

## 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

Councilman Michael Windrem  
Councilman George Lob  
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 &amp; Rescue: 911

FEBRUARY 2014

**IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES****CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

**MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014, 7:00 P.M.**  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

**MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014, 7:00 P.M.**  
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

**RECYCLING:**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19**

**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 ... City Planner Chris Heid**

The City of Miami Springs welcomes our new City Planner, Christopher "Chris" Heid. Chris has been a planner since 1985, and has served in that capacity with Miami Beach and North Miami Beach and as Lead Planner for the Corradino Group of Doral.

When Chris heard about the position here in Miami Springs, he was immediately interested. "I've always loved coming to Miami Springs," he says. "I've visited here often, and think this is a very special place. It felt like a good fit right from the start."

During his first weeks on the job, Chris is actively working "to get the feel" of our hometown by taking long walks and attending community events and civic organization meetings to meet residents and business people. He's interested in maintaining the uniqueness and integrity of Miami Springs, as for many years he was the historical preservation planner for the City of Miami Beach.

Looking ahead to the future, one of his goals is to facilitate the redevelopment of the



City Planner Chris Heid

NW 36th Street Business District. "This is the front door to our community, and in its present state, it doesn't give a very good impression of Miami Springs. I see so much unrealized potential in that area."

Chris's duties include the review and submittal of recommendations on all future land development and use, and serving as liaison to government agencies regarding land use planning for the City. Questions and proposals regarding the Comprehensive Land Use Plan go through his office. He will be working with developers on the site plan review process to ensure that drainage, landscaping, lighting and parking meet City code. Additionally, his office processes requests for variances from our building or zoning codes prior to hearings by the Board of Adjustment. Chris may be reached at 305.805.5034 or heidc@miamisprings-fl.gov.

A graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Siena College, Chris grew up in another "River City", Watervliet, New York, which is along the Hudson River. Moving to Florida 30 years ago, he lives in Miami Beach and enjoys his three dogs, his extensive garden and traveling.

**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; the Miami Springs Optimist Club; 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 or the Project Director.

**HEALTH SUPPORT ACTIVITIES:**

The following classes are provided by the Miami Springs Adult and Community School and instructed by Natasha Salmon-Cogno, Personal Trainer and Certified Yoga Instructor:

• **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. Enrollment is limited to 40 and new participants must complete senior center and school enrollment forms.

• **"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. Pre-registration is required.

• **Free WEIGHT TRAINING CLASSES** meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00–9:30 a.m. at the City's Community Center. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.

• **FLOOR YOGA CLASSES** are offered free to seniors on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30–11:00 a.m. at the City's Community Center. Pre-registration is required for new students.

• **Free "CELEBRATION WORKOUT"** classes are held every Friday morning from 9:30–11:00 a.m. at the City's Senior Center.

**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 area grocery stores and assistance is given with shopping and carrying packages. Field trips to local stores, malls or other places of interest are scheduled each month.

**RECREATION:** Social and recreational events planned for March include: Line Dancing classes on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. that are instructed by local resident Denise Gishler; a weekly Art Class on Fridays at 12:30 p.m. that is instructed by local resident Berta Montes; weekly Bingo games (3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24 and 3/31); a Miami Springs/Virginia Gardens Senior Citizens' Club business meeting (3/11); a field trip to Wal-Mart (3/13); a special St. Patrick's Day celebration (3/17); and the monthly birthday & anniversary party (3/20).

**HEALTH SUPPORT & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:** Educational presentations are scheduled each month through the sponsorship of numerous individuals, community service organizations and businesses. The following topics are scheduled for March:



**AARP Tax-Aide Counselor George Fitzpatrick assisting Mary and Bernard Quinlan with completion and filing of their tax return.**

• **"MAYOR'S REPORT"** -- Mayor Xavier Garcia will present information on current Council actions and other topics of interest to the citizenry on March 4th at 12:15 p.m.;

• **"IDENTIFYING TELEMARKETING FRAUD AGAINST SENIORS"** -- On March 5th at 12:15 p.m., the U.S. Postal Inspection Service will address this topic and "Sweepstakes Fraud" as part of National Consumer Protection Week. Americans receive thousands of unsolicited phone calls from dishonest telemarketers each year, oftentimes making older citizens the target;

• **FREE TELEPHONES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED** -- On March 10th from 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., a representative from the Hearing and Speech Center of Florida will be at the City's senior center to distribute amplified telephones at no charge to those with verification of hearing loss and proof of Florida residency;

• **"OSTEOPOROSIS PREVENTION"** -- Sponsored by Leon Medical Centers and the Alliance for Aging, medical staff will present this topic on March 12th at 12:15 p.m.;

• **"CRIME WATCH" PROGRAM** -- Officers Jorge Capote and Janice Simon, from the MSPD's Community Policing Office, will conduct the monthly Crime Watch Meeting at the senior center on March 18th at 12:15 p.m. and provide information on local criminal activity and how to avoid becoming a victim;

• **"MEDICARE PART D and the S.H.I.N.E. PROGRAM"** -- On March 19th at 12:15 p.m., the Alliance for Aging, Inc. will sponsor a presentation on the "Serving the Health Insurance Needs of the Elderly" Program and provide valuable information on Medicare;

• **"SILVER SURFERS"** -- A FREE Intermediate Level Computer and Internet training course for English speakers will be offered at the senior center. Sponsored by S.T.E.P.S. in the Right Direction, Inc. and the Alliance for Aging, Inc., this 5-week course will be held on Tuesday mornings from 9:30–11:30 a.m., beginning March 25th through April 22nd. Call to register as class size is limited; and

• **TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE** - FREE tax counseling and preparation assistance for the 2013 tax returns is offered by the AARP Tax-Aide Program at the Miami Springs Senior Center again this year. Tax-Aide Counselors, trained by the IRS, are available on Tuesday afternoons, by appointment only, to assist low-to moderate-income individuals file their return and answer pertinent questions. To schedule an appointment, call the senior center as soon as possible.

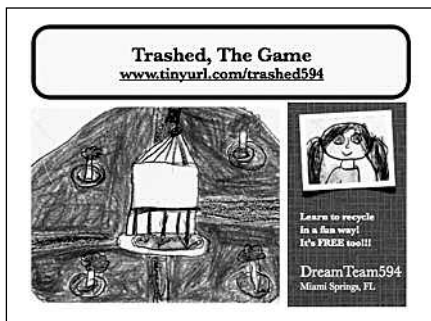
For further information on any of the services, activities, or special programs offered, or to volunteer your time and talent, please contact the Elderly Services Department office at 305.805.5160.

**WELCOME**

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

**Springs Crossfit**

70 Westward Drive  
Exercise Studio

**Art in City Hall**

**The Girl Scouts of Miami Springs Troop 594 invite you to play their original video game "Trashed".**

The City of Miami Springs Art in City Hall exhibit for the month of March will showcase creative work by the members of Miami Springs Girl Scout Troop 594, under the leadership of Elli Diaz (Troop Leader), Trina Aguila and Maria Poviones-Bishop (Junior Level Leaders)

The projects were made as part of 4th and 5th grade Girl Scouts' (Junior Level) "Get Moving" program. This six-month curriculum exposed the girls to ideas about energy, conservation, recycling, and ways they can lead efforts in these areas. The display includes robot sculptures fabricated from recycled materials, an announcement of a video game set in Miami Springs that the girls designed to promote recycling and handmade posters and photos of activities showing their commitment to Girl Scouting.

The public is invited to attend a reception to meet the Scouts in the lobby of City Hall on Monday, March 3rd at 6:30. The display may be seen between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. throughout the month.

If you live or work in Miami Springs and feel you have a 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. The telephone number is 305.805.5010.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
305.888.9711



**SAFETY TIPS  
For Pedestrians and  
Drivers**

Whenever you are not in your vehicle, you are a pedestrian!

**When You Are Walking**

- Be predictable. Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.
- Walk on sidewalks whenever they are available.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible.
- Keep alert at all times; don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes (and ears) off the road.
- Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections whenever possible. This is where drivers expect pedestrians.
- Look for cars in all directions – including those turning left or right.
- If a crosswalk or intersection is not available, locate a well-lit area where you have the best view of traffic. Wait for a gap in traffic that allows you enough time to cross safely, and continue to watch for traffic as you cross.
- Never assume a driver sees you. Make eye contact with drivers as they approach you to make sure you are seen.
- Be visible at all times. Wear bright cloth-

ing during the day, and wear reflective materials or use a flashlight at night.

- Watch for cars entering or exiting driveways, or backing up in parking lots.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs when walking; they impair your abilities and judgment too.

**When You Are Driving**

- Look out for pedestrians everywhere, at all times. Safety is a shared responsibility.
- Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or in bad weather.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see the crossing pedestrians so they can stop too.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing that you can't see.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street.
- Follow slower speed limits in school zones and in neighborhoods where there are children present.
- Be extra cautious when backing up – pedestrians can move into your path.

**The Free-Bee Shuttle has new schedule and route changes that started Feb. 24th.**

To view them: go to [www.miamisprings-fl.gov/community/free-bee-shuttle-route-and-schedule-changes-feb-24-2014](http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/community/free-bee-shuttle-route-and-schedule-changes-feb-24-2014) or pick up a copy at the Community Policing Office, the Senior Center or City Hall Lobby.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
305.805.5170



**The Public Works Department reminds all residents not to pile bulk trash on their water meters. This not only interrupts water services to the property, it also often creates a damage bill for the City and down time on the route. If the driver hits the meter box and breaks it while clearing the debris, it is considered an accident and the employee is subject to mandatory post-accident drug testing. Additionally, the County charges the City \$600.00 each time for coming out to make repairs!**

**BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE DEPT.**  
305.805.5030

**CODE REVISIONS!**

Our City Council is in the process of revising a number of our Codes that are outdated. These include the Code regulating Commercial Vehicles, the Noise Ordinance, the Sign Ordinance and a few others. In a future issue of Code Compliance Corner, we will provide more details, once the Codes are revised and adopted by the City Council.

**OWNER/BUILDERS**

Many homeowners want to do work on their home and avoid hiring or paying a Contractor, so they apply for a permit as an owner/builder. There are dangers involved in doing this. One is that if anyone comes on your property to work for you and is injured, the liability is yours. Another is that many homeowners do not know how the building or permit process works, and they get confused and end up frustrated. If you do not know how to work through the building or

permitting process, the best solution is to hire a licensed contractor. As we often say to customers, if you don't know, ask us. Another aspect of this is that some property owners apply as an owner/builder and in reality they have a contractor, but they do not have him sign on the permit application as a contractor. Some contractors will tell homeowners that they can save them money this way and charge them less to do it as an owner/builder. This could be a way for the contractor to not carry the required insurance or for them to avoid the scrutiny of the Building Department.

Please be careful about any work that you do on your home and if you are not sure that a permit is required, call and ask us. There are unscrupulous contractors out there and we don't want you to get hurt by them.

Call us with any questions at 305.805.5030 or e-mail your questions to us at [bzcp@miamisprings-fl.gov](mailto:bzcp@miamisprings-fl.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:** 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. 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

**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: 5:00 p.m.

For information visit [jazzercise.com](http://jazzercise.com) or call 305-888-7625

**AQUATICS:**

\*THE POOL IS HEATED\*

**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 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 1:00p.m. - 5:00 p.m., weather permitting



The 9 & 10 All-Stars pose after the game with their pal Burnie from the Miami Heat.

**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.

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: 6:00p.m.

**Water Aerobics:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.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

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Festivities will be held on Saturday, April 19th

Time: 10:00a.m.

Location: Prince Field

No child will be admitted without an ID bracelet

ID bracelets will be available beginning Monday, March 31st at the Community Center

Miami Springs & Virginia Gardens Residents, 6 - 13: \$2.00, 5 & under free, Proof of Residency Required. Non-resident bracelets will be available on Monday, April 14th, at \$10.00 for all ages

**Summer Camp Employee Interest forms** will be available at the Miami Springs Community Center from March 3rd - March 12th. All interest forms must be completed and returned NO LATER than 6pm on March 12th.

**Summer Camp 2014 registration** for children ages 5 - 13 years will be held on Saturday, April 5th at the Miami Springs Community Center from 10am - Noon.

City of Miami Springs RESIDENTS ONLY, PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED.

For more information please call the Miami Springs Community Center at 305.805.5075.



Follow us on Twitter:  
@MiamiSpringsFL

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. 305.805.5009**



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS:**

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to the following City employees:

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Thomas Kelly       | Marilyn Newton   |
| Florentino Vasallo | Awilda Rivera    |
| Tomas Lopez        | Noel Acosta      |
| Leah Cates         | Graciela Vázquez |

**Recognizing long term employees:**

The following employees had their anniversary date in February

Tom Cummings	completed 28 years of service
Harry Mayer and Charles Schubert	completed 25 years of service

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

# MARCH 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT/ ZONING: 7:00 P.M.	<b>4</b> CODE ENFORCEMENT: 7:00 P.M.	<b>5</b> Curbside Recycling	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> CITY COUNCIL MEETING: 7:00 P.M.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD: 7:00 P.M.	<b>19</b> Curbside Recycling	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> CITY COUNCIL MEETING: 7:00 P.M.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> CODE REVIEW: 7:00 P.M.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS	CITY CLERKS OFFICE