

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

JANUARY 2016

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

Monday, February 8, 2016
City Council Regular Meeting

Monday, February 22, 2016
City Council Regular Meeting

RECYCLING:

Wednesday, February 3, 2016
Wednesday, February 17, 2016

Follow us on Twitter:
@MiamiSpringsFL

WELCOME

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

BODIES BY MARI

70 Westward Drive
Exercise Studio

RELIABLE LIENS, LLC

135 Westward Drive
General Liens Office

WITH LOVE ADULT DAY CARE CTR.

240 Westward Drive
Adult Day Care for Elderly

SPOTLIGHT ON ... Free Income Tax Preparation Assistance by AARP Taxaide Foundation

FREE TAX COUNSELING and PREPARATION ASSISTANCE for the 2015 tax returns will be offered again this year by AARP Tax-Aide Foundation Counselors to all taxpayers. For over 19 years, these IRS trained and certified counselors have been assisting members of our community with their returns and answering questions regarding special federal tax provisions for pensions, credit for the elderly or disabled, intangible taxes, and other important issues. The volunteers are trained to assist in filing certain tax forms and schedules, including the form 1040, and to help taxpayers receive applicable tax credits and deductions, since tax laws change every year. If counselors feel they do not have adequate knowledge or if a return is too complex, they will advise the taxpayer to seek another qualified counselor or paid tax assistance.

AARP Tax-Aide Foundation Counselors will be available, by appointment only, every Tuesday afternoon from February 2nd through April 12th at the City of Miami Springs Senior Center, located at 343 Payne Drive on Prince Field. Electronic filing will be available on the premises.

If you are in need of this free service, call the Senior Center at 305-805-5160 to schedule your appointment as soon as possible.

The checklist below includes items you need to bring when you visit an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide site for help in preparing your tax return(s):

- Last year's tax return(s)
- Social Security cards or other official



documentation for yourself and all your dependents

- Photo I.D. required for all taxpayers.
- Checkbook if you want to direct deposit any refund(s).
- Income
- W-2 from each employer
- Unemployment compensation statements
- SSA-1099 form showing the total Social Security benefits paid to you for the year, or Form RRB-1099, Tier 1 Railroad Retirement benefits
- 1099 forms reporting interest (1099-INT), dividends (1099-DIV), proceeds from sales (1099-B), as well as documentation showing the original purchase price of your sold assets
- 1099-R form if you received a pension, annuity, or IRA distribution
- 1099-Misc forms
- Information about other forms of Income
- State or local income tax refund

Payments

• All forms and canceled checks indicating federal and state income tax paid (including quarterly estimated tax payments)

Deductions

Most taxpayers have a choice of taking either a standard deduction or itemizing their deductions. If you have a substantial amount of deductions, you may want to itemize. You will need to bring the following information:

- 1098 form showing any home mortgage interest 1098-T and 1098-E forms (Tuition and Student Loan Interest payments)
- A list of medical/dental expenses (including doctor and hospital bills and medical insurance premiums), prescription medicines, costs of assisted living services, and bills for home improvements such as ramps and railings for people with disabilities
- Summary of contributions to charity
- Receipts or canceled checks for all quarterly or other paid tax
- Property Tax bills and proof of payment
- Health Insurance
- Form 1095A if you purchased through Marketplace (Exchange)
- Any exemption correspondence from the Marketplace (if applicable)

Credits

- Dependent care provider information (name, employer ID, or Social Security number)
- 1099 forms related to continuing education and related receipts and cancelled checks

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.

The following programs, screenings and educational presentations have been scheduled for February:

- **"CONTROLLING HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE"** -- On February 3rd at 12:15 p.m., Palm Plaza Medical Center will sponsor a presentation on steps one can take to help control hypertension.
- **"STROKE and HYPERTENSION"** -- Avanti Home Health Services will sponsor a program on strokes and high blood pressure on February 10th at 12:15 p.m.
- **"ART FOR SPRING'S SENIORS"** -- Camille Wildenburg, Artist, certified High School Art Teacher and Art Education Graduate Student at UF, has selected the Miami Springs Senior Center to work with as part of her Master's studies. She will instruct the last two of eight art sessions on February 11th and 26th and participants will work on individual projects and learn more about art and

art history. An exhibit of the student's work will be scheduled during the first week of March.

- **"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 February 16th 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.

- **"LIVING WITH LOW VISION"** -- On February 17th at 12:15 p.m., a representative from the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired will provide helpful tips and describe current technology that is available to aid those with visual impairments.

- **"COUNCIL REPORT"** -- Councilwoman Roslyn Buckner will present information on current Council actions and other topics of interest to the citizenry on February 23rd at 12:15 p.m.;

- **GLUCOSE and BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS** -- Medical personnel from Doctor's Medical Center will provide free individual screening and counseling for blood glucose levels and hypertension on February 24th from 11:00--12:30 p.m.;

- **"DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION PREVENTION"** -- On February 24th at 12:15 p.m., Doctor's Medical Center will sponsor a presentation on how to help prevent diabetes and high blood pressure.

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

- **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'



Camille Wildenburg, a current high school art teacher and graduate student attending the University of Florida, is working with participants of the Senior Center as part of her graduate studies. Ms. Wildenburg hopes to build an ongoing art program with visiting artists for local senior citizens to learn, get active, be motivated and be enriched artistically. 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.

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.

- **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 focus on improving joint flexibility, balance, muscular strength, and general fitness and health.

Upcoming events also include: a field trip to Wal-Mart (2/19); weekly Bingo games (2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22 and 2/29); the monthly meeting of the MS/VG Senior Citizens Club (2/2); and the monthly birthday and anniversary party (2/18).

For further information or to volunteer your time, talent or expertise, please contact the Elderly Services Department's office at (305) 805-5160.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

305.888.9711

Fraudulent Tax Returns Are More Common Than You Think

A criminal can use your stolen social security number or personal tax identification number to fraudulently file a tax return in your name. They cash in by having your refund re-routed to a different address or bank account.

The sooner you file your return, the less opportunity someone else has to file a return in your name.

Unfortunately, many victims discover that their identity has been stolen only after a fraudulent claim is filed. It takes an average of three months for victims of tax return fraud to receive their refunds while the IRS works to resolve the issue.

In addition to fraudulent filing, identity thieves may sell your stolen social security number and personal information to those with poor credit, criminal records or illegal immigrant status, who then use that information to apply for a job. Their employers report earnings to the IRS under your name. Then, when you file your return, the IRS comes after you for failing to report all of your income.

Criminals may also use your social security number to fraudulently apply for tax or government-funded programs, like Social Security or Medicare, in your name.

Filing early can bring the identity theft to light sooner than later, minimizing the time and damages associated with resolving the fraud.

Remember, the cost of recovering your identity is not limited to the replacement of stolen items or money; it can also include attorney fees, lost wages, ID replacement, mail, and phone charges.

Help Protect Your Identity When Filing Taxes

If the IRS emails to ask you for information, it is likely a scam

- ✘ Do not reply
- ✘ Do not open any attachments
- ✘ Do not click on any links
- ✔ Forward to phishing@irs.gov, then delete



#ThinkSafe

*Source: irs.gov

With the tax season in full swing, it is important to be extra vigilant about how, and with whom, you share personal information. In addition to filing early, there are other ways to help reduce your risk of becoming a victim of identity theft this tax season. If filing offline, make sure not to leave any tax forms in the car and to shred any paperwork you do not need before throwing out.

If filing online, be suspicious of email claiming to be from the IRS, even if the email has the appropriate logos. According to the IRS website, the IRS does not reach out to taxpayers for personal information unless there is an issue. Also, log off completely when finished with each transaction and be wary of slow-running computers. However you choose to file, request your refund as a direct deposit so criminals cannot have it redirected to their address or steal it from your mailbox.

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

GYMNASIUM:

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

Art in City Hall

The "Art in City Hall" February 2016 exhibit will feature the work of Miami Springs artist and resident Alexander Leon. A reception to meet Mr. Leon will be held on Monday, February 1st, between the hours of 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. If you are not able to attend the reception, you are invited to view the exhibit Monday through Friday in City Hall Lobby between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., during the month of February.

Alex is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts in New York City and is a classically trained realist. He will be displaying a selection of figurative studies including portraits and illustration originals.

If you live or work in Miami Springs and feel you have some special contribution to make for a future exhibit, please contact Vicky Panoff in City Hall for information about exhibit requirements and scheduling at (305) 805-5010 or panoffv@miamisprings-fl.gov.



Poison Place (detail)
by Alexander Leon

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

305.805.5170



Our Public Works Department reminds residents that yard waste can go in the trash barrels but not wood, concrete, metal, tile, tires, rebar, shingles, tar paper, concrete blocks, pavers, dirt, rocks, or drywall. They must be taken to the Miami-Dade County disposal site at 21500 NW 47th Avenue between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Miami Springs Golf & Country Club

305.805.5180

Miami Springs Golf & Country Club was one of only three golf facilities in Miami-Dade County that had the unique opportunity to host the Titleist Golf Ball Fitting Team. On Wednesday, January 13th, many of our golfers received complimentary custom ball fittings using the TrackMan launch monitor, along with a 15 minute analysis of their swings. Every participant received samples of their recommended golf balls.

Miami Springs Golf & Country Club, one of the only natural grass driving range tees in South Florida, offers complimentary lessons every Wednesday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Range balls must be purchased at the Pro Shop.)

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. 305.805.5009

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to the following City employees:

Robert Evans

Luis Neto

William Alonso

Miguel Gonzales

Brian Nickerson



Recognizing long term employees:

The following employees had his anniversary date in January

Jeffrey Clark & Armando Torre

completed 28 years of service

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

BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE DEPT.

305.805.5030

"SLIPPERY WHEN WET"

Happy New Year and Happy New Beginnings! These are the wishes from the Code Compliance Dept. To ensure that our neighbors can enjoy the cool air and long walks through our beautiful City, we will be conducting a City sweep in the month of February 2016, we will be looking for black "slippery when wet" sidewalks, obstruction of sidewalks, and damaged or broken sidewalks due to construction or by driving over them.

We appreciate the cooperation from our residents by reporting areas that need attention. And we ask, if the sidewalks abutting your property needs cleaning or clearing, that you take action prior to being cited. This is a civil violation and could result in a fine.

For any questions or concerns visit our website www.miamisprings-fl.gov or contact the Code Compliance Dept at 305-805-5030.

• Sec. 96-16. - Repair of unsafe sidewalks; notice to owner.

Whenever it is reported to the City Manager

that any sidewalk in the City is in an unsafe condition and likely to endanger the safety of the inhabitants of the City, it shall be the duty of the City Manager to send to the owner of property a notice to immediately put such sidewalk in a safe condition.

(1962 Code, § 19-15; Ord. 51, passed 2-26-45)

• Sec. 96-17. - Failure of owner to repair.

If after a reasonable time, which is declared to 30 days, the property owner shall fail to replace or repair the sidewalk, it shall be the duty of the City Manager to cause the sidewalk to be repaired or replaced and a bill for the costs thereof sent to the owner of the abutting property. If the owner fails or refuses to pay the cost of such repaired or replaced sidewalk, the City Manager is directed to assess the cost thereof against the owner and the same shall become a lien on the abutting premises. The assessment shall be collected in the same manner as other liens and taxes and shall bear interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum from the date thereof.

FEBRUARY 2016

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