

POLICE DEPARTMENT
305.888.9711

Tax Related ID Theft

Identity thieves have increasingly sought to profit from their scams by filing fraudulent tax returns. One of the more threatening dangers of this type of ID theft is that consumers may not become aware of it until they receive a note from their accountant or the IRS itself stating that their personal information has been misused (often to steal tax refunds or to apply for jobs).

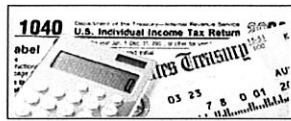
While there is no fool-proof way to protect your identity, the Miami Springs Police Department recommends several steps:

- Don't carry your Social Security card or other information with your Social Security number (SSN) with you;
- Don't give businesses your SSN just because they ask for it. Give it only when required;
- Check your credit report every 12 months and challenge unusual activity;
- Keep personal information in your home secure;
- Protect your personal computer with firewalls, anti-virus software, security patches and change your passwords regularly;
- Don't give out personal information over the phone, mail or the Internet unless you know who you're dealing with.

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

Helpful Hints When Choosing a Return Preparer

- Be careful with 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.
- Stay away from preparers who claim that many, if not most, phone customers can get hundreds of dollars or more back under the telephone tax refund program.



- 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. 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 of returns they actually prepared.
 - 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?
- Reputable preparers will ask to see your receipts and will ask you multiple questions to determine your qualifications for expenses, deductions and other items. By doing so, they are trying to help you avoid penalties, interest or additional taxes that could result from an IRS examination.

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
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

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 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. For more information please call the Community Center.

We are now offering a Saturday drop in YOGA class. The cost per class is \$5.00 and starts at 8:45 a.m.

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 11 – 15 years old. The Get Fit Program will be held on Tuesday & Thursday evenings and there will be one field trip on a Saturday per session.

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

Registration is ongoing at the Community Center.

AQUATICS:

The POOL is HEATED

Pool Hours:

Monday – Friday: 3:00p.m.-8:00p.m.

Saturdays: 10:30a.m.-5:00p.m.

Sundays: 10:30a.m – 5p.m.

Swimming Lessons: Please call the Pool for more information at 305-805-5078

Water Aerobics: Monday and Wednesday Evenings: 6:30p.m – 7:30p.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

JAZZERISE:

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

The Public Works Department would like to notify everyone that there will be extensive milling, paving, curb and sidewalk work taking place in the Circle over the next few months, for a more "Beautiful Miami Springs".



Contractors are installing 34 new decorative street lights and poles along Westward Drive. This is part of an ongoing City conversion to LED lighting to save energy and money.

BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE DEPT.
305.805.5030

Dead Grass Everywhere

In recent months the Code Compliance Department personnel has noticed that there are many dead grass patches in front of the homes in the City. In an effort to keep our City beautiful we are reminding our residents that parking on the front yard grass areas is prohibited. It kills the grass and creates muddy run off making the property look unkept.

A City sweep will be conducted in the month of February 2015 by the Code Compliance Department, looking for consistent offenders, after business hour offenders and weekend offenders. Parking on the swale sodded area is permitted, except for inoperable vehicles or recreational vehicles. Special permission is granted in cases where there is

a special event happening on the property such as gatherings or when construction workers are present.

We welcome and encourage our new residents to the City to visit our website: www.miamisprings-fl.gov and take a quick look at our municipal codes, city events, department information and other interesting information.

Sec. 150-016. Off-street parking facilities

(C) 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.

Bike Path Courtesy

Bicyclists and roller bladers are reminded to alert pedestrians (especially seniors) on the bike paths when approaching them from the rear. Ringing a bell or saying a friendly "Hello" can prevent a startled pedestrian from bumping into or stepping out in front of the rider/skater, causing a collision that could be harmful to both parties. It only takes a second, and is an easy way to ensure safety and enjoyment for all.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. 305.805.5009

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to the following City employees:



- Robert Evans
- Joe Perez
- William Alonso

- Tex Ziadie
- Brian Nickerson
- Luis Neto

Recognizing long term employees:

The following employees had their anniversary date in January

Jeffrey Clark & Armando Torre completed 27 years of service.

Jerry Balester completed 24 years of service.

Harold J. Ziadie Jr. completed 11 years of service

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