

City of Miami Springs

# News Bulletin



The City of Miami Springs pays for the News Bulletin

**City Officials:**  
 Mayor Xavier Garcia  
 Vice-Mayor Jennifer Ator  
 Councilman Bob Best  
 Councilwoman Grace Bain  
 Councilwoman 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

OCTOBER 2012

## IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2012:**  
 VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY  
 CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED!

**THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12 WAS RE-SCHEDULED!**

**MONDAY, NOV. 19, 2012 – 7 P.M.**  
 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
 CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2012**  
 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.  
 CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED!

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2012**  
 DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY  
 CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED!

**THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 26TH WAS CANCELED!**

**MONDAY, DEC. 10, 2012 – 7 P.M.**  
 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
 CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

### CURBSIDE RECYCLING PICK-UP

Wednesday, October 31, 2012  
 Wednesday, November 14, 2012  
 Wednesday, November 28, 2012

## SPOTLIGHT ON ... Planting the right tree in the right place

Thanks to a grant from the Urban and Community Forestry Program of the Florida Forest Service, this month Miami Springs planted 56 new native shade trees and shrubs in Peavy-Dove Park along Quail Avenue. These include Royal Poinciana, Gumbo Limbo, Pigeon Plum, Dahoon Holly, Jamaica Caper, Simpson Stopper (trees) and Necklace Pod, Cocoplum and Wild Coffee (shrubs). The specimens were selected as examples of hardy and appropriate native trees and bushes that are well-suited for shade and buffer screening on your own property.

If you are considering adding to your own landscaping, remember that a tree properly placed today can avoid problems tomorrow. Select the right tree, and plant it in the right place. This will assure you a lifetime of enjoyment and minimal maintenance costs.

- Determine your purpose in planting: Shade? Screening? Colorful flowers? Fruit? A noise buffer?

- Avoid improper planting locations: There's more to the "right place" than not planting a big tree under a power line. Big trees such as Mahogany, Live Oak and Royal Poinciana need big areas in which to spread their roots. Think "small tree, small place" when you want a tree near a house or a patio.

- Understand the planting site: Are there any utility connections in the area? If you're not sure, call 811. "Sunshine 811" notifies utility companies where you are planning to dig. The utility then sends a locator to mark the approximate location of underground lines, pipes and cables in your yard. The process



Tying and staking one of our new Pigeon Plum trees in Peavy-Dove Park.

ground level. Be sure to remove the plastic pot, burlap bag, etc. that the plant came in. Backfill using the soil that came out of the hole. Fill the bottom third of the hole, then tamp the soil down with your foot to eliminate any air pockets. Water well. Now, finish filling in the hole, tamp the soil down and water thoroughly once again. Finish up by using leftover soil to create a small wall around the circumference of the hole about two or three inches high. This will help hold water and direct it down towards the roots. Adding a layer of mulch around the base of your new tree will help keep the roots moist and provide lots of nutrients. Stake the tree loosely for protection or support if needed, and remove the stakes as soon as the tree can support itself, in 6 to 12 months. Use only soft tree ties, and never use wire, even if it's coated.

- Water and care for your new tree: Many people plant a tree and think that's all it takes. Not so! Water, fertilizer and pruning are all a part of tree upkeep. Unfortunately, we lose too many trees due to improper (and illegal) trimming. The Public Works Department would like all residents to be aware of what we can do to protect our trees by trimming them safely. Violations of this Ordinance carry a fine of \$250.00. Property owners can avoid a visit by Code Compliance personnel, and help keep our City green by dealing with a Certified Arborist, or licensed tree trimmers.

For information and questions about tree issues, please contact the Public Works Department: 305.805.5170.

takes two full business days - Day 1 starts the day after you call.

- Select a compatible tree. Take a walk along Peavy-Dove Park and get some ideas.

- Plant your tree properly: Dig the hole two to three times as large around as the roots of your tree, but just a little less deep. Leave the root crown (the area where the roots end and the trunk begins) one to two inches above

## Art in City Hall



Morada Sunset, Victor Linares, photograph, 16"x20"

Scenic photographs and photo montages by photographer Victor Linares will be featured for "Art in City Hall" during the month of November, 2012.

Victor first began his journey into the art world at the Lima Art Institute in Peru where he studied painting and photography. His enthusiasm and appreciation for this medium led to more classes at Miami-Dade College and Florida International University, and to a life-long involvement with capturing and interpreting images through a lens. He has been recognized for his work both locally and nationally and enjoys participating in various art festivals throughout Florida, including Las Olas, Beaux Arts, and Sunfest.

The general public is invited to stop by and enjoy these pieces between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. 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 in the City Manager's Office for information about exhibit requirements and scheduling. You may reach Barbara at 305.805.5010.

## 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; 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 health and wellness, consumer, crime, and civic issues, the following programs have been scheduled for November as follows:

- **"FOOD SAFETY"** – Jackie Gibson, Extension Agent IV, from the University of Florida's IFAS Extension Bureau, will present information on how to prevent food-borne illnesses on 11/7 at 12:15 p.m.;

- **"COUNCIL REPORT"** – On 11/8 at 12:15 p.m., Councilwoman Grace Bain will provide seniors with an update of recent Council actions and answer questions about important issues affecting City residents;

- **"HOW TO SAVE YOUR HEART: A LESSON IN PREVENTION"** – Dr. Veronica Rodriguez-McCloskey, sponsored by Mt. Sinai Heart Institute, will provide seniors with valuable health information on 11/14 at 12:15 p.m.;

- **"INVESTOR EDUCATION"** – On 11/16 at 12:15 p.m., JD Candidates from the UM School of Law, who work with the school's Investor Rights Clinic, will conduct a workshop on the basics of investing, the different types of investments and how to avoid common scams and tricks when investing;

- **"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



Saady Destephan greets his friends with a big smile every day at the Senior Center.

ter on 11/27 at 12:15 p.m.. They will alert seniors to local criminal activity and provide information on how to avoid becoming a victim;

- **"EATING HEALTHIER and PHYSICAL FITNESS: DELAY or PREVENT DIABETES"** -- On 11/28 at 12:15 p.m., United Healthcare and the Alliance for Aging, Inc. will sponsor a presentation on Diabetes and how lifestyle choices can affect this disease; and

- **"SILVER SURFERS"** – Free, basic computer and Internet 5-week training courses, sponsored by S.T.E.P.S. in the Right Direction, Inc. and the Alliance for Aging, Inc., are offered on Tuesday mornings at the Senior Center. Call for further information or to register.

Special program activities will be held this month to include: Yoga classes, Chair Yoga classes, Get-in-Shape dance fitness classes, chair exercises, line dancing classes, computer classes, a rummage sale to raise funds for the Senior Citizens Club's entertainment budget, weekly Bingo games, a field trip, the monthly birthday and anniversary party, a Thanksgiving Luncheon, and the delivery of fruit baskets to homebound residents.

For further information, please contact the Elderly Services Department's office at (305) 805-5160. Your inquiries and suggestions for program and service development are welcomed.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
305.888.9711

**Halloween Safety Tips for Drivers**

The Miami Springs Police Department wishes everyone a fun and safe Halloween. Because of increased foot traffic and that Trick-or-Treaters are out at night, the potential for automobile related crashes with young pedestrians increases on this night, here are just a few tips to make it all worthwhile and safe.

Streets are literally crawling with all sorts of witches, ghosts, goblins, vampires and all other sorts of costumed people. This makes for added responsibility for drivers to make sure that they drive safer than normal.

When parents drive their kids around, and then let them out to walk from house to house, usually the parent follows behind in the car. This can cause much confusion as kids dart between cars on the streets going from house to house. A driver is already distracted because they are trying to keep an eye on their own kids and usually aren't paying attention to much else.

Children and adults tend to be preoccupied and may not pay as much attention to safety as they should. They may not see your vehicle or just assume that you see them automatically. Stay on the defensive and you shouldn't have a problem while driving on Halloween night.

- Don't use a cell phone or other electronic device while driving on Halloween night. You shouldn't be doing this anyway! The rate of cell phone related traffic crashes has jumped dramatically since the use of cell phones and texting has risen so high. Some states have already made laws concerning this and others are working on it.

- Pay extra attention, particularly to crosswalks, intersections and the side of the road. Kids tend to walk along the curbs, cutting across the street to get to other homes. Keep scanning all around you as you drive, whether as thru traffic or along with your kids as they trick-or-treat.

- Drive below the posted speed limit in residential areas during trick-or-treating



hours. This will allow you time to break if you see a child dart in front of you.

- Do not pass other vehicles that have stopped in the roadway, they could be dropping off children.

- Instruct your child to never get into the car of a stranger. It might be easy for your child to mistake someone else's car your car with the excitement of Halloween. Put a lighted plastic Jack-O-Lantern on your dashboard to make your car more recognizable to your child.

- It's also a night that child predators are looking for victims. Let your child know that they should never get into the car of a stranger at any time. If someone stops them and asks for help or offers them candy, tell them to scream as loud as they can and run.

- Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars. Let them know if they carry a flash light to never shine it in the eyes of a driver. This can cause blindness on the drivers part temporarily and they may not see your child.

- If you are dropping off or picking up your kids in an area, pull off the road into a safe spot and turn on your hazard lights to alert other motorists. If you go with your kids from door to door, leave the hazard lights on so other drivers can see your car parked there.

**PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.**  
305.805.5075/76 1401 WESTWARD DRIVE

**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 and pricing. 305.805.5075

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

Register now for the School Holiday Program is going on. 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 and Spring Break from 7:00am - 6:00pm

**GYMNASIUM:**

Open Gym Basketball Hours: Monday - Friday 2:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. 17 & under ONLY, Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. & Sunday 9:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. open play, 17 & under Free 18 and over \$4

Open Gym Volleyball: is offered every Friday night from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. 18 and over \$4.00, 17 and 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 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 and over \$150.00  
Senior: 60 and 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:** The yoga class is hosted by certified yoga teacher and personal trainer, Natasha Salmon Cogno. 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 next yoga registration will be in December at the Miami Springs Community Center. The cost is \$95 for an 8 week session. Please call the Community Center for details.

We are now offering a Saturday drop in yoga class. The class costs \$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 and Thursday Mornings: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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

**Jr. Jazzercise:**

Tuesday and Thursday: 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Community Policing Officer Janice Simon was a Guest Reader at the Community Center's monthly "Storytime."

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: 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. 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., 7:00 p.m.

**Water Aerobics:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$40.00 for 8 classes, per participant

**Pool Memberships are NOW AVAILABLE:**

Adults: 18 and over \$80.00  
Child: 17 and under \$40.00  
Senior: 60 and over \$40.00

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

The Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting **Storytime**, at the Miami Springs Community Center. Children and Parents will enjoy stories and activities that will encourage the JOY of reading. Story time will be held on Thursday, November 15th, 11am - 12pm for children ages 2 - 4.

**The 3rd Annual 5K Turkey Trot is set for Saturday November 17th!** As always this is not just a 5K, but a time to give back to those in need. In addition to the \$10 registration fee you will also need to turn in 2 canned goods (but we will gladly accept more) which will be given to the local churches to be distributed as needed. If you would like to register prior to the 17th, TROT on over to the Community Center to turn in your registration form and canned goods!

**Christmas at the Gazebo** has been set for Saturday December 15th. The parade will begin at 5:45 p.m. 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. For more information please call 305.805.5075/5076

**BUILDING & CODE COMPLIANCE DEPT.**  
305.805.5030

**NEW FEE SCHEDULE**

City of Miami Springs has increased a number of our permitting and other fees in order to cover the cost of the Building Department. Please go to our website to view the new schedule of fees: [http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/fee\\_schedule\\_0.pdf](http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/fee_schedule_0.pdf)

**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.

**NEW CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

The Building and Code Compliance Department is happy to welcome back Christine Rodriguez as a part-time Code Compliance Officer, effective November 5, 2012. Christine worked previously as a Building Specialist and has knowledge of our City's Code of Ordinances. Welcome back, Christine.

**Tips from the Ecology Board**

**Workplace Recycling**

- Reduce the use of paper by sending information or documents via the email, rather than hard copy files or faxes.

- Make use of reusable porcelain or metal mugs for coffee breaks, instead of disposable or styrofoam ones.

- If your workplace does not have any recycling bins, take a little effort to bring home these recyclables for recycling. Your "little" counts in a big way toward a cleaner and healthier environment.

- Much energy is used to operate offices and other work stations in many organizations. You can do your part to save energy by switching off lights, air-conditioning and your personal computers when they are not in use. Remind those around you to do the same!



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

**Designers Bottega, Inc**  
627 Eldron Drive  
Interior Design

**Southeast Design Associates**  
627 Eldron Drive  
Architects

[www.miamisprings-fl.gov](http://www.miamisprings-fl.gov)

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.** 305.805.5009

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Happy Birthday and Best Wishes to the following City employees:

11/1	Steven Griffin	11/14	Armando Torre
11/4	Frank Perez	11/16	John Mulla
11/5	Mason Kegley	11/19	Omar Luna
11/11	Jerry Balester Jr.	11/20	Daisy Garcia

**Recognizing long term employees:**

The following employees had their anniversary date in October

Peter G. Baan	completed 38 years of service.
Patricia A. Bradley	completed 29 years of service.
Rene O. Alonso	completed 25 years of service.
Janice Simon	completed 14 years of service.
Leah Q. Cates	completed 11 years of service.

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



**NOVEMBER 6, 2012  
ELECTION:**

**Please see long ballot  
in advance**

In order to facilitate a more expeditious voting experience, the Miami-Dade County Elections Department would like to encourage all registered voters to be aware that the 2012 General Election Ballot is unprecedented and most voters will receive a five page ballot (10 front and back). Long lines are anticipated and they are deploying the maximum number of voting units and privacy booths to accommodate the demand.

Therefore, please keep the following in mind:

- Advanced preparation is the best way for voters to expedite their voting experience. Do research and make a decision before visiting a voting location.

- The Elections Department home-page has invaluable resources available to voters. A Voter Tool Kit provides voters with reminders as well as with access to a customized sample ballot.

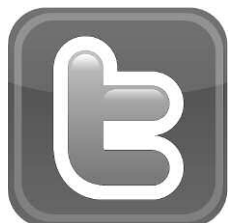
- The Elections Department website contains links to background information such as legislative history, sponsorship, and full text of all the constitutional amendments and county questions, which should assist voters in making informed decisions.

- The comprehensive sample ballot is available at City Hall and copies are also available in public libraries, and county and commission offices.

Hopefully, all registered voters will participate and vote via absentee ballot, during early voting (October 27-November 3) or on Election Day, and will do so with pride, preparation and patience.-

# NOVEMBER 2012

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



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