

City of Miami Springs

# News Bulletin



The City of Miami Springs pays for the News Bulletin

City Officials:  
Mayor Xavier Garcia  
Vice-Mayor Georgel Lob

Councilman Michael Windrem  
Councilman Billy Bain  
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

JULY 2014

## IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

**MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2014 • 6:00 P.M.**  
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET  
WORKSHOP MEETING

**MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2014 • 7:00 P.M.**  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

**MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2014 • 6:00 P.M.**  
CITY COUNCIL BUDGET  
WORKSHOP MEETING

**MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2014 • 7:00 P.M.**  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

## RECYCLING:

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7TH**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21st**

### Voice your views!

U.S. Congresswoman  
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen's Outreach Program:  
Ms. Lourdes Ruiz from Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen's office will be available in the Council Chambers in City Hall every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Citizens may contact her at 305.934.9441 or Lourdes.ruiz@mail.house.gov.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ... FAQs

This month our spotlight turns to the most frequently asked questions received by City staff. We've polled each department, and here they are (in no particular order). Take a look – maybe you've always wondered about one of these items, too!

**Q: What is the maximum height for a fence for a single family house?**

**A:** 42" (3½ feet) in the front yard, six feet in the side and rear yards

**Q: Who do I call about a street light that's out, or any power issues?**

**A:** Contact FPL:  
1. Residential Care Center at 1.800.226.3534 – talk to a live representative

2. 1-800-4-outage (1.800.468.8243) or  
3. www.fpl.com - access their account & submit SL ticket

**Q: Who do I call about bee problems on my property?**

**A:** A bee removal company of your choice; the City does not provide this service.

**Q: Where can I pay my red light ticket?**

**A:** This information is on the back of your citation letter. Payment for these is not accepted at City Hall.

**Q: I need to re-new my driver's license (or obtain an ID card), when are they coming? My license renewal card says I need a vision exam, what do I do? What do I need? How do I pay?**

**A:** 1. The Department of Motor Vehicles is here every third Wednesday of the month from 9:30am to 2:30pm.

2. The driver's license personnel will conduct the vision exam.

3. For a complete list of additional accepted items, visit: www.GatherGoGet.com.

4. Payments may be made by credit/debit cards, cash, money orders, and personal checks.

**Q: Who do I call about water or sewer issues?**

**A:** Miami-Dade Water and Sewer at 311 or 305.274.9272

**Q: What's this surcharge on my water bill?**

**A:** It's a recovery of costs to bring Miami Springs water and sewer systems up to the condition of the rest of Miami-Dade County's system.

**Q: I've just bought a house in Miami Springs. How do I update the City's records as a new property owner?**

**A:** Bring a copy of your settlement papers and an ID to the Information Window in City Hall.

**Q: Where can I get a copy of the intra-city shuttle schedule and map?**

**A:** www.miamisprings-fl.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/one\_page\_shuttle\_info\_for\_riders\_2.24.14.pdf

**Q: How can I list my garage sale?**

**A:** Call the Building Department at 305.805.5030.

**Q: When is curbside recycling?**

**A:** Every other Wednesday - the pick-up schedule is at www.miamidade.gov/public-works

**Q: What things do I need a permit for, how much will it cost and how long will it take to get one?**

**A:** 1. See the list posted at <http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/building/when-do-i-need-permit>

2. Permit fees vary greatly depending on the scope of work. Rates are posted at <http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/building/building-permit-fee-schedule>

3. About 3-5 days, depending on how complex the permit is

**Q: Are the basketball courts open today, and what time?**

**A:** This varies by season. For the current schedule go to <http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/parksandrecreation/hours-operation>. Effective Monday, August 18th Open Gym hours will be:

Monday – Friday: 12: p.m. – 3 p.m.: Open Gym, 18 & over \$4

3: pm – 5:30 p.m.: Open Gym, 17 & under ONLY, Free

Monday – Thursday:6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.: Open Gym, 17 & under Free, 18 & over \$4

## ELDERLY SERVICES DEPT.

305.805.5160 SENIOR CENTER,  
343 PAYNE DRIVE

### SENIOR CENTER NEWS

**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 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 informal health, nutrition, and consumer education workshops 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.

In addition to these core service offerings, and as part of a continuing focus on health and wellness, consumer, crime, and civic issues, many programs have been scheduled for August and the public is invited to attend.

- **"HURRICANE AWARENESS"** – On August 5th at 12:15 p.m., Maria Pena from the Miami Beach Medical Center, along with Dottie Vasquez and other representatives from the office of Mayor Gimenez, will present information on how to prepare for a hurricane and what resources are available to assist with temporary shelter and house damages sustained as a result of a natural disaster.

- **"SUPERMARKET SAVVY"** - Jacquelyn Gibson, MS, a Family and Consumer Science Agent for the University of Florida's M-D Extension Bureau, will present tips for: stretching your food dollars, eating better on a budget and avoiding supermarket traps on August 6th at 12:15 p.m.

- **"RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROPERTY APPRAISER'S OFFICE"** - On August 13th at 12:15 p.m., Eddy Gonzalez will outline the existing exemptions available to homeowners, to include: the permanent disability exemption, the widow/widower exemption, the additional homestead exemption available to low-income seniors and the "Save our Homes" approved tax increase for this year.

- **"IMMUNIZATIONS and OLDER ADULTS"** – On August 20th at 12:15 p.m., Misael Valdes Triana, RN from Leon Medical Center Health Plans, will present information on the which immunizations are recommended for seniors and why they are important to one's health.

- **CHARRETTES for the NEW MIAMI SPRINGS AQUATIC CENTER** -- Public comment is invited to help finalize the schematic design for the new Aquatic Center's support building, swimming and play areas. Please attend one of the two charrettes that will be held on **Friday, August 22: at 12:00 p.m. in the Senior Center; or at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.** These important meetings allow for more public input, so that the list of specifications and conditions can be written as distinctively as possible, and contractors will know exactly on what they are bidding. (The Master Plan will be finalized at the Monday, August 25th Council meeting.)



Participants of the Miami Springs Senior Center selected a new King and Queen to serve as this year's "Goodwill Ambassadors." Members of the coronation ceremony are pictured from left to right: last year's Queen Julie Campos, Miami Springs' Mayor Xavier Garcia, this year's King Rodolfo Castillo, this year's Queen Yolanda Saumell, Virginia Gardens' Councilman Jorge Arce, and last year's King Carlos Mordcovich.

- **"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 August 26th at 12:15 p.m. Seniors will be alerted to criminal activities affecting the local area and learn tips on how to avoid becoming a victim.

- **FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS** – Mark your calendars now! Through the generous sponsorship of Mount Sinai Heart Institute, medical personnel will conduct FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS for CHOLESTEROL, GLUCOSE and BLOOD PRESSURE on August 27th from 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. at the senior center. The community is invited to participate and no fasting is required.

- **"SILVER SURFERS"COMPUTER CLASS** – Free, basic and intermediate level computer training courses for English and Spanish speaking senior citizens are offered at the City's senior center. Sponsored by S.T.E.P.S. in the Right Direction, Inc. and the Alliance for Aging, Inc., classes meet for five consecutive weeks, two hour sessions each week. If interested, please call the senior center at 305.805.5160 to learn when the next course is scheduled and to register.

Special health & wellness classes, as well as recreational activities, will be held in August to include: Chair Yoga (M & W from 9:00–10:30 a.m. at the senior center); "Let's Dance" exercise classes (M & W from 10:30–11:00 a.m. at the senior center); Weight Training (Tu & Th from 9:00–9:30 a.m. at the Curtiss Mansion); Floor Yoga classes (Tu & Th from 9:30–11:00 a.m. at the Curtiss Mansion); Line Dancing (Thursdays from 9:30–11:00 a.m. at the senior center); and "Celebration Workout" (Fridays from 9:00–11:00 a.m. at the senior center).

Upcoming events also include: a field trip to Wal-Mart (8/14); a rummage sale (8/11); weekly Bingo games (8/4, 8/12, 8/18 and 8/25), and the next monthly birthday and anniversary party (8/21). For further information, please contact the Elderly Services Department's office at 305.805.5160.



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

**Dade Institute of Health, LLC**  
4471 NW 36th Street  
Health Club

## Art in City Hall



Still Morning, Linda Apreletti, oil on canvas.

Miami Springs native Linda Apreletti will be the featured artist for the "Art in City Hall" exhibit during the months of August and September. She will be displaying new plein air and studio landscape paintings of Florida and North Carolina. She says painting outside is critical to helping her observe and understand patterns in nature in her studio work and outside studies. Her paintings can be viewed online at [www.lindaapreletti.com](http://www.lindaapreletti.com).

A reception to meet Linda will be held on Monday, August 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. If you are unable to attend the reception, you will be able to view the art exhibit weekdays in the lobby between 8:00 am and 4:45 pm.

If you live or work in Miami Springs and feel you have a special contribution to make for a future exhibit, please contact Barbara Robinson in the City Manager's Office for information about exhibit requirements and scheduling. The telephone number is (305) 805-5010.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
305.888.9711

**Protecting Your Home While You're on Vacation**

When you leave your home, whether for a quick weekend getaway or a well earned vacation, preparations extend beyond locking your doors or setting timers for your lights.

Here are a few things to do before leaving your home for an extended period:

**• Hold Your Mail and Newspaper**

A huge pile of envelopes pouring out your mail slot is an instant tip-off that no one's home.

**• Vacant House Watch**

Be sure to fill out the Vacant House Form that the Miami Springs Police Department has on their website <http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/police> Once completed you may drop it off at the Miami Springs Community Policing Office or at the main Miami Springs Police Station. Just don't forget to call in upon your return home.

**• Create the Illusion of Someone Home**

Beyond setting your lights on a timer, you can also set the television and radio on a timer to create the typical noise and flickering lights of an average family home at night. Leave a car in the driveway. Arrange for someone to mow at least once every two weeks.

**• Mum's the Word**

Never, ever announce your departure or vacation dates on social networks. Don't mention your trip until you're back, with tales to tell and photos to upload!

**• Trust A Friend**

Give your vacation contact information and a spare key to at least one trusted neighbor, friend or family member. That way, they'll know how to contact you in case of emergency.

**• Advertise Your Security**

Especially when you're away, it can be a great idea to advertise your security measures. Install fake security cameras (the kind that look authentic). Do whatever it takes to get across the message, "This is not the home you are looking for."

**• Hide the Hide-a-Key**

It's impossible to forget your key if you're not even home, so go ahead and take any hidden spare keys out of permanent commission. Instead leave a spare with a trustworthy neighbor.

**• Safe-Keep Your Valuables**

Lock up jewelry, the deed to your home, wills, and any other valuables or sensitive documents in a fire-proof bolted down safe or safety deposit box.

**• Close the Curtains, Blinds or inside Shutters**

Windows are beautiful, letting light and air filter into your home, but they also give burglars an easy way to look inside and take inventory. Close your blinds or curtains when you're not home, and especially at night when interior lights make it hard to see outside but very easy to see in.

**• Before leaving**

Be sure all windows, sliding glass doors, and all entry doors are closed and are properly locked. Be sure cars in driveways are also locked and no valuables are left in sight. Secure the garage. If you're going away for an extended period, disable your door opener or padlock the door's bolt holes to prevent a burglar from easily rolling up the door and walking in.

**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.

Contact the main office at the Community Center for availability & pricing. 305.805.5075

**AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

After School Care registration will begin on Monday, August 4th. The registration fee is \$35.00; the cost is \$8.00 per day or \$35 per week. This includes bus transportation from Miami Springs Elementary, Springview Elementary, AIE Charter School & Miami Springs Middle. After school care is available until 6:00 p.m. Limited space is available.

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

Registration for our School Holiday Program is will begin on Monday, August 4th. The registration fee is \$35.00, unless registered for ASC; cost is \$20.00 per day. SHP is available for: Teachers Work Days, Christmas Holiday & Spring Break from 7:00am – 6:00pm

**GYMNASIUM:**

**Open Gym Basketball Hours:** Monday & Tuesday 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. & Sunday 9:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. Open Gym, 17 & under, Free 18 & Over \$4

**Effective Monday, August 18th:**

**Open Gym Basketball Hours:** Monday – Friday: 12: p.m. – 3 p.m.: Open Gym, 18 & Over \$4

3 pm – 5:30 p.m.: Open Gym, 17 & under ONLY, Free

Monday – Thursday: 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.: Open Gym, 17 & Under Free, 18 & Over \$4

**Open Gym Volleyball:** is offered every Friday night from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. 18 & over \$4.00, 17 & under are free.

**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 are NOW AVAILABLE:**

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

**YOGA:** YOGA is held Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:15pm- 8:15pm and Saturday mornings at 8:45 a.m. The cost is \$95.00 for an 8 week session. Please call the Miami Springs Community Center for more information.

We are now offering a Saturday drop in



The Get Fit campers show off after they went rock climbing.

YOGA class. The cost per class is \$5.00 and starts at 8:45 a.m.

**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: 5:00 p.m.  
For information visit [jazzercise.com](http://jazzercise.com) or call 305.888.7625

**AQUATICS:**

**Summer Pool Hours:** Monday-Friday: Lap Swimming 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Open Swim 1:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 10:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., weather permitting

**Effective Monday, August 18th:**

**Pool Hours:** Monday-Friday: Lap Swimming 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Open Swim 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 10:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., weather permitting

**Swimming Lessons:** With certified American Red Cross Instructors, and an outstanding facility, the Miami Springs Aquatic Center welcomes all children, ages six months and up, to join our American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program.

Sessions run every two weeks and swim classes are offered year round. Our prices are \$45.00 per session and we offer various types of classes.

**Class Times:** Morning Classes: 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Evening Classes: 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.

**Water Aerobics:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40.00 for 8 classes, per participant

**Pool Memberships are NOW AVAILABLE:**

Adults: 18 & over \$80.00  
Child: 17 & under \$40.00  
Senior: 60 & over \$40.00

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
305.805.5170

**REDUCE TOXIC STORMWATER RUNOFF**

Rain flows from gutters into storm drains, and then washes into tributaries and lakes or bays, carrying pollutants like fertilizers, pesticides, soil and petroleum products.

Runoff containing nitrogen from fertilizers or toxic substances from pesticides can damage aquatic plants and animals that live in fresh and salt water environments.

Florida Yards and Neighborhoods, an educational outreach program, encourages homeowners to water efficiently, mulch, recycle, select the least toxic pest control measures, put the right plant in the right spot, fertilize only when necessary, provide food, water and shelter for wildlife, protect surface water bodies and minimize stormwater runoff. Please visit the FY&N website for information on

what you and your neighbors can do to protect our resources.

<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/index.html>

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLAINTS 24-HOUR HOTLINE**

The Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) 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 DERM 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 man-holes, drainage structures, or waterways.
3. Any spill or discharge to the environment of suspected hazardous waste, including sewage.

**BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE DEPT.**  
305.805.5030

**CODE SWEEPS**

The City Code Compliance Department tries to routinely sweep the City for various Code violations. These sweeps constitute a drive through every street in the City checking for specific Code violations.

**During the month of August** we will be checking for violations of the Maintenance of property code, specifically houses that need painting or cleaning. The Code states: Section 93-13 E

It shall be unlawful for any owner or occupant of property within the City to maintain said property in a condition that is detrimental to the public health, safety and general welfare by permitting said property:

(1) To be in a state of general disrepair or deteriorated condition.

(2) To have excessive scaling of paint or other protective coating, or the accumulation of excessive mildew or rust to the exterior of any building or structure, its roof, roof fascia, awnings, shutters or other exterior attachments to the building or structure.

(3) To remain without proper painting or other protective coatings applied to the exterior or roof fascia of any building or structure.

We will be looking for any houses that need paint, repairs, etc. Courtesy Notices will be issued to those in need and a thirty day period allowed to fix the violation

**During the month of September** we will be checking for violations of the Off Street Parking Code. The Code states:

- Sec. 150-016. Off-street parking facilities
- (G) Off-street parking requirements for single-family residential and duplex zoning districts.

(9) Off street residential parking driveways shall be constructed of gravel, asphalt, concrete or brick. No vehicle shall be parked on the front yard of any private property which has been previously designated as a landscape or sodded area.

We will be looking for any properties where vehicles are being parked on the front yard grass or sodded area, or area that was previously sodded. Please make sure that you park your vehicles in your driveway or in the swale area.

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. 305.805.5009**



**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:**

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to the following City employees:

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Robert Barrio    | David Bente       |
| Gene Chery       | Charlene Thompson |
| Noemi Darias     | Shiketa Duberry   |
| Linda Hurtado    | Allene Paz        |
| Erik Estok       |                   |
| Anthony Thompson |                   |

**Recognizing long term employees:**

The following employees had their anniversary date in July

Joe Perez	completed 29 years of service.
Loretta M. Boucher	completed 20 years of service.
Jeffrey A. Collins & Florentino F.Vasallo	completed 15 years of service.
Theresa A. Michael	completed 11 years of service.

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

# AUGUST 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING: 6:00 P.M.	5 CODE ENFORCEMENT: 7:00 P.M.	6 DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD: 5:00 P.M CURBSIDE RECYCLING	7	8	9
10	11 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 P.M.	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING: 6:00 P.M.	19	20 HISTORIC PRESERVATION BD. 7:00 P.M. CURBSIDE RECYCLING	21	22 SCHEMATIC DESIGN PUBLIC CHARETTES FOR POOL - 12 P.M. AT SENIOR CENTER, 7 P.M. AT CITY HALL	23
24	25 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING: 7:00 P.M.	26	27	28 CODE REVIEW: 7:00 P.M.	29	30
31					CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS	CITY CLERK'S OFFICE