



# Golden BEACH MAGAZINE

Issue 73

April 2024

*The Only Official Magazine for the Town of Golden Beach*



# CONTENTS



3  
MESSAGE FROM  
THE MAYOR

4  
POLICE BEAT

5  
AROUND TOWN



14  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS

16  
CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS



## TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH

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## GOLDEN BEACH MAGAZINE

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GRAPHIC DESIGN  
Islander Media Group / AJ Fiegler



# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Spring has arrived with milder temperatures and opportunities for our residents to enjoy the many amenities offered in Golden Beach.



Town Manager Alexander Diaz and I traveled to Tallahassee this past month to request almost \$1 million for our new wellness center site work. In the process, the Florida Senate recognized Golden Beach as one of the top five cities in the entire country in which to live. Details on that trip are included in the Around Town section of this issue.



We are moving! We are very excited that our Golden Beach employees will be working out of the new Civic Center by the time this issue gets to you. Additionally, work is progressing on the park project. We are extremely proud of the work we have accomplished.

We are saddened by the passing of several of our long-term residents: Alfred and Sydel Herrick, Sue Honowitz, and Anne German. Our prayers and sincerest condolences go out to their families and loved ones.

In addition, we have rallied around two of our own members: Town Manager Alexander Diaz and the Building Department's Monica Diaz who lost their mothers on the same day. Grief is never easy to bear, but knowing that you are not alone lightens the burden. We pride ourselves on creating a family atmosphere here in Golden Beach where we know we can rely on one another in time of need.

2024 continues to be an exciting time to live and work in Golden Beach.

Your Mayor,

Glenn Singer







## SPRING IS HERE AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE SUMMER IS FAST APPROACHING.

Having said that, there are a few important things that we need to keep in mind, such as boating and bicycle safety reminders. Make sure your vessels and bicycles are inspected for safety and any possible mechanical failures. Another important safety reminder is to familiarize your children and/or visitors with all safety law requirements.

- Take your car keys or key fobs inside your house with you
- Always lock your vehicles
- Do not leave valuables inside your vehicles
- Do not leave front gates or garage doors open, even while you are at home

The Golden Beach Police Department uses various methods to engage the community around us. While closely handling our police business affairs in Town, we are also doing outreach efforts in schools and with other communities. These activities are part of building and strengthening the network between Golden Beach and the police departments, organizations, and citizens of adjacent cities.

*Rudy Herbello*

Rudy Herbello  
Chief of Police



Speeding is a major factor that can contribute to accidents or worse. I would like to remind everyone that just as police officers are vigilant 24/7 to assure your safety, “bad guys” are always looking for new ways to circumvent all proactive enforcement we have in place in order to commit their crimes. The Town is enhancing or adding surveillance cameras around the perimeter of the Town as an additional safety measure, which is another tool to assist police in apprehending perpetrators. In response to our efforts to combat crime (including auto thefts) we have experienced a major reduction in incidents in Golden Beach. To continue the downward trend of crime, I would still like to remind residents to:



## Golden Beach goes to Tallahassee

Mayor Glenn Singer, Town Manager Alexander Diaz and the Town’s Lobbyist David T. Caserta recently visited Tallahassee to petition the State for funding for some important upcoming Town projects. Included in the topics of discussion were recouping funds for the Town’s Landfall Team Bunker, which would house emergency response teams in the event of a disaster. The structure will withstand sustained winds of 175 mph and is designed to withstand gusts of 210 mph as per ICC 500 (International Code Council) guidelines for facilities of refuge.

The bunker features enlarged beams and support columns reinforced with steel, which accounts for a higher percentage of materials. Every cell in the walls surrounding the bunker has been reinforced and filled with concrete. There will also be a completely independent access stair from the ground level up to 35’ NGVD (National Geodetic Vertical Datum); where the bunker resides. This provides accessibility to the exterior without having to enter the main building.

A second topic of discussion included the stormwater system for the Town’s new Wellness Center project. The ground floor of the new building will be at an elevation of +9.0 NAVD (North American Vertical Datum). In order to achieve this, the existing site requires comprehensive storm water planning and implementation of new drainage plans to ensure the site is free of flood water. This includes the installation of retaining walls and fill alongside a robust drainage



plan that connects to the Town’s existing outfall.

The new building will include a 6,000 square foot fitness center, and approximately 3,000 square feet of community spaces. Elevating the site would ensure sustainability of the facility. Increased storms, tidal influence, flooding during King Tides have placed enormous strain on the gravity storm and well system that supports the park and the area of the new municipal wellness center.

To manage the stormwater and tidal flooding, the Town will build retaining walls, grading and fill a robust drainage system connected to the outfall. This will ensure sustainability and a space where Golden Beach can promote physical health and mental health for all of its residents.

We will keep you updated in upcoming issues with developments on these exciting projects and any related funding received.

## FIRE PIT RULES

The Town allows Residents to reserve the fire pit at the Beach Pavilion. Please see details below for how to reserve this amenity.

- The fire pit may be used on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Resident must call the substation at (305)935-0940 and provide their name, address and a valid phone number. Keys to the
- fire pit will be supplied at the substation.
- Permitted events being held at the Beach Pavilion have first-right-of-refusal for use of fire pits during their event hours.
- Users must be age 18 or over.
- If users are under 18, a parent must be present.
- No roasting marshmallows.
- Resident may be held responsible for any damage from use.





Fire Rescue Services

While Golden Beach does not have its own Fire Rescue services, the Town is conveniently located with multiple Miami-Dade Fire Rescue units housed close by:



- Sunny Isles Station 10**  
(1.51 miles south)
- Aventura Station 8**  
(2.01 miles west)
- Eastern Shores Station 78**  
(2.80 miles southwest)
- Aventura South Station 33**  
(3.08 miles southwest)
- Highland Oaks Station 63**  
(3.60 miles west)
- Haulover Station 21**  
(3.75 miles south)
- North Miami Beach Station 31**  
(3.96 miles southwest of the Town)

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue offers patient transportation options; Patients with life-threatening injuries will be transported to the nearest appropriate Miami-Dade or Broward County medical facility. Miami-Dade Fire Rescue will transport patients without life-threatening injuries to the medical facility of their choice.

Please visit [www.miamidade.gov/mdfr](http://www.miamidade.gov/mdfr) for more information.

Are you stuck on a sinking ship?

Sometimes the excitement of a new toy wears off, like that expensive exercise bike that you swore you’d use to get fit, but now it just collects dust. Sometimes that “toy” is bigger and much harder to get rid of, until now. If you have a watercraft that you’d like to dispose of, you can surrender your at-risk vessel for disposal at NO COST to you.

The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission offers a Vessel Turn-In Program (VTIP) that allows Florida Residents to surrender unwanted vessels which are at-risk for being cited as derelict.

Don’t risk receiving costly citations, or even possible jail time, for a derelict vessel. Visit [www.MyFWC.com/VTIP](http://www.MyFWC.com/VTIP) to learn more about the program.



2023 Fire-Rescue Statistics for The Town of Golden Beach

Incident Type	2023	
	# of Incidents	MDFR Average Response Time*
Life Threatening	44	9:22
Non-Life Threatening	33	10:15
Structure and Other Fires	49	0:00
Other Emergency	1	0:00
Total	127	

\*Incident and response time information was extracted from the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Response times are represented in minutes and seconds.

Notes: MDFR excludes false alarms from response time calculations for "Structure and Other Fire" incidents; all fire incidents for Golden Beach were false alarms and no emergency was found upon arrival. MDFR updated its Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system in September 2023, which may have resulted in elongated response times.

(source Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, [www.miamidade.gov/mdfr](http://www.miamidade.gov/mdfr))

In Memoriam

The Town recognizes the recent passing of members of the Golden Beach Community:



Anne German



Sue Honowitz



Maritza Diaz  
(Town Manager Alexander Diaz’s mother)



Anabella Del Sol  
(Town Hall/Building & Zoning staff member Monica Diaz’s mother)

Our thoughts are with their family and friends during this difficult time.





# GBPD gets Sporty!

The Golden Beach Police Department hosted a family fun day at North Park which included flag football and other games. The police hosted the event as a way for families to get out and get fit.



## Don't Find Yourself in the Doghouse: Pick Up After Your Pet

By **Michael Glidden**

A bouquet of flowers, a platter of fresh baked cookies, or even finally returning that weed-whacker you borrowed last summer: These are all nice surprises you can give to your neighbor. There is another surprise that has been spotted around town that has neighbors steaming. This “gift” is usually left behind by one of the four-legged members of the family and can ruin anyone’s stride across the lawn to pick up the morning paper. Let’s just say being a good neighbor includes picking up after yourself, especially if Fido leaves something behind on your walk. It’s not just a courtesy, it’s also the law. Aside from being stinky and altogether unpleasant, pet waste transmits disease. That can be disease spread from animal to animal, or even animal to human. Pet waste can also be washed into drains and that contaminated water can make it into our waterways, causing bacteria levels to rise and creating dangerous conditions. Golden Beach provides stations with plastic bags for picking up waste throughout Town and we ask for pet-owners to respect our shared spaces.

That said, the Town has a zero tolerance policy on pet owners or pet handlers who do not clean up after their pets. Pet owners/handlers who do not clean up after their pets are committing a criminal misdemeanor which is

prosecutable by the State Attorney’s Office. This means, residents, their staff and/or guests who walk their pets on public or private property and do not pick up the pet’s waste will be cited without warning or exception. Non-compliant pet owners/handlers are subject to a \$150.00 fine without warning for each offense. Residents, please inform your staff, that the State of Florida has enacted a mandatory hold policy on undocumented individuals; a seemingly small infraction could have major consequences. Please be aware that the Town is using surveillance, including undercover Police Officers, to identify offending pet owners/handlers and will act immediately on anyone who is not in compliance. Pet waste bag stations and trash cans are available throughout Town for your convenience. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TOWN’S PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PICKING UP PET WASTE.

So whether you’re taking your animal for a spin around town or playing in the Town’s dog park, be mindful and please make sure not to leave any “surprises” for those who come after. Avoid citations, be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your animals. Help us keep Golden Beach clean!





# AROUND TOWN



## Valentines Day

Valentine's Day returned to the Beach Pavilion this year. Residents of all ages came out to celebrate. It was a festive evening of delicious food and drinks, perfumed with the gentle strumming of live guitar music.

Check our calendar in this issue for additional upcoming events that you won't want to miss!



## SAVE THE DATE: Golden Beach is turning 95!



In May we will be celebrating 95 Years of Golden Beach, and we've got some exciting activities planned, Join us!

**Tuesday, May 21 7PM – 95th Anniversary Town Council Meeting and Cake Cutting - Civic Center**

Who says you can't mix business and pleasure? The Mayor and Council will be hard at work and invite you all to join them for a very special cake fit for a milestone like 95 years!

**Thursday, May 23 6PM -9PM – 95th Anniversary Street Fair & Civic Center Ribbon Cutting**

Join us as we open our brand-new Civic Center complex and celebrate our 95th birthday! There will be a midway with games and fun, lots of food and even a few surprises! Don't miss it!



## Sorry We Missed You...

The Town would like to thank the following Residents who were not included in the Employee Luncheon Donors list, thank you for your thoughtful contributions to the Employee Luncheon Fund!

- Schlesinger
- Cherif
- Gloobe/Berg
- Berkman
- Ghitis
- Grosskopf/Levi
- Batta
- Birmingham
- Mesa
- Budaev
- Newman



At our February luncheon we celebrated Black History Month with soul food in Tweddle Park. Community Development Specialist Marie Talley gave a rousing speech regarding the struggles and contributions of African Americans.



RECYCLING HAS BECOME WASTE-TO-ENERGY:  
A CLEAN, GREEN & EFFICIENT WAY TO ADDRESS  
RECYCLABLE MATERIALS

The Town’s waste management initiative has moved away from conventional recycling to Waste-to-Energy (WTE) production. Residents will no longer need to sort (or even separate) recyclables from their other household garbage.

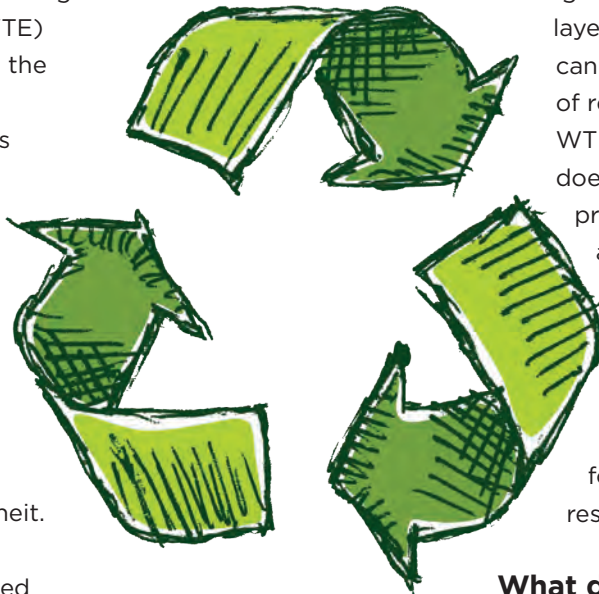
How does Waste-To-Energy work?

Garbage is collected and the trucks bring it directly to the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plants. The trucks are weighed, and the contents are tipped into a concrete storage pit. The entire process takes place indoors to control dust from entering the atmosphere, and to ensure that odors are not apparent to the surrounding community. Giant cranes move and mix the waste, and extract bulky items that are too large for the furnace. The cranes then feed the waste into the furnace, which burns at over 1800 degrees Fahrenheit. The waste moves along a conveyor system of metal grates. Gas produced from the combustion are carried up from the grates through boiler tubes to produce steam. The gas goes from the boiler to a scrubber where they are mixed with a mist of water and lime. As it cools, the gas undergoes a chemical reaction which neutralizes acids and produces particles that can be collected by a “baghouse” filtering system. Finally, the cleaned gas is vented through a stack that rises 200 feet above the ground.

The ash that is a by-product of the WTE process is trolled for metals that can be recycled. The remaining

ash is landfilled in special areas called monofills. Like other landfills, monofills have liners to prevent groundwater contamination, and the liquid captured is either used inside the WTE plant or sent for sewage treatment.

Unlike recycling techniques, WTE facilities can process all forms of plastic resins (#1 through #7) and engineered resins including multi-layer plastics. Recycling facilities can only utilize a select few types of resins (usually #1 and #2). The WTE thermal conversion technique does not depend on the material properties or manufacturing additives (fillers, multilayers, colorants, and flame retardants). Therefore, WTE facilities can dispose of those non-recycled plastics that contain insufficient properties for reprocessing to produce virgin resins.



What does it mean for you?

- You do not need to separate recyclables from other household waste.
- You may use any color bin to dispose of combined household waste and recyclables.
- Your combined household waste and recyclables will be collected on garbage days (Mondays & Thursdays).

For Information on the Waste-To-Energy process, please visit: <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/biomass/waste-to-energy.php>

Think before you dig

The Town is alarmed and saddened by a recent news story where children who were digging in the sand at a Broward County beach were tragically buried when the hole collapsed around them, resulting in the death of one of the children.

Digging holes in beaches is dangerous, and the Town strongly discourages anyone from this risky activity. Holes can result in tripping



hazards or worse. We ask that parents monitor their children whenever at the beach, to be sure they are not participating in any activities that may put themselves or others at risk.

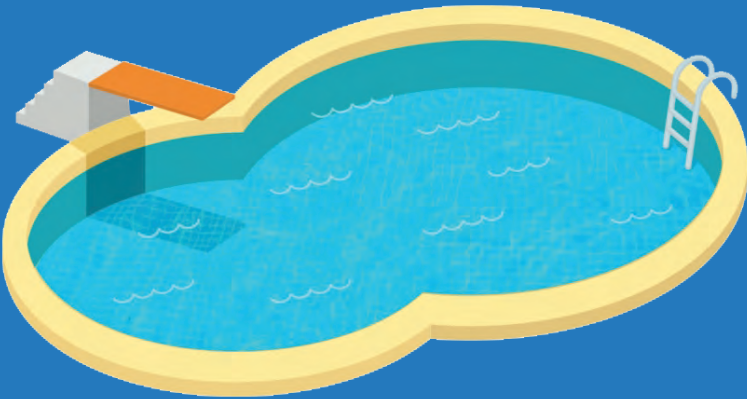
If you see anyone engaging in activities that you think may be dangerous while at the beach, please let a Beach Attendant know immediately. You may prevent a tragedy.

ENVIRONMENTAL CORNER



Did You Know...

- Lawn clippings can block drains and cause flooding to your home and neighboring properties. Be sure your landscapers remove and dispose of all landscape waste.
- Consider our waterways when using fertilizers or draining swimming pools, as runoff can cause environmental hazards.
- Public Works WILL NOT pick up used motor oil, paint, batteries, gas tanks, and other combustible or potentially hazardous material. Miami-Dade County has a facility located at 140 NW 160th Street, Miami, FL 33169 that will accept hazardous items for disposal. This center is open daily from 7AM to 5:30PM. Call (305)468-5900 for details.



For more information on how you can protect our environment, visit: [www.miamidade.gov/environment](http://www.miamidade.gov/environment).



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## SEAGRASS AWARENESS MONTH BRINGS CRITICAL FOOD SOURCE FOR MANATEES TO CENTER STAGE

March is Seagrass Awareness Month and Save the Manatee® Club is urging the public to take action to protect seagrass communities across Florida.

LONGWOOD, FL—March is Seagrass Awareness Month, and there has never been a more critical time to act to protect seagrass communities across Florida and call to action for everyone to contribute to the health of these vital ecosystems. The state's manatee population has now suffered four years of elevated mortality rates, largely due to seagrass loss. While the reduced mortality rate in 2023 may signal some progress, it still underscores the ongoing need for awareness and conservation efforts.

Recent years have seen a critical decline in seagrass, leading to devastating consequences for manatees. In 2021, a record number of manatees died, with many dying of starvation within the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). Nutrient pollution, resulting in widespread algae blooms, caused a catastrophic loss of seagrass, leaving manatees to starve. This alarming situation prompted the declaration of an Atlantic Florida Manatee Unusual Mortality Event in 2021, which is still ongoing and under close monitoring.

In 2023, there were over 550 recorded manatee deaths in Florida, on top of the record number recorded in 2021 of 1,101, followed by 800 recorded manatee deaths in 2022. While the number of manatees starving from a lack of seagrass was lower last winter, the situation remains dire because human-caused nutrient pollution remains much too high. Due to high water levels in Lake Okeechobee, we are already seeing discharges to both coasts, dangerously affecting water quality and possibly the seagrass communities.

Manatees rely on seagrass as a vital food source. There are seven species of seagrass in Florida, all of which are consumed by manatees. However, the IRL,



a critical manatee habitat, has lost over 95% of its seagrass biomass due to human-induced harmful algal blooms. On the West Coast, Tampa Bay has lost 12% of its seagrass in 2 years, with some areas at historic lows, and Sarasota Bay has lost approximately 30% of its seagrass since 2016. While habitat restoration projects are underway and there have been some signs that seagrass communities may be rebounding in some areas of the IRL, ultimate success depends upon avoiding future harmful algal blooms by continuing to

improve overall water quality.

Patrick Rose, Aquatic Biologist and Executive Director of the Save the Manatee Club, emphasized the importance of Seagrass Awareness Month, stating, "Manatees and seagrass communities have co-evolved over millions of years. Seagrass Awareness Month is an important opportunity to spotlight this critical aquatic resource. Uncontrolled development, lax regulation, and pollution from Florida's growing human population have

fueled the cycle of algae blooms that cause seagrass loss."

For its part, Save the Manatee Club has long worked with partners to rehabilitate and protect Florida's waterways. Recently, it partnered with the Center for Biological Diversity and Defenders of Wildlife to file a suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for failing to revise outdated critical habitat for Florida manatees, which has not been updated since its original

designation in 1976. As a result, it was announced in June 2022 that FWS has committed to revising critical habitat for the Florida manatee by 2024. In May 2022, the same three groups, together with Earth Justice, sued the Environmental Protection Agency for failing to protect manatees from water pollution in Florida. The case is still pending.

Members of the public are encouraged to take action to protect seagrass and manatees by:

- Taking the pledge to be Fertilizer-Free™ For Manatees, thus helping to reduce pollution from yard chemicals, which will help prevent harmful algal blooms from forming.
- Preventing damage to seagrasses by avoiding boating over seagrass beds or trimming up the boat's motor and idling to a safe depth before getting on plane.
- Reporting distressed, sick, injured, or dead manatees to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922).
- Resisting the urge to feed or give water to manatees, which is illegal and can negatively impact their natural behavior.
- Sign up for our Action Alerts and contact local, state, and federal elected officials to urge them to help manatees and restore the seagrasses throughout Florida.

Seagrass Awareness Month serves as a reminder of the urgent need to protect seagrass communities and the manatees that depend on them. By working together, we can ensure a brighter future for these iconic marine mammals and their vital habitats. Rose concluded, "Everyone must act now—from the individual members of the public to governmental and nonprofit organizations to our elected officials—to disrupt this cycle of pollution and proceed to protect and rebuild the seagrass communities that are essential to the survival of manatees and a host of other species, including fishes, dolphins, sea turtles, and birds that collectively depend on this critical aquatic resource."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2024

Tuesday, April 9

..... Building Regulatory Meeting - Civic Center - 6PM

Saturday, April 13

..... Painting Art Class - Beach Pavilion - 3PM

Tuesday, April 16

..... Town Council Meeting - Civic Center - 6PM

Tuesday, April 23

..... Bulky Waste Pickup

May 2024

Friday, May 10

..... Police Appreciation Day - Civic Center Closed

Tuesday, May 14

..... Building Regulatory Meeting - Civic Center - 6PM

Tuesday, May 21

..... Town Council Meeting & 95th Anniversary Cake Cutting - Civic Center - 6PM

Thursday, May 23

..... Town 95th Anniversary Midway & Street Fair, and Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - Civic Center - 6PM

Monday, May 27

..... Memorial Day Event - Beach Pavilion - 5PM

Monday, May 27

..... Memorial Day (Civic Center Closed, No Construction Allowed)

Tuesday, May 28

..... Bulky Waste Pickup

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April 2024

Golden Beach Magazine 17



# Spring Forth.



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**1-800-432-JOIN (5646)**  
[savethemanatee.org](http://savethemanatee.org)  
 Photo © Tracy Colson




## Over \$200 Million in property sales in *Golden Beach*

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- TOP PRODUCER
- LARGE INTERNATIONAL CLIENT BASE
- BILINGUAL - HABLO ESPAÑOL
- OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE



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[mglidden@goldenbeach.us](mailto:mglidden@goldenbeach.us)




**MARIE TALLEY**  
 305.932.0744 x221  
[mtalley@goldenbeach.us](mailto:mtalley@goldenbeach.us)



# Golden BEACH IMPORTANT NUMBERS

POLICE-FIRE-EMERGENCY: 911

REPORT CRIME – SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY: 305.935.0940

FIRE (NON-EMERGENCY): 786.331.5000

TOWN HALL: 305.932.0744

MAYOR GLENN SINGER: 305.932.0744 GSINGER@GOLDENBEACH.US

TOWN MANAGER ALEXANDER DIAZ: 305.932.0744 ext. 224 ALEXDIAZ@GOLDENBEACH.US

ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER and BUILDING & ZONING DIRECTOR LINDA EPPERSON 305.932.0744 ext. 222 LEPPERSON@GOLDENBEACH.US

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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT DIRECTOR LISSETT ROVIRA 305.932.0744 ext. 242 LROVIRA@GOLDENBEACH.US

HOME CHEMICAL COLLECTION CENTER: WEST MIAMI-DADE LOCATION: 305.468.5900

POLICE ADMINISTRATION: 305.936.2444

NORTH MIAMI BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT  
(WATER SERVICES PROVIDER FOR GOLDEN BEACH): 305.948.2960

NORTH MIAMI BEACH AFTER HOURS/  
EMERGENCY WATER SERVICE: 305.652.6460

MIAMI-DADE WATER & SEWER (EMERGENCY): 305.274.9272

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT (FPL): 305.442.8770

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SERVICES (INCLUDING MOSQUITOS, ANIMAL SERVICES): 311

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG: 811

GATE HOUSE: 305.935.0940 TECO GAS: 305.940.0139

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): 1-800-662-HELP (4357) | [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) | [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

Still have a landline? Investigate a Landline Outage: <https://www.att.com/outages/>



HOTWIRE Launch Team (Direct Line): 954.302.8539

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (LIFELINE): 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Crisis Text Line: (text HELLO to 741741)



ONE GOLDEN BEACH DRIVE | GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA 33161