

City of Miami Springs

News Bulletin



The City of Miami Springs pays for the News Bulletin

City Officials:
 Mayor Xavier Garcia
 Vice-Mayor Dan Espino
 Councilwoman Jennifer Aton
 Councilman Bob Best
 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

MARCH 2012

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES COUNCIL MEETINGS

MON., APRIL 9, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MON., APRIL 23, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MON., MAY 14, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MON., MAY 28, 2012
MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY
CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED

**CURBSIDE RECYCLING
PICK-UP**
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2012
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2012

SPOTLIGHT ON ... Assistant City Manager/Finance Director William Alonso

Sitting up beside City Manager Ron Gorland at each Council meeting we'll be seeing a familiar face – that of "new" Assistant City Manager / Finance Director William Alonso.

After serving almost six years as the City's Finance Director, Alonso was appointed to his new, expanded role on March 1. In this capacity he'll be helping the Manager with a number of ongoing and innovative projects on a daily basis, as well as capably managing the day-to-day business of City finance to ensure that the City continues to move forward during these challenging times.

Alonso's budget skills and his operational understanding of City services will be a great asset to the City. His use of technology to reduce workflow, increase efficiency, and contribute to a green economy by going paperless have already provided substantial savings to taxpayers as revenues and other resources have been decreasing. When Alonso first became Finance Director in 2004, Miami Springs was nearing a state of financial emergency, one step away from a State takeover of the City's finances. The City had a deficit fund balance, and had received a negative credit rating. During his tenure as Finance Director, he was instrumental in turning this situation around, restoring the credit ratings and increasing the City's cash reserves to historic levels.

"It was an honor for Mr. Gorland to have named me his assistant and I will work to ensure that I do not let him or the residents down," he states. Alonso looks forward to providing more transparency in City government. This initiative has already started with



Assistant City Manager / Finance Director William Alonso

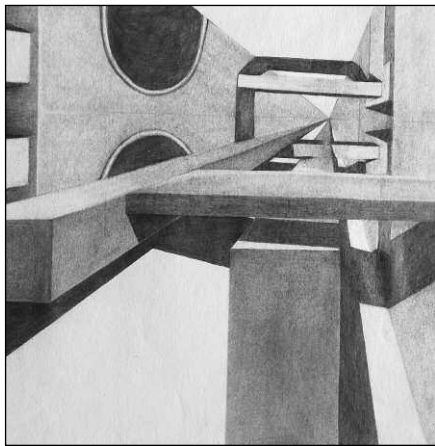
the online placement of the City check register at www.miamisprings-fl.gov/finance/city-check-registers for residents to see where their tax dollars are being spent. William will also oversee improved communications with residents through a monthly newsletter to be sent to all homes starting in April via The River Cities Gazette that will contain important updates about issues affecting the whole community. He pledges to have an "open door" policy to any resident who has questions or concerns about anything going on in the City or within City government.

Undoubtedly, one of the most challenging tasks he is facing will be to assist the City Manager in the difficult task of trying to maintain current levels of municipal service during times of declining resources. This will be done through cost reductions, increased efficiency through the use of new technologies and working to attract new commercial activity to the city, all strategies that will translate to additional revenues.

Alonso holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Jersey City State College and an MBA from Nova Southeastern University. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO). Before coming to Miami Springs, he was the audit manager for the accounting firm of Grau and Company for three years. His duties there included performing the City's annual audit of the financial statements. Prior to that, he had also worked in the private sector as controller for a motorcycle and boat dealership, and in the banking industry as an auditor and accountant.

Alonso served in the US Army and was honorably discharged in 1980 with the rank of sergeant. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his accounting work while in the service. William has been married to his wife Ida for over 34 years. They have two daughters, Susanna, who is a special education teacher in Broward County, and Jennifer, who is in her second year of medical residency in Lansing, Michigan. The Alonsos enjoy traveling around the world and experiencing new cultures and foods, fishing, the beach and just relaxing at home.

Art in City Hall



Isaac Reynaldo (Grade 12, Miami Springs Senior High School), Impossible Perspective, pencil drawing, 12" x 18"

Artwork created by Miami Springs Senior High School students in Mrs. Laura Campbell's classes will be featured for the "Art in City Hall Exhibit" during the month of April, 2012.

In this show we have tried to include a diverse body of work that reflects the diversity of the students that attend Miami Springs Senior High. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors are all represented. Some of these students are taking art for the first time, and others are taking advanced classes. But consistent in all the work shown, is evidence that the students put their best effort into their work. The students are really proud, and in some cases a bit surprised, of the quality of work they have produced. Please come see the show and continue to support the arts in Dade County Public Schools and in our community. "It's wonderful to have so much talent right here in Miami Springs!"

A reception will be held in the City Hall Lobby for community members to meet the Miami Springs Senior High art students and their instructor Mrs. Campbell, on Monday, April 2, 2012 from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. The general public will be able to view the students' art exhibit weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. during the month of April.

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.

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

I Rub Massage / Belkis F. Diaz
113 Curtiss Parkway
Massage Therapist

Ramon E. Pena
Out of City Business
Food Truck

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, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. A variety of services and activities are offered to include:

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.

HOME DELIVERED MEALS: A limited number of lunch meals are delivered each weekday to functionally impaired, older residents who are homebound, unable to cook properly for themselves, and who have little or no additional support available.

NUTRITION EDUCATION: Nutrition education programs are provided each month by the program's consulting Registered Dietician or the Elderly Services Director.

HEALTH SUPPORT ACTIVITIES:

- **YOGA-STYLE CLASSES**, sponsored by the Miami Springs Adult & Community School, are provided free to those age 60 and over on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:45–10:00 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 area seniors, are provided by Natasha Salmon-Cogno, Certified Personal Trainer, through the sponsorship of the Miami Springs Adult & Community School. Class size is limited and meets on M-W-F from 10:00–11:15 a.m. at the City's Community Center. Contact the senior center to enroll.

- Free **CHAIR EXERCISE CLASSES** are provided at the senior center every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11-11:30 a.m. by Instructor Liz King.

- Free **LINE DANCING CLASSES** are offered every Thursday from 9:30–11:00 a.m. by Instructor Denise Gishler.

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

RECREATION: Recreational and social activities are planned

for April to include: Bingo games (4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23 and 4/30); a "not to be missed" musical presentation at 12 noon on the 5th by the Xiques Quartet, a very talented Miami Springs family; a field trip to Wal-Mart on the 13th; a rummage sale fundraiser slated for the 17th; a birthday and anniversary celebration planned for the 19th; and a meeting of the Miami Springs/Virginia Gardens Senior Citizens' Club scheduled for the 10th.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: Presentations on crime prevention, health, nutrition, city and consumer issues are presented at 12:15 p.m. on different dates throughout each month. On April 4th, Mayor Xavier Garcia will present a "Council Report" to senior center participants. In conjunction with the Alliance for Aging, the M-D County Health Department will provide a program on "Hypertension Education" on April 11th and American Providers will present the topic, "Cholesterol, Sodium and Your Heart" on the 18th. Officers Jorge Capote and Janice Simon from the MSPD Community Policing Unit will present a Crime Watch Program on April 24th and will instruct seniors on how to avoid becoming a victim. On April 25th, United Health Care will conduct a workshop on "Preventing Falls for those with Osteoporosis."

In addition, a large selection of jig-saw puzzles, magazines, books and audio-books are available to area residents on a free loan basis. A monthly "Calendar of Events" can be obtained at the senior center and at city hall. For further information on any of the services, activities, or special programs offered, please contact the Elderly Services Department office at (305) 805-5160. Your inquiries and suggestions for program and service development are always welcome.

FREE TAX COUNSELING & PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

for the 2011 tax returns!

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

When: On Tuesdays, April 3rd and 10th from
12:30 –4:30 p.m. by appointment only
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 becoming a victim

When the economy experiences a downturn, the incidents of fraud, identity theft, and related crimes rise. We have seen an increase in the numbers of these types of crime. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these simple steps to avoid becoming a victim. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Protect your mail and other documents:

- Collect incoming mail promptly.
- Use collection boxes or local post office to deposit outgoing mail, never leave it in your home mailbox for the mail carrier to pick up.
- Tear or shred unwanted credit cards and other offers, receipts, and personal records before throwing them away.

Be smart on the internet:

- Shop only at secured Websites. Look for the closed padlock at the bottom of your browser or https:// in the address. The "s" means secure.
- Install up-to-date security software on your computer.
- Use a credit card instead of a debit card.

Take steps today to keep your good name in good standing:

- Check your credit report at least once a year as a preventative measure
- Equifax: 1-888-766-0008 or www.equifax.com
- Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742 or www.experian.com
- Trans-Union: 1-800-680-7289



- Social Security Administration Fraud Line: 1-800-269-0271
- Federal Trade Commission Identity Theft Hotline 1-877-438-4338

Lighten your wallet:

- Carry only the credit cards and personal information you need.
- Memorize your social security number and leave your card in a safe place.

Be smart at home and around town:

- If you see a suspicious person or vehicle, call the Miami Springs Police Department immediately at 305-888-9711. You are the eyes and ears of the community and you know what belongs in your neighborhood and what looks out of place.
- Do not let anyone into your home, regardless of how friendly they may seem or what claims to knowing you they may make.
- Remember that these are not violent crimes. The subjects will appear friendly and will try to gain your trust. They are skilled at their deception, so you must be aware.
- If you have any doubts at all, please call the Miami Springs Police immediately at 305-888-9711. We are here to assist you and alleviate your concerns. For information on suspicious activity and how to report it, visit the Miami Springs Police website at www.miamisprings-fl.gov/police.

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

GYMNASIUM:

Open Gym Basketball is offered: Monday - Friday 2:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. 17 & under ONLY. Monday - Thursday evenings 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 play, 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 and field trips. 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: The yoga class is hosted by certified yoga teacher and personal trainer, Natasha Salmon Cogno. 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 session registration will be held in June. 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 & Thursday Mornings: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 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

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 & Sunday: Open Swim 1:00 p.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: 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

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

DRIVER LICENSE SERVICE:

The Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles will be at the Community Center, 1401 Westward Dr. on April 12th. They offer full Drivers License services from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Easter Egg Hunt & Festivities are set for Saturday, April 7th at Prince Field from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The egg hunt will be divided up in different age groups for children between the ages of 2 - 12 and don't forget a container for your eggs. Come out and enjoy the bounce houses, have your face painted and get a balloon too! Don't forget your camera the Easter bunny will be there to take pictures with you! CHARGE: \$2/ PER CHILD (Parents are FREE) NO CHILD WILL BE ADMITTED WITHOUT an ID BRACELET. Bracelets may be purchased at the Miami Springs Community Center beginning Monday March 19th for Miami Springs & Virginia Gardens RESIDENTS ONLY, Proof of Residency is REQUIRED, NON-RESIDENTS may purchase ID BRACELETS on Thursday April 5th & Friday April 6th for \$10

The 2nd Annual Springs River Festival 5K will be held on Saturday April 14th. The 5K will begin at 7am on the Circle. Pre-registration is \$10 and race day registration is \$15. You may pre-register beginning March 26th at the Miami Springs Community Center. Registration forms are available online at www.miamisprings-fl.gov/parksandrecreation

LITTLE SMART ARTS

ART CLASSES: For ages 3-12. This SPRING starting March 20th, Cost: \$140 for 8 classes. Times: 4:30 p.m. - 5:10 p.m.

Looking for a way to allow your child/ren to explore their creativity with the basic elements of art through a variety drawing, painting and sculpture techniques? The City of Miami Springs Parks and Recreation Department is now offering Art Classes, provided by Little Smart Arts. In addition to being fun, these classes are educational too! Students enrolled learn about art history, concepts of space and design and how to use their unique talents to inspire their own masterpieces. Watercolors, Acrylic paints, oil pastels, chalk pastels and clay are a few of the mediums that are used in these classes. It's definitely much more than "Arts & Crafts". Classes run throughout the entire school year. You can register & pay online at http://mylittlesmartarts.com/Register_Now.html For questions please email: info@mylittlesmartarts.com

Mayor Zavier Garcia, City Council Members and Curtiss Mansion, Inc. invite you to enjoy
An Afternoon at the Mansion

and a Sneak Peak Preview

Sunday, April 1, 2012

1 p.m. - 5 p.m. • 500 Deer Run

Music, fun, food trucks

Bring a friend and a blanket or lawn chair!

BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE DEPT.
305.805.5030

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.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

The Building and Code Compliance Department is undergoing some massive changes in Personnel. Christine Rodriguez, Building Specialist 2 has resigned after five years of service to move to Louisiana. Anna Gonzalez, Building Specialist 2 will be retiring after eleven years of service. They will both be sorely missed! Awilda Rivera, our part time Code Compliance Officer will be moving into one of the full time Building Specialist positions and another full time employee will be hired for the second position. That leaves us with one part time Code Compliance Officer Position still open. We hope to be back to full staffing soon, with a whole new team, ready to become the best Building and Code Compliance team in Miami-Dade County!

TIME EXTENSIONS

Most Code Violation Notices have a time deadline for Compliance. If you need additional time to comply, please contact the Officer who issued the Notice

to you. Most Notices have the Officer's name and Cell Phone number listed on them. Some safety/health related Codes may not allow for additional time. However, call us and we will be happy to discuss it with you.

CITY SWEEPS

We will be finalizing our sweep of the residential zones for maintenance of property (cleaning of roofs and painting of houses). So far over six hundred properties have gotten notices to clean their roofs and more than half of those have already complied! Our tile roofs are looking better than ever. Thank you to all of the residents who have responded so quickly. In the commercial zones we are still checking for buildings needing paint and illegal signs. We are also checking for any commercial locations without an Occupational License or with an expired License.

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

Jose Sadin (786) 367-4962
ALL RESIDENTIAL AREAS AT THIS TIME

Tex Ziadie (786) 255-0497
SUPERVISOR - DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. 305.805.5009

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to the following City employees:

4/10	Janice Simon	4/17	Rosita Hernandez
4/12	William O'Neal		Albert Sandoval
4/16	Debbie Acevedo	4/22	Misael Martin
	Joyce Cox	4/24	Ramon Tamargo
4/17	Jorge Fonseca	4/26	Darryl Cates & Lourdes Taveras

Recognizing long term employees:

The following employees had their anniversary date in March:

Gregory Glover and Rafael Perez	completed 12 years of service.
Anna C. Gonzalez & Oscar Garcia	completed 11 years of service.
Andres Quintanilla	completed 10 years of service.

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

April 2012

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