

## City of Miami Springs

## News Bulletin



The City of Miami Springs pays for the News Bulletin

City Officials:  
Mayor Xavier Garcia  
Vice-Mayor Jennifer Ator

Councilman Bob Best  
Councilwoman Grace Bain  
Councilwoman George Lob

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

FEBRUARY 2013

## IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

**MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013 – 7 P.M.**  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013 – 7 P.M.**  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

### CURBSIDE RECYCLING PICK-UP

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

### 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 ... PLEASE don't feed the ducks

Families of Muscovy Ducks are a frequent and familiar sight throughout Miami Springs, waddling along main roads and byways and paddling in the canals. During recent North American Migration counts, their population consistently ranks in the top dozen of the 149 species of birds found in Miami-Dade County. Muscovies are year-round breeders, and local populations, if well-fed, can increase dramatically in a short time. A hen can lay as many as 24 eggs in a single clutch, which will hatch in 35 days.

Although Muscovies are not native to the United States, they have been here for over 100 years since being imported from South America where they have long been known as "good eating." (If you Google "Muscovy Duck," you would come back with over 80,000 responses—and a good portion of those would be recipes!)

Fortunately, "our" ducks enjoy protected status, and are not a staple of our dinner tables. Miami Springs has been a bird sanctuary since 1967 (Sec. 90-15). Muscovies are also protected by Florida Statute 828.12 from animal cruelty. However, because local ducks originated in Florida from domestic stock, they are not considered "wildlife" and are not protected by state wildlife laws or the federal Migratory Bird

Treaty Act. State law does prohibit the relocation of Muscovies into wild areas as they may be carriers of diseases which can adversely affect native water-fowl.

So, please do not feed your neighborhood birds and ducks! Although we appreciate that feeding Muscovy ducks is enjoyable, it is often not in their best interest.

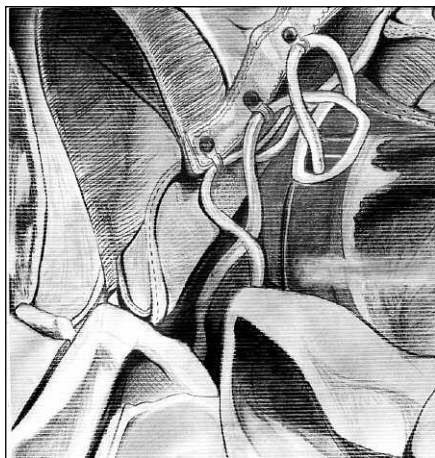
First of all, it is not healthy for them as they become dependent on people for food. The best food for ducks is what they eat naturally—algae, insects and a variety of plants which are abundant in our subtropical climate. Humans most often feed them bread and similar items. These have no nutritional value for the duck. Additionally, feeding by humans makes the ducks reliant on such hand-outs, too lazy to continue foraging for their natural dietary items and uneaten "human" food will rot quickly in warm weather.

Second, feeding ducks encourages them to use the neighborhood as their bathroom, leaving droppings on patios, sidewalks and porches. As a result, controversies frequently arise between residents who enjoy the birds and residents who consider them a nuisance. Even duck lovers have complained about the problem of duck droppings on the lawns, drive-ways, patios, and even in their swim-

ming pools. This is not healthy for people, particularly for the children playing in these areas. Wild ducks can spread disease to humans. When small children, the elderly and persons with immune system problems directly handle newly-hatched chicks, they may be exposed to salmonella. Muscovies can also transmit disease to wild waterfowl. All confirmed outbreaks of DVE, also known as duck plague (a sometimes-devastating viral infection) in wild waterfowl have been linked to domestic ducks. Fowl cholera is another serious disease that is transmittable between domestic and wild waterfowl. Although we have had no major outbreaks reported yet in Florida, the potential for Muscovies to spread this disease to wild waterfowl is a biological concern.

To conclude on a more pleasant note, some things are "just ducky"! "These ducks play a vital role in Florida's ecological system," states Victor Muvdi, president of the Muscovy Protection Group of Kings Creek, a nonprofit organization in Kendall dedicated to protecting the ducks. "They are beneficial to the environment because they eat mosquitoes, as well as black widow and brown spiders and other pests," Muvdi says. "They are beautiful, gregarious creatures."

## Art in City Hall



Tennis Shoes, Charcoal drawing by Olivia Vivero

The March 2013 Art in City Hall Exhibit will feature the work of Miami Springs Senior High School art students. A reception honoring the artists will be held on Monday, March 4, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The general public is invited to stop in and meet them.

Pictured is a drawing by Olivia Vivero, one of the many talented students from the High School whose work is on display. This show represents the students' choices of their best or favorite works. Their art demonstrates a variety of techniques, using various different media. All of the students do some traditional drawings and paintings working from observation. They are also encouraged by their art instructors to "find their voice" which may be expressed in everything from cartoons to abstract art. Many of the students showing this month are in an Advanced Placement Drawing or 2-D Design class. Some of them, like Olivia, are planning to continue studying art in college. When you visit the exhibit, you will see that they are well on their way to a successful career in an art related field.

Everyone is invited to stop by and enjoy these pieces between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you live or work in Miami Springs and feel you have some 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. You may reach Barbara at 305.805.5010.

## ELDERLY SERVICES DEPT.

305.805.5160 SENIOR CENTER,  
343 PAYNE DRIVE

### SENIOR CENTER NEWS

The Miami Springs Senior Center, located on Prince Field at 343 Payne Drive, offers a variety of activities and services to older residents every Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Current financial and programmatic support comes from: the City of Miami Springs; the Alliance for Aging, Inc. and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs; the Village of Virginia Gardens; the Miami Springs Adult & Community School; participant donations; local organizations, civic groups and countless volunteers. Residents of Miami Springs, age 60 and over, are eligible to participate in a variety of services and activities offered at the City's senior center.

**CONGREGATE MEALS:** Hot lunch meals are served weekdays from 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. to assist area seniors in maintaining a nutritionally balanced diet and to provide opportunities to volunteer and socialize with their peers.

**NUTRITION EDUCATION:** Counseling and nutrition education programs are provided monthly by the program's consulting Registered Dietician and the Project Director.

#### HEALTH SUPPORT ACTIVITIES:

- **YOGA-STYLE CLASSES** are provided free to local residents, age 60 and over, through a partnership with the Miami Springs Adult & Community School, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:45–10:15 a.m. at the City's Community Center. Class size is limited and participants must complete senior center and school enrollment forms;

- **"GET IN SHAPE" EXERCISE CLASSES**, free to senior center participants, are provided every M-W-F from 10:15–11:00 a.m. at the City's Community Center with Instructor Natasha Salmon-Cogno, Certified Personal Trainer. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required;

- **Free CHAIR EXERCISE CLASSES** are provided every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:45–11:15 a.m. with Instructor Elizabeth King;

- **Free CHAIR YOGA CLASSES** are offered for seniors on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30–11:00 a.m. at the Community Center. Class size is limited and students must pre-register at the Senior Center office;

- **Free LINE DANCING CLASSES** are offered every Thursday morning from 9:30–10:45 a.m. by Instructor Denise Gishler.

Health screenings and educational presentations are scheduled each month for the benefit of area seniors. On March 26th, from 10:30 a.m. –12:00 noon, the Miami-Dade County Health Department will provide free blood pressure screenings to help detect hypertension. Through the sponsorship of American Providers, Inc. and the Alliance for Aging's Health and Wellness Department, a presentation on "Nutrition and a Healthy Lifestyle" will be made by Amelia Linares, R.N. on March 27th at 12:15 p.m.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Daily pick up, utilizing the city's mini-bus, is provided to older residents with no means of transportation to and from the center. In addition, weekly trips are made to local grocery stores and assistance is given with shopping and carrying packages. Field trips to area malls and other places of interest are planned each month.

**RECREATION:** Social and recreational activities planned for March include: Bingo games (3/4, 3/11, 3/18 and 3/25); a Miami



Seniors "laissez les bon temps rouler" at a Mardi Gras party at the Senior Center. (l to r) Cira Fernandez, Ken Wilson, Maria Wilson, Toni Mayo, Laura Puente, Helen Llanza, Elizabeth King and Julie Campos.

Springs/Virginia Gardens Senior Citizens' Club business meeting (3/5); a field trip to Wal-Mart (3/8); a Saint Patrick's Day Celebration (3/15); a fundraising rummage sale (3/20); and the monthly birthday and anniversary celebration (3/21).

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:** Presentations on crime prevention, health, nutrition, city and consumer issues are presented at 12:15 p.m. on different dates throughout the year. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the City of Miami Springs have partnered to educate seniors on the topic of "Fraudulent Schemes and Foreign Lotteries" during National Consumer Protection Week. On March 6th, Postal Inspector Blanca Alvarez will present issues and ideas that could help seniors become smarter consumers of products, materials, and services offered through the Federal Trade Commission and improve their knowledge of how to combat fraud of any type.

The Miami Springs/Virginia Gardens Senior Citizens' Club will host a "MEET THE CANDIDATES" event over two days in March. Candidates for the City of Miami Springs Council Groups I and II have been invited to present their views and campaign platforms on Wednesday, March 13th from 12:15–1:00 p.m. Candidates for Mayor and City Council Groups III and IV have been invited to address center participants on Thursday, March 14th, from 12:15–1:00 p.m. Each candidate will be given the opportunity to make a three minute presentation, answer questions prepared by the club, and give a two minute summation.

In addition, the Miami Springs Senior Center maintains a large selection of jig-saw puzzles, magazines, books and audio-books that are available to area residents on a free loan basis. A monthly "Calendar of Events" can be obtained at the senior center or at City Hall, and is posted on the City's website under the Elderly Services Department section. For further information on any of the services, activities, or special programs offered, please call (305) 805-5160.

### FREE TAX COUNSELING & PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

for the 2012 tax returns!

**Where:** Miami Springs Senior Center  
343 Payne Drive (on Prince Field)

**When:** By appointment only on Tuesday afternoons  
from 1:00 –4:30 p.m., through April 9th

**CALL (305) 805-5160  
TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT NOW!**

This free service is provided by IRS trained  
and certified AARP Tax-Aide Counselors.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
305.888.9711

**How to Avoid Tax Preparer Fraud**

**Tax Season, Scam Season**

As the federal income tax season gets into full swing, the IRS recommends filing your return early, before someone else files for you. Be vigilant of your mailbox and your neighbor's mailbox, and especially those at vacant homes. The IRS warns taxpayers to beware of falling victim to paid income tax preparers who file fraudulent tax returns on behalf of their customers.

Return Preparer Fraud generally involves the preparation and filing of false income tax returns by preparers who claim inflated personal or business expenses, false deductions, unallowable credits or excessive exemptions on returns prepared for their clients. Preparers may also manipulate income figures to obtain fraudulent tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit.

While most preparers provide excellent service to their clients, the IRS urges taxpayers to be very careful when choosing a tax preparer. You should be as careful as you would in choosing a doctor or a lawyer. It is important to know that even if someone else prepares your return, you are ultimately responsible for all the information on the tax return.

**Helpful Hints When Choosing a Return Preparer**

- Avoid tax preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers.
- Avoid preparers who base their fee on a percentage of the amount of the refund.
- Use a reputable tax professional who signs your tax return and provides you with a copy for your records.
- Consider whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the preparation of your tax return months, or even years, after the return has been filed.
- Review your return before you sign it and ask questions on entries you don't understand.
- No matter who prepares your tax return,

you (the taxpayer) are ultimately responsible for all of the information on your tax return. Therefore, never sign a blank tax form.

- Find out the person's credentials. Is he or she an Accredited Tax Preparer, Enrolled Agent, Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Licensed Public Account or Tax Attorney?
- Only attorneys, CPAs and enrolled agents can represent taxpayers before the IRS in all matters including audits, collection and appeals.
- Other return preparers may only represent taxpayers for audits.
- Find out if the preparer is affiliated with a professional organization that provides its members with continuing education and resources and holds them to a code of ethics.
- Ask questions. Do you know anyone who has used the tax professional? Were they satisfied with the service they received?

**W-2 Blues**

Last Year, identity thieves tried a new tax trick by e-mailing a bogus IRS notice to taxpayers, warning them that they did not submit an updated W-2 form. The e-mail contained a link to a phishing website where taxpayers were instructed to enter their W-2 information, which included such information as social security number, address and wages. Do not click on any website links in e-mails, or attachments that claim to come from the IRS. Rather, forward the e-mail, as is, to phishing@irs.gov. Then delete the e-mail from your account.

**A "New" twist: Dialing for Dollars**

With an ever-increasing number of people using Smartphones, identity thieves are also targeting mobile devices. So consumers should be wary of bogus text messages purporting to come from the IRS.

**Where Do You Report Suspected Tax Fraud Activity?**

If you suspect tax fraud or know of an abusive return preparer, you should report this activity to your nearest IRS office. This information can be communicated in writing or by phone. You can contact the IRS by phone at 1-800-829-0433, or visit their website at www.irs.gov



**PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.**  
305.805.5075/76 1401 WESTWARD DRIVE

**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 and pricing. 305.805.5075

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

Register now for the School Holiday Program is going on. The registration fee is \$35.00 unless registered for ASC; cost is \$20.00 per day. SHP is available for: Teachers Work Days and Spring Break from 7:00am - 6:00pm

**GYMNASIUM:**

Open Gym Basketball Hours: Monday - Friday 2:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. 17 and under ONLY, Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. open play, 17 and under Free, 18 and over \$4

**Open Gym Volleyball:** is offered every Friday night from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. 18 and over \$4.00, 17 and 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 and Jogging Track Hours: Monday - Friday 6:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m., Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Fitness Room Memberships are NOW AVAILABLE:**

- Adults: 18 and over \$150.00
- Senior: 60 and 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 current YOGA session is full. The next YOGA registration will be March 18th at 6:45pm at the Miami Springs Community Center. The cost is \$95.00 for an 8 week session. Please call the Community Center for details.

We are now offering a Saturday drop in 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.

Tuesday and Thursday Mornings: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Monday through Thursday: 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday: 7:05 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

**TREE TRIMMING: COMING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR YOU!**

RESIDENTS, PLEASE BE AWARE THAT TRIMMING CREWS ARE WORKING IN THE CITY, POSSIBLY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. THEY NEED YOUR COOPERATION. PLEASE RESPECT THEIR WORK SPACE AND DRIVE SLOWLY THROUGH THE WORK ZONES. LARGE LIMBS AND CHUNKS OF WOOD CAN FALL ON YOUR VEHICLE OR YOU COULD POSSIBLY HIT ONE OF THE WORKERS.

**BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE DEPT.**  
305.805.5030

**SPRING IS IN THE AIR**

Spring is around the corner, a time of change and nature's rebirth and renewal. The City Officials and the Code Compliance Department would like to thank our residents and business owners for responding to our notices. The homes are looking very nice, the commercial district has been freshly painted with the exception of a few properties, and almost all of the homes have their street numbers displayed. With our "Yard of the Month" recognitions, a lot of your work is being noticed. Our City wouldn't be called "Beautiful Miami Springs" if it wasn't for the great efforts by our property owners.

With spring comes spring cleaning, so if you have accumulated too many items in your yard this is the best time to get rid of excessive materials in your yards, carports and on the front porches.

Thank you again. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to your homes which makes our City a desirable place to live. Welcome to the new business owners who have opened up in the last year. We have issued 33 new Occupational Licenses since last October. We know some of those were changes (location) to existing business locations, but many were brand new! Miami Springs is a good place to eat, to shop and get pampered. Keep up the good work!

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.** 305.805.5009

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS:**

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to the following City employees:

3/3	Thomas Kelly	3/8	Marilyn Newton
3/5	Florentino Vasallo	3/10	Awilda Rivera
3/7	Tomas Lopez	3/26	Noel Acosta
3/8	Leah Cates	3/28	Graciela Vázquez

**Recognizing long term employees:**

The following employees had their anniversary date in February

Tom Cummings	completed 27 years of service
Harry Mayer and Charles Schubert	completed 24 years of service
Earl Williams	completed 19 years of service

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



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

**Beyond the Bell Learning Center**  
75 N. Royal Poinciana Blvd. • School

**Florida Educational Leadership**  
75 N. Royal Poinciana Blvd. • School

**Lumi Pharmacy, LLC**  
261 Westward Drive • Drug Store

**Nadal Pharmacy Corporation**  
4869 NW 36th Street • Drug Store

**Wedding Ring Jewelry, Inc.**  
46 Westward Drive • Sales Retail

**Zest Jolie Salon and Spa, LLC**  
300 Westward Drive • Beauty Parlor

**BE READY FOR THE APRIL 2, 2013**

**MIAMI SPRINGS GENERAL ELECTION!**

**VOTER REGISTRATION**

The deadline to register to vote for the April 2, 2013 Miami Springs General Election is Monday, March 4, 2013. Forms to register are available in the City Clerk's Office.

**EARLY VOTING**

Voting is your constitutional right. Exercise this right even if you plan to be away. Early voting is available in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Friday, March 29th and Saturday, March 30th, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Be sure to bring your Voter's Information Card or a picture I.D. with your signature, such as a Florida driver's license.

# MARCH 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT/ ZONING: 7:00 P.M.	<b>5</b> CODE ENFORCEMENT: 7:00 P.M.	<b>6</b> ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD: 7P.M. Curbside Recycling	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> CITY COUNCIL MEETING: 7:00 P.M.	<b>12</b> RECREA- TION COMMISSION: 7:00 P.M.	<b>13</b> GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB: 7:00 P.M.	<b>14</b> BOARD OF PARKS & PARK- WAYS: 7:00 P.M.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> REVITALI- ZATION & REDEVEL- OPMENT: 7:00 P.M.	<b>19</b> EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD: 6:30 P.M.	<b>20</b> Curbside Recycling	<b>21</b> HISTORIC PRESERVATION: 7:00 P.M.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> CITY COUNCIL MEETING: 7:00 P.M.	<b>26</b> ECOLOGY BOARD: 7:00 P.M.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> CODE REVIEW BOARD: 7:00 P.M.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>					<b>CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS</b>	<b>CITY CLERK'S OFFICE</b>