

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 & Rescue: 911

NOVEMBER 2013

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2013
THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY
CITY HALL CLOSED!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2013
DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
CITY HALL CLOSED!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2013
CHRISTMAS DAY HOLIDAY
CITY HALL CLOSED!

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:

MONDAY, DEC. 9, 2013 • 7:00 P.M. –
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

RECYCLING:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

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 ... Home for the Holidays

The song "Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays" truly describes Miami Springs between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve. Our hometown sparkles with festive magic and unique seasonal and charitable activities that make our tropical-with-a-twist yuletide outstandingly merry and bright. Below is a sampling of what's happening in the City during December. (Additionally, churches and community organizations schedule many special services and other events, so be sure to check with them, read the Gazette and look at the Community Calendar on www.miamisprings-fl.gov!)

◆◆◆
Fri. Nov. 29th – Sun. Dec. 22nd – Miami Springs Airport Area Chamber of Commerce's "Hometown Holiday Shopping" / call 305.508.8080 for details

Sat. Nov. 30th and Dec. 7th, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. - Farmers Market and Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair / Curtiss Parkway (free)

Tues. Dec. 3rd, 10th, and 17th, 6:30

p.m. – Preschool Storytime / Miami Springs Branch Library (free)

Tues. Dec. 3rd, 7:00 p.m. – Relay for Life Kickoff Celebration / Woody's West End Tavern (free)

Sat. Dec. 7th, 8 – 11:30 a.m. – Breakfast With Santa / All Angels Academy / pre-pay \$7, day of event \$9 / For information call 305.888.9483

Sat. Dec. 7th, 6 -10 p.m. - Holiday Classic Car Show in the Circle (free)

Mon. Dec 9th, 6:30 p.m. – Hibiscus Fine Arts Guild Winter Exhibit Reception / City Hall Lobby (free)

Tues. Dec. 10th, 6:30 p.m. – Family Cultural Workshop/ Miami Springs Public Library / pre-register at 305.805.3811 (free)

Thurs. Dec. 12th, 6 p.m. - Miami Springs Elementary School / Orchestra and Choral Concert "I Need a Little Winter Vacation" (free)

Sat. Dec. 14th, 5:45 p.m. – Santa arrives for Christmas at the Gazebo / ID bracelet

(available at Community Center) for Miami Springs and Virginia Gardens residents ages 6-13 \$2, 6 & under free, all non-residents \$10

Fri. Dec. 20th. 7 p.m. – Holiday Moon Over the Mansion/ Curtiss Mansion / for information call 305.869.5180

Mon. Dec. 23rd to Fri. Jan. 3rd, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. (3 p.m. 12/24) except 12/25 and 1/1 – Rec. Department Holiday Camp at the Community Center for ages 5-13 / If not already registered, fee is \$35 per child and the daily fee is \$20 per child / for information call 305.805.5075

Mon. Dec. 23rd, 12:30 p.m. – Pelican Playhouse Puppeteers / one-act play "The Christmas Apple" / Sosa Theater (free)

Weds. Dec. 25th, 6 – 8:30 p.m. – Christmas Celebration at the Gazebo hosted by Iglesia Bautista Sion (free)

Sat. Dec. 28th, 6:30 p.m. – Miami Springs Historical Society Holiday Tour of Homes / for information and tickets call 305.887.3839

Miami Springs Golf Course • 305.805.5180

Do you live in Virginia Gardens?

If so, you are eligible to play golf at MSGC at the special resident price!

CHRISTMAS RECYCLING NOTICE

Since the regular Miami Springs recycling day falls on Christmas (December 25th), a special recycling pickup will be done on Saturday, December 28th. It is anticipated that the trucks will pick up earlier than usual, so residents are asked to have their carts out at curbside by 7 a.m.

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

AFSCME Florida Council

700 S. Royal Poinciana Blvd.
General Office

Aries Construction Management

700 S. Royal Poinciana Blvd.
General Office

Coverball Medical Center Corp.

61 Hook Sq.
Clinic

Designer's Bottega

627 Eldron Dr.
Sales, Service and Rentals

EB Hotel Miami, Inc

4299 NW 36th St.
Hotel

Marine Parts USA

5253 NW 36th St.
Retail Sales

ELDERLY SERVICES DEPT. 305.805.5160 SENIOR CENTER, 343 PAYNE DRIVE

SENIOR CENTER NEWS

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 health, nutrition, and consumer education workshops and classes 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, special musical presentations, line dancing, Yoga and other fitness 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 for those who cannot leave their homes without assistance.

In addition to the core service offerings, health and wellness classes for seniors will be provided through December 19th on the below specified days. The following classes are sponsored by the Miami Springs Adult and Community Education Center and are instructed by Natasha Salmon-Cogno, Personal Trainer and Certified Yoga Instructor:

- **CHAIR YOGA CLASSES** -- Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00–10:30 a.m. at the Miami Springs Senior Center;
- **CHAIR EXERCISE: "WEIGHTS IN A CHAIR" CLASSES** (includes use of weights and strengthening exercises while in a sitting position) -- Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 –11:00 a.m. at the Senior Center;
- **WEIGHT TRAINING CLASSES** -- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00–9:30 a.m. at the Miami Springs Community Center;
- **SENIOR YOGA CLASSES** -- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30–10:30 a.m. at the Community Center;
- **"LET'S DANCE!" CLASSES** -- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 –11:00 a.m. at the Community Center..

Volunteer Elizabeth King will facilitate the following classes in December:



Halloween fun at the Senior Center

- **LINE DANCING CLASSES** -- Thursdays from 9:30 –11:00 a.m. at the senior center;
 - **CHAIR EXERCISE CLASSES** – Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30–1:00 p.m. at the senior center.
- Other programs and activities scheduled for December at the City' senior center:
- **RUMMAGE and BAKED GOODS SALE** – December 4th from 12:15–1:30 p.m.;
 - **XIQUE FAMILY TRIO MUSICAL PERFORMANCE** – December 5th at 12:15 p.m.;
 - **DRIVER'S LICENSE RENEWAL** – December 10th from 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.;
 - **"AVOIDING HOLIDAY DEPRESSION"** – December 11th at 12:15 p.m., sponsored by Chen Medical Center;
 - **MIAMI SPRINGS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S MUSICAL PERFORMANCE** – December 12th at 12:15 p.m.;
 - **"CRIME WATCH PROGRAM"** – December 17th at 12:15 p.m.;
 - **FIELD TRIP to WESTLAND MALL** – December 18th from 1:15–4:30 p.m.;
 - **"HEALTHY HOLIDAY EATING"** – December 20th at 12:15 p.m.

The monthly "Calendar of Events" can be obtained at the senior center or viewed online at the City's website, www.miamisprings-fl.gov, on the Elderly Services Department tab. For further information on any of the services, activities, or special programs offered, please contact Karen or Betty at 305.805.5160.

Happy Holidays
From the
Hibiscus Fine Arts Guild

*You are cordially invited to attend our
Holiday art exhibit and opening reception
At the Miami Springs City Hall
201 Westward Drive, Miami Springs, FL 33166
On Monday, December 9th, 2013
From 6:30–8:30 p.m.*

*Please come meet the artists
and join us for refreshments.
Dress code is casual and all are invited.
We hope to see you there;
However, if you can't make
The opening reception, the
Artwork is on display
The entire month of December
During normal City Hall hours.*

POLICE DEPARTMENT
305.888.9711

Identity Theft Prevention Checklist

Identity theft affects millions of Americans each year. You don't want to be one of them. The Miami Springs Police Department is offering some suggestions of what you can do to safeguard your personal information.

Protect your Social Security number and card. Never carry your Social Security card in your wallet or put your number on your checks. Disclose it only when absolutely necessary, using other types of ID whenever possible. If your current driver's license includes your Social Security number, ask to substitute another number. The same goes for your health insurance policy.

Buy a shredder. Some identity thieves go Dumpster-diving to retrieve personal information. Always tear up receipts, old credit card statements, and other personal documents; running them through a shredder is even better. Deposit all outgoing mail in secure mailboxes, preferably at a post office.

Set up secure locations for personal information. At home, have a safe or a lockable file cabinet in which you can store sensitive material. While you're at work, store your purse or wallet in a desk drawer or a cabinet. One with a lock is best.

Get fraud alert. Most credit card companies offer fraud protection, some for free and others for a slight fee. These programs alert you when there are any abnormal purchases or activity on your account.

Consider a credit freeze. A credit freeze prevents credit card companies and other third parties from viewing your credit report. It gives you a little more protection than a fraud alert, but also a little less leeway: You'll need to lift the freeze if you want to apply for a loan or a credit card.

Create intricate passwords. Passwords that include the last four digits of your Social Security number, your graduation date, or your maiden name may be easy to memorize, but they're also easy to crack. Use a mix of letters, numbers, and special characters to create a fool-proof password, and alter it for every online account you have.

Make them clever too. Come up with a phrase and use the first letter of each word, a special character and a number as your password. For example: "I graduated from Miami Springs Senior High School number 1." Password: "igfmsshs#1." And for each Web site, change the number or a character, or



add letters corresponding to the particular website. So when you visit, say, target.com, your password would be "taigfmsshs#1." It may bring a smile to your face to use FluffytheCat as a password, but you won't be smiling when it's been cracked faster than you can type it. Pets' names, car names, last names followed by 1, anything Trekkie, and the word password are particularly vulnerable. Good passwords are a minimum of eight characters and contain numbers, symbols, or punctuation. To make yours easy to remember, "don't use a pass word?use a pass phrase. Then replace some of the vowels with symbols: M@ryh@d@littl@mb is good; 1'm@p00rm@n is better. What is best? Passwords with letters and symbols that require you to use the "alt" key. As for now, those make a password 99 percent uncrackable.

Set up a PayPal account. If you're an avid online shopper, register your information with this secure third-party service and you won't need to disclose it to other sites. Accepted by most of the biggest online retailers, such as barnesandnoble.com and overstock.com, PayPal also offers around-the-clock fraud monitoring.

Don't go mobile. It may be easy and convenient as far as paying bills go, but it isn't safe. Save yourself the headache and make sure you use a secure site online using your own personal Wi-Fi network to pay your bills.

Think about insurance. Although identity theft insurance does not decrease the risk of theft, it may be a good option for you. An insurance policy can provide some assistance in the identity rebuilding process.

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

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Registration for our School Holiday Program is open. The registration fee is \$35.00, unless registered for ASC; cost is \$20.00 per day. SHP is available for: Teachers Work Days, Christmas Holiday & Spring Break from 7:00am – 6:00pm

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

YOGA: YOGA is held Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:15 p.m.- 8:15 p.m. and Saturday mornings at 8:45 a.m. The cost is \$95.00 for an 8 week session. The next YOGA registration will be held in January of 2014. Keep a lookout for the exact date. 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.

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 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: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., weather permitting

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: 6:00 p.m.
Water Aerobics: Monday and Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday 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

Christmas at the Gazebo will be held Saturday, December 14th. The parade will begin at 5:45pm in front of City Hall and will drop Santa off at the Circle. The fun on the circle will be from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Be sure to bring your wish list to give to Santa and your camera to have your picture taken with Santa too! Mark your calendar; you don't miss out on another festive year of cheer.

I.D. Bracelets for Miami Springs and Virginia Gardens RESIDENTS (with proof of residency) will be available at the Community Center beginning Monday, November 18th. 5 & under are free, 6-13 are \$2

ID Bracelets for Non- Residents will be available at the Community Center beginning on Monday, December 9th ALL AGES \$10

For more information please call 305.805.5075

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
305.805.5170

Public Works Department Wages War on Exotic Species

Our Public Works Department has begun a major removal campaign against an invasion of "exotic" (non-native) species along the Miami River Canal bank between the bike path and the waterline. This is part of the City's long-term commitment to invasive plant management. The ongoing effort may result in some gaps in the lush foliage along North Royal Poinciana Boulevard, but City Arborist and Public Works Director Tom Nash wants to assure community members that these are temporary and necessary to allow our native plantings to flourish.

The canal bank was cleared of exotics by the South Florida Water Management District in the mid 1970's and replanted with native species,

including Buttonwood, Gumbo Limbo, West Indies Mahogany, Cocoplum and Firebush.

These lovely plantings are being overrun and strangled by a dense blanket of air potato vines and other aggressive invaders. Some of them grow as much as a foot a day during the rainy season, blocking the sunlight for the ground cover and smaller native plants that grow beneath them. They include vines, lianas and plants that have been named Florida's most invasive plant species by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council. These unwelcome exotics have also been identified by The Nature Conservancy as "globally invasive species" and are listed on the Florida Noxious Weed List by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which recommends their removal from all public and private properties.

BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE DEPT.
305.805.5030

THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE

The holidays are upon us and we will all be busy over the next few weeks. Business locations with a storefront, it is time for cleanup! Many of our business locations could be spruced up with a simple window cleaning. Please take a close look at your storefront windows and displays. Are they clean and sparkling? Are they out of date? Now is the time to clean them up.

Residential partners, please remember to be safe as you put up holiday decorations. Do not use electric cords outside that are not intact or

rated for exterior use. Do not put any displays on City trees or property. Make sure entryways and paths are clear and free of any tripping hazards.

Together we are making Miami Springs more beautiful! We wish all of our residents and property owners a great Holiday season! For forms and information about the Building Department, please visit our web site at: <http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov>. Click on the "City Departments" tab and select "Building" You can then look at general information, download applications and forms, check on permit status and inspections and see pictures of your favorite Building Department staff!



Jorge Alfonso, R.N. and Alicia Gonzalez remind everyone to get a flu shot!

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. 305.805.5009

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to the following City employees:



- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ángel Casas | Claire Gurney | Karen Rosson |
| Peter Baan | Rene Alonso | Theresa Michael |
| Carlos Sánchez | Jeffrey Clark | Laurie Bland |
| Caitlin Smith | Loretta Boucher | |
| Roberto Gonzalez | Jeffrey Collins | |

Recognizing long term employees:

The following employees had their anniversary date in November

Suzanne S. Hitaffer completed 21 years of service.

James S. Pessolano completed 16 years of service.

Darryl M. Cates & Robert Barrios completed 15 years of service.

Allene M. Paz completed 14 years of service.

Jorge D. Capote & Claire E. Gurney completed 12 years of service.

Albert Sandoval & Frank L. Perez completed 11 years of service.

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

DECEMBER 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT/ ZONING: 7:00 P.M.	3 CODE ENFORCEMENT: 7:00 P.M.	4	5	6	7
8	9 CITY COUNCIL MEETING: 7:00 P.M.	10	11 CURBSIDE RECYCLING	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY! CITY HALL CLOSED!	26	27	28 SPECIAL CURBSIDE RECY- CLING PICKUP
29	30	31				
				CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS	CITY CLERK'S OFFICE	Published: 11-15-13