

City of Miami Springs

News Bulletin



The City of Miami Springs pays for the News Bulletin

City Officials: Councilwoman Jennifer Ator
 Mayor Xavier Garcia Councilman Bob Best
 Vice-Mayor Dan Espino Councilman 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 & Rescue: 911

JANUARY 2012

**IMPORTANT
CALENDAR DATES****COUNCIL MEETINGS****MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012**

7:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012**

7:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012**

7:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2012**

7:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**CURBSIDE RECYCLING PICK-UP**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2012

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

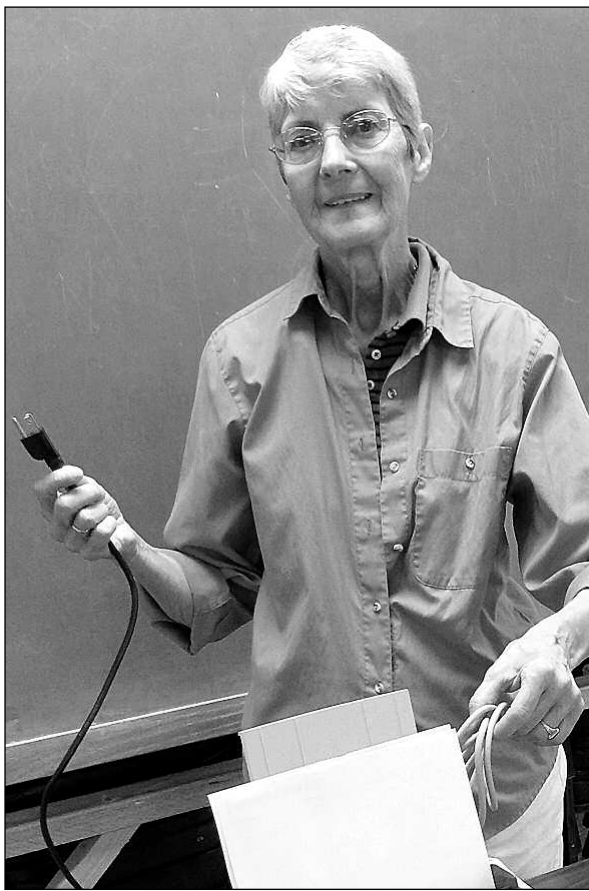
SPOTLIGHT ON ... FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

Once again, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers will be offering FREE TAX COUNSELING and PREPARATION ASSISTANCE for 2011 tax returns to all Miami Springs and Virginia Gardens taxpayers. This service will be available, by appointment only, every Tuesday afternoon through April 10th at the City of Miami Springs Senior Center, located at 343 Payne Drive on Prince Field. Electronic filing will also be available on the premises.

For more than 15 years, these IRS trained and certified Tax-Aide Counselors have been assisting local residents 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. Since 1968, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers have helped nearly 50 million taxpayers in every state and the District of Columbia. This program helps taxpayers have more discretionary income for everyday essentials, such as food and housing, by assisting with tax services and ensuring they receive applicable tax credits and deductions, since tax laws change every year. In 2010, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide's 35,000 volunteers helped their clients receive \$1.2 billion in tax refunds and \$233 million in earned income tax credits. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in cooperation with the IRS.

Among the people for whom the AARP Foundation Tax Aides have prepared returns, nearly 80 percent have used it more than once, and 16 percent have used it for at least seven years.

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. You must bring with you to your appointment the following documents:



Longtime local AARP Tax Program volunteer coordinator Evelyn Dow has been setting up equipment in the Senior Center and getting ready for the upcoming tax season. Evelyn has been helping Springs residents file tax returns for more than ten years. Thank you, Evelyn!

- a copy of last year's income tax return and supporting documentation
- social security cards for all dependents.

Income

- W-2 and W-2p forms from each employer
- Unemployment compensation state-

ments

- 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 or annuity, especially if you had a portion withheld for income tax purposes

- 1099-MISC form showing any miscellaneous income

Payments

You will need to bring all forms and canceled checks indicating federal 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

- Receipts or canceled checks for medical/dental expenses (including doctor and hospital bills and medical insurance premiums), receipts for prescription medicines, costs of assisted living services and bills for home improvements, such as ramps and railings for people with disabilities

- Receipts for contributions to charity
- Receipts or canceled checks for all tax income and property taxes you paid, as well as records of tax refunds

Credits

- Dependent care provider information (name, employer ID or Social Security number)

- Receipts, canceled checks or 1099 forms related to continuing education.

**Recycling Facts from
the Ecology Board**

- The average person generates 4.43 pounds of solid waste per day. That's 1,617 pounds per person per year!
- Nationally, only 1.15 pounds per person per day are recycled.
- Corrugated boxes, office paper, newspaper, glass bottles and lead acid batteries are the most recycled by weight.
- Paper usage is down significantly due to the internet and computerization.
- The economic recession has caused less waste generation.
- An "average" pound of trash has a landfill density of 739 pounds per cubic yard. (US Environmental Protection Agency, 2010)

www.miamisprings-fl.gov

Follow us on Twitter:

@MiamiSpringsFL

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

305.888.9711

Traffic Light Camera Scam Steals Your Identity!!!**Scare Tactics**

The scam is simple. A no-good type picks your phone number at random and, once you answer, tells you that you have an overdue red light camera fine. The only way to avoid a significant late fee, a court case, or even jail time is to pay the bill right then and there over the phone. If you don't pay up, you're threatened with a warrant for your arrest.

Of course, there was no camera, no photograph, and no overdue bill. The scammer really has no ability to arrest you, fine you, or take you to court.

Taken off guard

The voice at the end of the phone line identifies itself as that of a police officer, possibly even giving you a (phony) identification number. As well as trusting you to be lazy and not do your fact checking, the scammer is working on the element of surprise. It's scary to be told you may be facing a jail sentence over something you have no recollection of doing, and you'll be more inclined to overlook a few simple signs that should tell you that the phone call is anything but legitimate.

After convincing you to pay the fraudulent fine, the "traffic cop" will ask for your credit card information, including the security code. That's required information for paying any bill from a remote location. Alarm bells should start ringing as the questions continue, though, as the caller asks for your billing address, date of birth and Social Security number. Surely, the police would have some — if not all — of this information on file. They have your license plate in the photo from the red light camera, after all.

That's not our style

No American police agency currently conducts business like this; in fact, no agencies anywhere conduct business like this. The police do not use the telephone to chase down or collect overdue fines or tickets. They use the postal service or, in more dire cases, a process server or law enforcement officer. Also a ticket for a red light camera violation is a traffic infraction, not a criminal offense and not paying the ticket doesn't make it arrestable.

Even if things did get to the third-party debt collector stage, all correspondence would be carried out in writing, creating an official paper trail that can be traced back and audited if necessary.

The police (and most other authorities) will not ask you for personal

information over the phone unless you initiated the call. Dialing the cable company to pay your bill by credit card is one thing — you dialed the numbers, and you can be relatively certain you are connected to the right party. But even with Caller ID, there is no real way to verify incoming calls; if questioned, scammers can come up with a quick excuse. Perhaps they are "calling from a different office" or "a new number that hasn't been set up yet".

Other variations

While this red light camera scam is relatively new (originating in Texas), it's very similar to another popular identity theft attempt. In that instance, you'll receive a call informing you that you have missed jury duty and — you guessed it — must pay a fine or be slapped with a late fee, along with possible jail time or a court case of your own.

Just like the traffic camera scam, there is no missed jury duty, and the "court official" on the other end of the phone is after your money and your personal information.

Throwing you off the scent

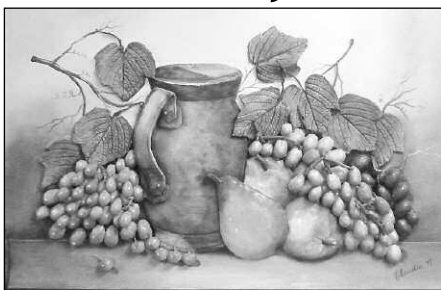
In a particularly nasty twist, you might receive a second call a few days later. The operator made a mistake — it wasn't your car in the photograph, or it wasn't really your name on the jury duty list. Gushing apologies, the caller will fall over himself to reassure you that your credit card will not be billed and that he is very sorry for wasting your time and causing you undue stress.

This second call, of course, is a distraction. You are so happy that you aren't really in trouble that you don't think back over the phone calls too closely and don't think to check your bank account to double-check the transaction. By the time you do check, it's often too late.

Common sense prevails

Fortunately, this simple scam has an equally simple method of prevention. Never, ever provide personal or financial information over the phone, email, text, or mail when solicited by a stranger. At the same time, find out as much as you can about the caller. Get a contact number, name, account number, job title, and any other relevant information that will help you identify them later. Tell them a story about wanting the information in case you need to call back later, if you must.

If you believe you may have been sucked in by this scam, call your credit card company immediately and cancel your card(s). Look carefully at your statements to see if there are any fraudulent transactions, and report those as soon as you can. Consider getting fraud alerts placed on your credit report by contacting your credit bureau, too; these can be free and well worth your time, if you're concerned.

Art in City Hall

Oil paintings by Miami Springs resident Claudia Nelson are featured in City Hall this month.

Local resident Claudia Nelson will be the featured artist for the "Art in City Hall Exhibit" during the month of February, 2012. A native of Honduras, Claudia will be displaying her favorite mixed media depictions of Spanish tropical architecture. Her colorful and intricate oil paintings include plastic, putty, raised wood and small porcelain flowers.

A reception for Claudia has been scheduled for Monday, February 6, 2012, between the hours of 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. If you are not able to attend the reception, you will be able to view the art exhibit weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. during the month of February.

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 for information about exhibit requirements and scheduling. You can reach Barbara at 305.805.5010.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.

305.805.5075/76 1401 WESTWARD DRIVE

FACILITY RENTAL:

The Multi-Purpose room is available for rentals.

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

SPRING BREAK CAMP:

The cost is \$20.00 per day and the hours are from 7:00am – 6:00pm.

GYMNASIUM:

Open Gym Basketball is offered Monday- Friday 2:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. 17 & under ONLY

Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. open play & Sundays 9:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. open play, 17 & under Free 18 & over \$4

Open Gym Volleyball: is offered every Friday night from 6:30p.m. – 9:30p.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. Field trips begin in January, 2012. For additional information, contact Caitlin Smith.

FITNESS:

Fitness Room & Jogging Track: 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: \$187.50
Family of 3: \$262.50
Additional family members \$75.00*
*Immediate Family Members ONLY

Yoga: Yoga has begun at the Community Center, and what a hit it has become! The cost is \$95 for an 8 week session which consists of 24 classes, which are held on Monday & Wednesday evenings at 7:15pm and Saturday mornings at 8:45am. The current yoga session is full. Please call for details.

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

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.

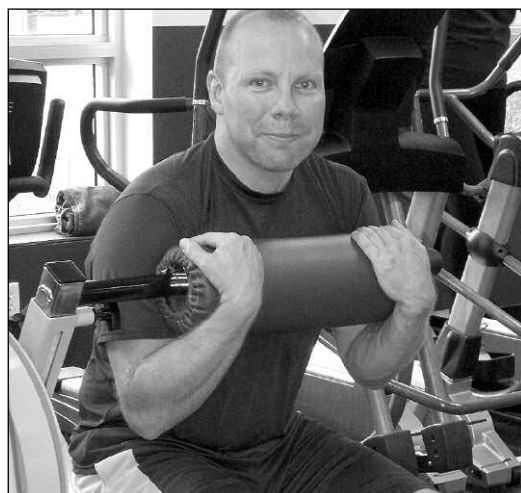
NEW Tuesday & Thursday Mornings: 9:00 a.m.

Monday through Thursday: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:05 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Jr. Jazzercise: Tuesday & Thursday: 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. For information visit jazzercise.com or call 305.888.7625



Springs resident Craig Engler making good on his New Year's Resolution to exercise three times a week in the Community Center fitness room. Keep up the good work, Craig!

AQUATICS:

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: Open Swim 1:00p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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.

Our 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: 5:00p.m., 6:00p.m., and 7:00p.m.

Water Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday & Thursday: 6:00 -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

DRIVER LICENSE SERVICE:

The Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles will be at the Community Center, 1401 Westward Dr. on February 9th. They offer full Drivers License services from 9:30am – 2:30pm.

SPECIAL EVENTS
Daddy & Daughter Date Night 2012
"ANOTHER YEAR OF FABULOUS"

The event will be held Saturday night February 11th at the Miami Springs Country Club. The cost is \$35 per couple & \$10 for each additional daughter. Reservations are REQUIRED and space is LIMITED. For more information or to make your reservations please call the Community Center at 305.805.5075/5076

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 multipurpose 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 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 such as field trips, Bingo, line dancing, chair exercises, Yoga and "Get-in-Shape" classes; 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 consumer, crime, and wellness issues, educational workshops have been scheduled in February as follows:

"Delay Nursing Home Placement" by American Eldercare – Wednesday, 2/1 at 12:15 p.m.

"Nutrition and Exercise" by MS Entertainment & Nutrition for the Elderly – Wednesday, 2/8 at 12:15 p.m.

"Elder Abuse Prevention Program" by the



On Tuesday mornings, participants of the Senior Center's Needlecraft Group teach each other how to make a variety of items from yarn and plastic bags from Milam's Market and Publix. Pictured above - seated (l to r): Maura Rodriguez, Berta Montes, Ethel Labin; standing (l to r): Bessie Raymond, Julie Campos, Fran Morgan, Shirley Parke, Lois Floyd, Maria Wilson, Toni Mayo, Liz King

Alliance for Aging, Inc. – Wednesday, 2/15 at 12:15 p.m.

"Crime Prevention Program" by MSPD's Community Policing Office – Tuesday, 2/21 at 12:15 p.m.

"Keep Your Heart Healthy" by Florida Healthcare Plus – Wednesday, 2/29 at 12:15 p.m.

A monthly "Calendar of Events" can be obtained at the Senior Center, at city hall or on the City's Website. For further information on any of the services, activities, or special programs offered, please contact the Elderly Services Department's office at 305.805.5160. Your inquiries and suggestions for program and service development are always welcome.



MATTER OF BALANCE

* Classes in Spanish *
Reduce your fear of falling and learn exercises to increase your strength & balance.

8 WEEK COURSE:
February 21st – April 10th
• TUESDAY MORNINGS: 9:15–11:15 a.m. in the Senior Center



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

Presence Unisex Hair Salon • 1 Curtiss Parkway Beauty Salon

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. 305.805.5009

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to the following City employees:

2/1	Noslen Penaranda	2/10	William Alonso
2/2	Robert Evans	2/14	Tex Ziadie
2/5	Steven Carlisle	2/20	Anna Gonzalez
2/7	Joe Perez	2/25	Linda Bosque

Recognizing long term employees:

The following employees had their anniversary date in January:	
Steve Carlisle	Completed 28 years of service
Jeffrey Clark & Armando Torre	Completed 24 years of service
Jerry Balester & Magali Valls	Completed 21 years of service

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

BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE DEPT.

305.805.5030

CODE COMPLIANCE CORNER

Remember that you can access all of our City Codes free of charge online at our website. Simply type in <http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov> in your browser's address window. At the top of the website, you will see a tab on the far right side that says "Online Services." Click on the tab and scroll down to "Online Municipal Code." This will take you to Municode.com, where you will see our entire Code of Ordinances.

THE CODE COMPLIANCE PROCESS

Remember, not all violations are handled in exactly the same way. Some violations of our Code are called Civil Infractions. These are generally violations that are somewhat more serious in nature, or need to be dealt with in a timelier manner. These violations are usually accompanied by the authority for the Code Compliance Officer to issue what is called a Uniform Civil Violation Notice (or a Civil Infraction Ticket). Please note that Civil Infraction fines are levied by the issuance of a ticket. However the Code states that the penalty can be imposed for every day that the violation exists, without the issuance of additional tickets! Some of the violations included in the Civil Infraction section, and the corresponding fines are: Inoperable Vehicles-\$100, Defacing City Trees-\$250, Operating a business without a License-\$100, Failure to obtain a Building Permit-\$100. Illegally parked Recreational Vehicles-\$50

POLITICAL SIGN REMINDER!

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING RULES ABOUT POLITICAL SIGNS.

1. ONLY ONE SIGN PER CANDIDATE OR BALLOT ISSUE PER PROPERTY.
2. NO POLITICAL SIGNS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY (INCLUDING YOUR SWALE AREA)
3. NO ILLUMINATED SIGNS.
4. NO SIGNS THAT INHIBIT VISIBILITY OR PASSAGE ON A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY (STREET OR SIDEWALK).
5. REMOVE ALL SIGNS WITHIN TEN DAYS OF THE END OF THE ELECTION.

CITY SWEEPS

We are continuing our sweeps of the residential zones for maintenance of property (cleaning of roofs and painting of houses). In the commercial zones we are still checking for buildings needing paint and illegal signs.

If you have any questions about Code Compliance, feel free to contact the Code Compliance Officer for your area:

Lourdes Taveras (786) 255-0995
ALL COMMERCIAL AND MULTIPLE FAMILY ZONES

Awilda Rivera (786) 367-4956
ALL AREA NORTH OF WESTWARD DRIVE AND WEST OF LENAPE DRIVE

Jose Sadin (786) 367-4962
ALL AREA EAST OF LENAPE DRIVE AND SOUTH OF WESTWARD DRIVE

Tex Ziadie (786) 255-0497
SUPERVISOR

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

City Check Register Now Online

In an effort to bring more transparency to Miami Springs municipal finances, City Administration is adding a new section to the Finance Department pages of the City website titled "City Check Register." This feature, which may be accessed at <http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/finance>, will be updated monthly to include a full listing of city checks issued during the prior month. We hope that you find this additional information useful and welcome any ideas you may have to improve on this presentation. Comments may be directed to Finance Director William Alonso at alonso@miamisprings-fl.gov.



February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Architectural Review Board: 7 p.m.</i>	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Board of Adjustment/ Zoning: 7 p.m.</i>	7 <i>Code Enforcement: 7 p.m.</i>	8 <i>Golf and Country Club: 7 p.m. Curbside recycling</i>	9 <i>Board of Parks and Parkways: 7 p.m.</i>	10	11
12	13 <i>City Council Meeting: 7 p.m.</i>	14 <i>Recreation Commission: 7 p.m.</i>	15 <i>Rep. Mario Diaz- Balart Open House: 2:45 p.m.</i>	16 <i>Historic Preservation: 7 p.m.</i>	17	18
19	20 <i>Revitalization and Re-development: 7:00 p.m.</i>	21 <i>Education Advisory Board: 6:30 p.m.</i>	22 <i>Curbside recycling</i>	23 <i>Code Review Board: 7 p.m.</i>	24	25
26	27 <i>City Council Meeting: 7 p.m.</i>	28 <i>Ecology Board: 7 p.m.</i>	29		Office of the City Clerk	City of Miami Springs