limit the potential damage of identity theft.** After you have talked to the IRS and worked with them to clear up any issues with your tax return and refund, file an identity theft complaint with the FTC and a police report with your local police department.

Also put a fraud alert on your credit reports so that businesses must contact you to verify your identity before issuing credit in your name. Simply contact any one of the three major credit reporting bureaus (TransUnion, Equifax or Experian) and they will alert the other two bureaus about your fraud alert.

Like any swindle, it is always better to take steps to prevent identity theft from happening than to react to it after the fact. Try to file your tax return early, that's what a lot of the tax ID thieves do — they file a tax return very quickly, claim a bogus refund under your name, and then when you go to file your legitimate tax return before the tax deadline, it gets rejected."

**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

**ATHLETICS**

**Open Gym Basketball Hours:**

Monday – Friday: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.: 18 & Over \$4

Monday - Thursday Evenings: 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. 18 & Over \$4

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

**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!

This fitness program is for kids of all fitness levels and backgrounds between the ages of 11 – 15 years old. The Get Fit Program will be held on Tuesday & Thursday evenings.

The cost is \$50 per participant for 8 classes and SPACE is LIMITED.  
Registration is ongoing.

**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

**AQUATICS:**

**Swimming Lessons:**

Our American Red Cross Instructors welcome children, ages six months and up, to join our American Red Cross Swim program. Sessions run every two weeks and swim classes are offered year round. The cost is \$50 per two week session for residents & \$60 for non-residents

For class times please call the Aquatic Center at 305-805-5078

**Water Aerobics:**

Class Times: Monday & Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Tuesday & Thursday: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Cost for 8 Classes: Resident: \$50.00  
Non-Resident: \$60.00  
For more information please call the

Aquatic Center at 305-805-578

**Pool Memberships are AVAILABLE: Residents:**

Adults: 18 & over \$90.00  
Child: 17 & under \$50.00  
Senior: 60 & over \$50.00  
Family of 4: \$250.00  
Seniors 60 & Over  
Use of the Aquatic Center is FREE, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Non-Residents:**

Adults: 18 & over \$150.00  
Child: 17 & under \$100.00  
Senior: 60 & over \$100.00  
Family of 4: \$350.00

**Rentals:**

The Miami Springs Aquatic Facility offers public and private rentals for residents & non-residents.

If you are hoping to get out of the sun while at the pool you may be interested in a 12x12 umbrella rental or 16x16 shaded areas.

There is a Multi-Purpose room available for rent that we hope will meet all your party needs.

For detailed rental information and pricing please call the Miami Springs Aquatic Center at 305-805-5078 or visit <http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/parksandrecreation/aquatic-facility-rental-information>

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Summer Camp Employment**

Summer Camp Employee Interest forms will be available at the Miami Springs Community Center from March 6th – March 15th. All interest forms must be completed and returned NO LATER than 6pm on March 15th.

**Basketball Camp 2017**

Get ready for a SUMMER of BASKETBALL! Join us for a month-long specialized camp with highly experienced coaches/ trainers working with campers on the fundamentals of the game: dribbling, passing, defense, rebounding, shooting and more!

Basketball camp is for ALL KIDS & skill levels ages 11- 14 years old

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE: Only 30 kids per session DON'T MISS OUT!

**There will be TWO 4-week sessions**

1st session: Weeks of June 12th, 19th, 26th & July 3rd

2nd session: Weeks of July 10th, 17th, 24th & July 31st

Activity Fee: \$100 PER SESSION  
Session Fee: \$400 PER SESSION

Registration begins Monday, April 3rd from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Miami Springs Community Center

For detailed information please call the Community Center at 305-805-5075

**Get Fit Camp 2017**

JOIN A MONTH LONG FITNESS 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!

Get Fit Camp is for ALL KIDS of ALL FITNESS BACKGROUNDS between the ages of 9- 11 years old and 12-17 years old

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE: Only 20 KIDS PER SESSION

**There will be TWO Four-Week Sessions**

For detailed information please call the Community Center at 305-805-5075

**Miami Springs Golf & Country Club**

305.805.5180

**Notes from the Golf Course:**

Last week, the Miami First Tee Program held a tournament at the Miami Springs Golf and Country Club. There were 60 kids participating from the ages of 4 to 14, several of whom live here in Miami Springs, and over 100 spectators.

The First Tee Program is a life skills experience. Its curriculum focuses on teaching character education and its nine Core Values of honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy and judgement. First Tee also teaches healthy habits, and provides educational tutoring for children.

Miami Springs Golf and Country Club is proud to be associated with such a great program, building the youth of our community!



**Congratulations to Sophia Coronel (r) for coming in first in the girls 8-9 division and to her friend Dariana Breto (l), who placed 3rd in the same division.**

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. 305.805.5009**

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS:**

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to the following City employees:

- |             |                |                  |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| Ed Henry    | Awilda Rivera  | Graciela Vázquez |
| Tomas Lopez | Vicky Panoff   |                  |
| Leah Cates  | Armando Guzman |                  |

**Recognizing long term employees:**

The following employee had their anniversary date in February

Tom Cummings	completed 31 years of service
Charles Schubert	completed 28 years of service
Jose Bergueiro	completed 12 years of service

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

**BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE DEPT.**

305.805.5030

**Building a Beautiful City**

It's good to see construction around our City-new homes and upgrades being done to the older homes, and businesses being remodeled. However, some contractors or property owners neglect to remove or dispose of their construction debris and it's piled on the front yards of the properties. This causes more dust, possible projectiles

during storms and the debris around the properties and structures makes our City look unkempt.

Construction dumpsters are required when major construction is being done; the property should be kept in sanitary and safe conditions for the workers and inspectors.

So let's renovate our homes and businesses, but let's do it in a manner that will prevent accidents. The Code Compliance Dept. wishes all a safe and happy Spring.

**Watch Channel 77**

**on COMCAST Cable for the latest updates to events and activities.**



# MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 CURBSIDE RECYCLING	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: 7:00 P.M.	14	15 CURBSIDE RECYCLING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION BD.: 7:00 P.M.	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: 7:00 P.M.	28	29 CURBSIDE RECYCLING	30	31	