

LIVE, WORK, LEARN AND PLAY

DORAL

LIFE



CITY OF DORAL OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

April 2024 - June 2024
www.cityofdoral.com



**The City wants to do
Business with you!**

Learn how
[CLICK FOR VENDOR PROCESS](#)

**Learn important
Cyber Security Tips!**

Tips to keep you safe
[CLICK FOR TIPS](#)



FROM THE DESK OF

The Mayor

As the vibrant colors of spring begin to bloom, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to each of you in our beloved City. With a new season comes renewal, growth, and an opportunity to reflect on the remarkable progress we've made together and the exciting developments on the horizon.

Over the past few months, Doral has continued to thrive as a beacon of diversity, innovation, and community spirit. Our commitment to excellence in education, business, and recreation remains steadfast, thanks to the dedication of our residents and the unwavering support of our local businesses and organizations.

As we embrace the spirit of spring, I encourage you all to enjoy the many opportunities to engage with your community and loved ones. This season we celebrate Arbor Day, an annual commemoration that serves to educate us on the importance of trees and the positive impacts that result from our collaborative actions to safeguard the health of our climate, and the biodiversity of the planet. We will also celebrate Mother's Day, honoring the roles of mothers and maternal bonds that make our homes and society a better place.

Lastly, don't forget that the City of Doral is always open to your concerns, suggestions, and feedback. We are here to serve you and ensure that Doral continues to be a wonderful place to live, work, learn, and play. Wishing you all a joyful and rejuvenating spring season on behalf of you Doral family!

Sincerely,

Mayor Christi Fraga

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL



COUNCILWOMAN

MAUREEN PORRAS



VICE MAYOR

OSCAR PUIG-CORVE



MAYOR

CHRISTI FRAGA



COUNCILMAN

RAFAEL PINEYRO



COUNCILWOMAN

DIGNA CABRAL

PARKS FACILITIES

The Parks and Recreation Department operates and maintains eleven (11) parks with an abundance of amenities for every age and lifestyle including: community centers, lighted artificial sports fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball courts, bike-ways, jogging trails, exercise stations, batting cages, shaded playgrounds, dog-friendly off-leash areas (Trails and Tails & White Course) and covered pavilions/picnic tables available for party rentals. The City offers clean, safe and secure facilities for adults and children to play and natural areas for everyone to enjoy.



Party Rentals

Thinking of planning a party or family gathering? Host your next special event at our community centers or at one of our beautiful parks. Permits are required for the use of pavilions and fields. Please visit our website at www.cityofdoral.com under the Parks and Recreation Department Park/ Park Rental link for reservation and fee information. Please contact Morgan Levy Park Community Center at (305) 482-9590, the Doral Legacy Park Community Center at (305) 341-3601 or the Doral Glades Park Community Center at (305) 593-6638 to book your appointment for a party rental permit. Fee schedule and permit information available on our website:

www.cityofdoral.com/parks

PARKS PROGRAMS

SPRING SESSION DATES: APRIL 1, 2024 – MAY 25, 2024

SPRING REGISTRATION BEGINS: MARCH 18, 2024

YOUTH PROGRAMS



1. Simanof Orchestra
2. Nature Crafts
3. Jr. Jazzercise
4. Just You & Me
5. Genius Science Labs

6. Crafty Art
7. Cristi's Dance Studio
8. Chess for Kids
9. EcoAdventures: Kayaking, Fishing and Archery

10. Start Smart
11. Archery
12. United Martial Arts
13. Doral Fencing Club
14. Florida Karate Clubs



ADULT PROGRAMS



1. Yoga on the Lawn
2. Jazzercise
3. Full Moon Yoga
4. Archery
5. Sound Bath & Meditation Yoga



For more information on youth and adult programs, contact Christopher.Hovde@cityofdoral.com

PARKS PROGRAMS

YOUTH SPORTS



1. **Broncos Football/Cheer**
2. **Little League Baseball**
3. **Soccer**
4. **Field Hockey**
5. **Basketball**
6. **Doral Table Tennis**
7. **Doral Beach Tennis Club**



ADULT SPORTS



1. **Adult Soccer League**



2. **Adult Basketball League**

For more information on Youth and Adult Sports, contact Kenneth.Harris@cityofdoral.com.

VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

The City of Doral Students in Action Volunteer Program is designed for high school students to assist the City of Doral Parks and Recreation Department in providing quality community events, programs and activities for visitors and residents of Doral. If you are a student interested in becoming a Parks and Recreation volunteer for community events, programs and/or activities throughout the year, please follow the link below to download the application and visit Morgan Levy Park or Doral Legacy Park to submit it.

You can also submit your application and copy of photo ID directly to

Christopher.Hovde@cityofdoral.com.

PARKS PROGRAMS

SILVER CLUB



Tai-Chi



Bingo Night



Jazzercise Lite



Art Class



Socials & Social Hours



Chair Yoga



Seminar & Luncheons



Walk with Ease Program



Trips & Tours

For more information on joining Silver Club, email Gabriela.Murcia@cityofdoral.com.

SPECIAL NEEDS



Mind & Melody Music Program

**Special Olympics
Wellness &
Martial Arts Program
Tai Chi for Health**



Feel the Beat! Dance Program

*For more information on Special Needs, contact
Anna-Marie.Humphrey@cityofdoral.com or call (305) 593-6600.*

Spring Break Camps

PARKS & RECREATION

YMCA Outdoor Adventure

March 25-29

Doral Glades Park
7600 NW 98th Place



The YMCA of South Florida's Outdoor Education camp allows kids to explore their love of nature and the outdoors. It also teaches self-reliance and builds character and leadership amidst fun activities that include fishing, archery, kayaking, and more! To register call (305) 357-4000, visit Ymcasouthflorida.org or email MMartinez@YMCASouthFlorida.org.

Juventus Doral

March 25-29

Doral Meadow Park
11555 NW 58th Street



Juventus Academy Doral embraces a philosophy and a style based on the monitoring of the child's progress from a technical and behavioral standpoint, and on putting them in the care of competent instructors in possession of up-to-date techniques and developmental skills. Come join the Juventus Doral Soccer Spring Camp! To register call (786) 459-3464 or visit Jacademymiami.com.

Doral Soccer Club

March 25-29

Morgan Levy Park
5300 NW 102nd Avenue



Doral Soccer Club has always been committed to preparing players in reaching their maximum potential by providing a state of the art training facility at Morgan Levy Park with comprehensive and complex drills provided by Licensed coaches to ensure players needs are met with a fun experience and healthy learning environment. Come join the Doral Soccer Club Spring Camp! To register email info@doralsoccerclub.com, visit Doralsoccerclub.com or call (786) 319-1418.

Camp Unbeatables

March 25-29

Doral Legacy Park
11400 NW 82nd Street



Camp Unbeatables is a multi-sports and multi-function camp program where children not only are able to learn and practice many sports, indoor and outdoor recreational activities but receive a unique Life Skills Training Program created by Life Coaches, Family Therapists, and certified teachers. To register call (305) 690-7491, email info@campunbeatables.com, or visit Campunbeatables.com.

Teacher Planning Day Camp



(Ages 5-13)

Morgan Levy Park, Doral Legacy Park, & Doral Glades Park

March 22, 2024

April 10, 2024

Residents: \$22 Non-Residents: \$27

One time t-shirt fee: \$5

Teacher Planning Day is a one-day camp that offers exciting and eventful indoor/outdoor activities, games, movies, and more. This is a unique program that integrates educational and fun components. The price includes lunch and snack. **To register, visit the park your child will be attending.**

www.cityofdoral.com/parks



PARKS & RECREATION ONLINE REGISTRATION

5 Easy Steps

Register for Park programs in **five easy steps**! Create your WebTrac account before registration begins! *Every customer wishing to use our online feature will need to create a log-in account.

- 1 Go to www.cityofdoral.com/parks
- 2 Click on the “Register Online” tab
- 3 Click on “Launch Online Registration”
- 4 Create an account or log-in to account
- 5 Register for your favorite programs!

APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Consular Reception and Sister Cities Art Showcase

April 4th
6:00 PM
Doral Cultural Arts Center

Interactive Art Class

April 5th
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Doral Cultural Arts Center

Movies at the Park

April 5th
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Downtown Doral Park

Women of Focus Event

April 6th
2:00 PM
Doral Cultural Arts Center

Council Meeting

April 10th
10:00 AM and 6:00 PM
Doral Government Center - Council Chambers

Celebrate Earth Day in Doral

April 19th
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Doral Glades Park

Local Planning Agency Meeting

April 24th
5:30 PM
Doral Government Center

Council Zoning Meeting

April 24st
6:00 PM
Doral Government Center



MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

National Day of Prayer

May 2nd
12:00 PM
Doral Government Center

Mother's Day Artisan Market

May 4th
4:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Downtown Doral Park & Cultural Arts Center

Council Meeting

May 8th
10:00 AM and 6:00 PM
Doral Government Center - Council Chambers

Play Day

May 18th
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Doral Meadow Park

In Observance of Memorial Day

May 27th
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM CLOSED ALL DAY
Doral Government Center

FOR ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS VISIT:
www.cityofdoral.com/calendar

JUNE 2024

Hurricane Safety Fair

June 1st
10:30 AM
Police Training & Community Center

Council Meeting

June 12th
10:00 AM and 6:00 PM
Doral Government Center - Council Chambers

Art After Dark

June 13th
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Doral Cultural Arts Center

In Observance of Juneteenth

June 19th
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM CLOSED ALL DAY
Doral Government Center

Council Zoning Meeting

June 26th
6:00 PM
Doral Government Center

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

THE MONTH OF MAY IS



Did you know that May is designated as Building Safety Month by the International Code Council www.iccsafe.org and this year's theme is Mission Possible. Weekly themes are outlined below and stay tuned to the city's social media channels and #BuildingSafetyMonth2024 for this year's information campaign.

WEEK 1 UNDERSTANDING THE MISSION

Includes an introduction of building safety, what Building Safety Month is, and how building safety affects us all.

WEEK 2 PREPARING A BUILDING SAFETY PLAN

Highlights available educational resources (water/fire, sustainability & resiliency/disaster preparedness), including downloadable brochures, for building safety tips and best practices at home and in your community.

WEEK 3 LEARNING FROM THE PROS

Shines a spotlight on building safety professionals, including what they do, how to work with them and how to become one yourself.

WEEK 4 ENGAGING YOUR COMMUNITY

Includes information on how to advocate for building safety in your community, including actionable tips on how to be a proponent of building safety and ways to get kids involved.

WEEK 5 CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN BUILDING SAFETY

Highlighting individuals and communities who are making a difference in building safety (editorial spotlights), including sharing the current year's Building Safety Month celebrations and events.



YOUR TOP 5 BUILDING DEPARTMENT QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Did you know that we have a ChatBot that will try to answer your questions, quickly and efficiently, at any hour? That's right. Up late and thinking about that renovation project you want to tackle, head over to www.cityofdoral.com/building and we'll be there to help. Even at midnight.

Recently, we used some techy tools to help us figure out what was really pressing and with a little finesse and the trusty help of our webmaster, we have made sure that your questions are answered and in an easy-to-find place on our website. We hope you have a chance to check out our pages and learn more about what we do and why we do it.

1. HOW DO I APPLY FOR A PERMIT?



That's a great question. In 2021, the permitting process was moved entirely online due in part to Florida Statute that requires a municipality to be able to accept a permit application electronically. Over the last three years, we have continued to refine the electronic permitting process always to make it easier for you. After all, you're our customer!

Click on our Homeowner Package page to see if the work you are considering needs a permit. (Or, if you are commercial business click [here](#).) If you are still not sure, feel free to stop by our Solution Center (Hours of Operation) to meet with one of our team members to discuss the project. Our meetings are always free and can be scheduled virtually or in-person at a time convenient for you.

When ready to apply for a permit, you will need to create a unique login with the permitting system. This login is separate from any other city-related logins. Click on www.cityofdoral.com/permitting to take you directly to our Citizen Self-Service (CSS) portal. We offer several videos and tutorials here that can walk you through the steps and our Forms Library can be found [here](#).

Be courageous and curious and look around the website and read up on the process and you will have your permit in no time.

2. OKAY, I APPLIED. NOW WHAT? WHAT'S THE STATUS OF MY PERMIT?

You will be assigned a permit application process number and your submittal will appear in your online CSS Dashboard. The Building Department, which includes the Building, Accessibility, Electrical, Mechanical, Plumbing, Roofing, Structural and Floodplain disciplines will endeavor to review your plans in a timely manner. We ask for about 10 business days. Sometimes other departments (e.g. Planning, Zoning, Public Works, Traffic) are also required to review your plans. This happens concurrently with the Building Department thanks to an electronic permitting process. For new residential construction and all commercial projects, outside agency reviews are also required. This may include County agencies like Miami-Dade Fire, Water, Sewer, Department of Health, etc. These reviews can also happen concurrently once the plans are submitted to Doral.

3. SUPER. I GOT MY PERMIT. HOW DO I SCHEDULE INSPECTIONS?

Required inspections will appear in your CSS Dashboard. Your qualifier (a licensed building contractor) is responsible for completing the work and scheduling the inspections. Inspection requests are typically completed 99% of the time by the next business day. We also offer after hours inspections for a small fee for inspection requests outside of normal business hours (Mon-Fri, 7am-4pm).

Some important tips: Most work over \$2500 requires the qualifier to file a Notice of Commencement. This initiates the start of the project and protects their lien rights. A copy of the filed notice is required prior to first inspection. For new construction and additions, a Flood Elevation Certificate – Building Under Construction (FEC-BUC) is required prior to the contractor completing the first tie-beam. This document is usually completed by an architect, engineer or surveyor. Some projects may require sub permits. Subs are work that falls under the general permit but is completed by a trade (e.g. plumbing or electrical.) See Step #10 in the tutorials for more information on sub permits.

4. I JUST BOUGHT A HOUSE AND I WANT TO DO WORK AND MY ARCHITECT IS ASKING ME FOR THE RECORD SET OF PLANS. WHERE DO I FIND THOSE?



Requests for plans can be made online through the online permitting system. From the Apply Menu in CSS, type or search for BD Records Requests and let our team know what you're looking for. Completed permits and projects from 2004 until present are available for a fee. If your house or business was constructed prior to 2004 (when the City of Doral Building Department was born), you will need to reach out to Miami Dade County Microfilm. Appointment and fee are required.

5. MY NEIGHBORS ARE DOING WORK ON THEIR HOUSE, AND THEY TOLD ME THEY DIDN'T PULL A PERMIT. I KNOW THAT CAN BE DANGEROUS. HOW DO I REPORT THAT?

Good looking out for your family and your biggest investment, your property! Illegal construction is dangerous and unfortunately, we see it too often. If you think there is illegal work going on, you can submit a complaint through the online Doral311 system. In partnership with the Code Compliance department, an officer will determine if work is being done without a permit and then cite the owner. The city endeavors to educate and inform whenever possible to avoid illegal and non-conforming construction work.

We're here to help! So, the best thing is to tell your neighbors, before they begin work to come talk to the Building Department in the Solution Center, or schedule a free project meeting, to find the right solution for their project. We look forward to working with you on that addition, new pool or maybe, outdoor terrace you've always wanted!



CITY OF DORAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

The City of Doral understands the crucial role that public safety plays in maintaining the City's quality of life as the premier place to live, work, learn, and play. The City's commitment is evident through the Mayor and Council's steadfast support of the Doral Police Department (DPD). Their collaborative vision, in conjunction with the tireless efforts of the Department, has helped pave the way for transformative achievements, fostering a safer City for all.



On January 17, 2023, Doral Police Chief Edwin Lopez assumed command of the Doral Police Department and met with DPD Command Staff and created a comprehensive plan to lower crime and keep Doral stakeholders safe. The main message of this new plan was to establish a zero-tolerance culture within the police Department pertaining to crime and other quality of life issues. After a thorough assessment of the police department, it was determined that the agency needed to be re-structured to better address the rising challenges of our City. The first priority was to increase the staffing patrol services to improve police response and increase visibility within our community. The Department was re-structured, and patrol staffing was increased by 40%, leading to an immediate reduction in crime and response time for emergency calls for service.

An additional safety layer that was created involved the creation of new investigative units. V.I.C.E., which stands for Vehicle Involved Crime Enforcement, was established to combat Vehicle Burglaries, Auto Thefts, Hit and Runs, and any other vehicle-related crimes. The creation of this targeted enforcement team has led to a 10% reduction in auto thefts, 25% reduction in vandalism, and 27% reduction in burglaries overall in 2023.

The Crime Suppression Unit, also known as CSU, was also created to focus on targeted crime trends throughout the City of Doral. CSU focuses on offenses and violations that reduce the "quality of life" for a neighborhood such as narcotics and weapons violations. Although the City of Doral is an extremely safe city, it is critical to be proactive in our safety initiatives. DPD experienced a 3% reduction in narcotics violations and 26% reduction in weapons violations in 2023. In addition, the implementation of rotating Doral Traffic Units to assist the School Resource Officers (SRO) Unit with traffic hazards at schools during ingress and egress was also instrumental in providing a safe learning environment for students and staff. This traffic initiative assisted in the reduction of traffic crashes and traffic complainants surrounding Doral schools.



As a result of the safety initiatives conducted in 2023, an overall reduction in crime of 12% was attained, earmarking a historic year of crime reduction for our city. An increase of social media informational segments also allowed for multiple educational campaigns. Other areas within the Department that improved the operational efficiency with our community was the newly revamped Neighborhood Resource Unit (NRU) by merging it with our Recruitment & Selection team. With both units combined, a new focus was established by engaging with our community while recruiting community members to be part of our police team. In 2023, DPD added over 20 new sworn officers and the additional manpower played a pivotal role in the agency's success.

Community engagement has risen exponentially over the last year. Furthermore, the Department has anchored its mission on 21st Century Policing models, which has made Doral one of the safest large cities in Miami-Dade County.

As DPD and City leadership proudly recount a year of many accomplishments and increase public safety, the dedication to the well-being of our residents and businesses remains unwavering for a safer, stronger, and more prosperous future for all.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS



The City of Doral wants to work with local businesses!

On February 8th, key City departments came together at the Doral Cultural Arts Center to welcome local Doral business and vendors to an informational and networking fair.

This is the first time the City holds a Doral Vendor and Business Fair with the aim of supporting and prioritizing the growth of the businesses that call Doral home. Participants enjoyed educational presentations from City staff highlighting grants, sponsorships, vendor registration process, and other tools available to help ensure their success. City staff and local businesses were also able meet face-to-face to explore potential collaborations, strengthen partnerships, and identify new resources for a stronger and more interconnected community.

A special thank you to our proud sponsor, Panna New Latino Food, for their support of this important event!



CODE COMPLIANCE

Is there something in your community that you would like to report to the City? Potholes? Construction work taking place without a permit? Neighbor's grass too high? You can do your part in keeping Doral safe and beautiful by contacting the Code Compliance Department and informing them of your concern. This team of dedicated professionals will investigate and determine if there is a violation of a State, County, or City code. Please keep in mind that anonymous complaints are not allowed by State Law since 2021. So in order to proceed with a formal complaint, you will need to provide your full name and address as part of the record.

Did you know? 🤔

The Code Compliance Department has officers patrolling the City 7 days a week, including holidays, and will respond to any concern within 24 hours. Contact us via telephone at 305-593-6680 or by email at codecompliance@cityofdoral.com.



DORAL DOING BUSINESS

WITH THE CITY OF DORAL

Is your firm interested in doing business with the City of Doral? Join us in fostering local growth and development by becoming a vendor for our City. Discover opportunities to collaborate and contribute to the City's progress. Register as a vendor today and be part of the network of businesses that provide goods and services to our City government.

1. Register as an interested vendor to receive bid notifications.



vendor registry.

vendorregistry.com/vendor

DEMANDSTAR

www.demandstar.com/app/registration

2. Purchasing Thresholds

- **Purchases less than \$10,000** - May be made without competitive bidding and without submittal to City Council.
- **Purchases between \$10,000 and \$30,000** - May be made without competitive bidding and without submittal to City Council but requires that the City obtain quotes from at least three different vendors.
- **Purchases greater than \$30,000** - Shall be in compliance with the competitive bidding requirements and requires City Council's approval.

3. I've Registered Online, Now What?

If the City is contracting with your business, you will need to provide the City with the following:

- Completed Vendor Registration Forms
- Signed and Notarized Affidavits
- Current W-9
- Local Business Tax Receipt / Occupational License
- Tax Exemption Certificate, if applicable
- Certificates of Insurance, if applicable
- Other documents the City may require

Questions? Contact Us at:

Procurement@cityofdoral.com

(305) 593-6725 Ext. 4010

www.cityofdoral.com/all-departments/procurement-division/

Understanding Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizers

During this spring remember to utilize pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers properly. A pesticide is a substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, controlling, repelling or destroying pests such as weeds or insects. Herbicides are a subset of pesticides, used to control growth of unwanted plants such as weeds. A fertilizer is a substance that contains essential plant nutrients such as nitrates and phosphates used to promote healthy plant growth.

Pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers can be of great benefit when used correctly. Pesticides and herbicides are designed to protect plants from insects or weeds, while fertilizers allow plants to grow healthier and more rapidly than under normal circumstances. While these products can be beneficial, their excessive and incorrect use can adversely affect the environment, flora and fauna and ultimately human health.



Stormwater runoff containing these chemicals can enter into water bodies killing or damaging a variety of organisms. The nitrogen from fertilizers that are washed into water bodies by stormwater runoff depletes the oxygen in the water creating “dead zones”. Fertilizers can disrupt natural biological communities by increasing plant and microbial growth and changing the natural water ecosystem subsequently disrupting the food chain. When these chemicals dissolve in storm water they can migrate into our drinking water supplies or end up in surface waters.

Proper use of Pesticides and Fertilizers

South Florida soils allow nutrients to drain away from plants roots system quickly, so fertilize responsibly. Always know when, how often, and what type of fertilizer to use. Lawn fertilization programs should begin in early October, not early May. Do not fertilize healthy trees and shrubs; they should only be fertilized if they are growing poorly. If trees or shrubs need to be fertilized, fertilize when plants are dormant in late fall or early spring. Over fertilization will produce unnecessary growth requiring more pruning. Whenever possible, organic pesticides should be used. If a pesticide is necessary, it is important to determine the exact type of pest.

Avoid polluting by doing the following:

- Carefully read the manufacturer’s directions.
- Always follow the pesticide, herbicide or fertilizer guidelines exactly.
- Buy and apply only the recommended amount of the product.
- Apply chemical to grass or landscape area avoiding driveways, sidewalks and impervious surfaces.
- Do not apply chemicals near water systems such as wells, streams, canals, or lakes.
- Clean up excess always avoiding getting them into the storm drains.
- Chemical leftovers should always be properly stored.
- Take precautions to prevent spills and know what to do if a spill occurs.





SPRING FLOOD TIPS

Flooding is a serious risk for many homeowners, with over one-third of Americans living in flood-prone areas. As climate change leads to more extreme weather events, flooding events are only expected to increase in frequency and severity. Implementing flood protection measures is key to reducing flood damage and financial loss. This article provides 5 quick tips that homeowners can use to better protect their property from spring flooding events. We cover checking your flood risk, trees that help with flooding, basement protection, maintaining drainage systems, and having an emergency flood plan in place. Data on annual flood costs and common flood insurance myths are also provided to underscore the importance of flood preparedness. Equipped with these simple suggestions, homeowners can greatly improve their resilience this spring.

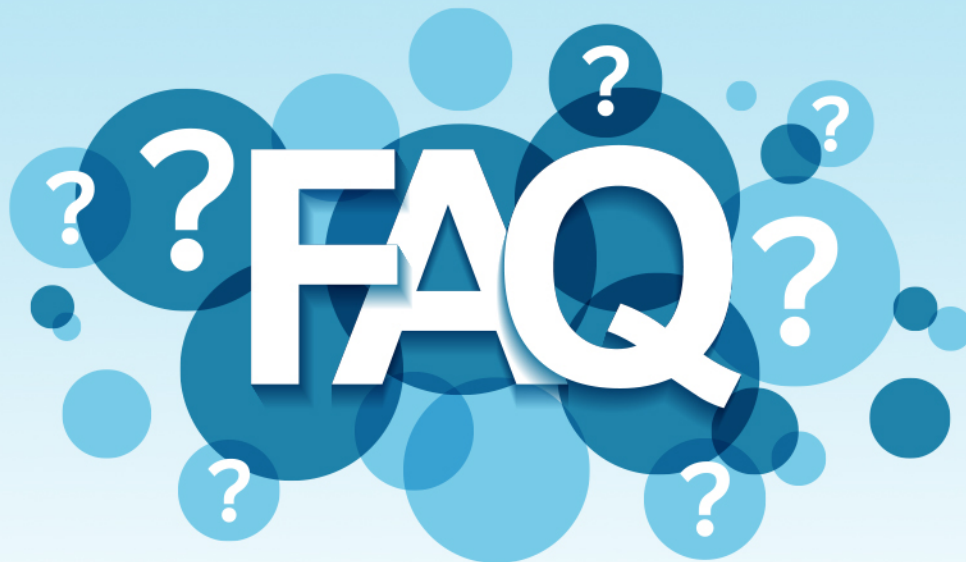
5 QUICK TIPS

Spring Floodplain Management Tips

- 1. Check your flood risk.** The first step to protecting your property from flooding is to know your flood risk. You can use FEMA's Flood Map Service Center to check your flood risk and learn more about flood insurance.
- 2. Plant trees that help collect water.** Species like cypress, red maple and pond apple can survive a wide range of water conditions. Trees native to Florida can withstand temporary flooding.
- 3. Protect your basement.** If you have a basement, take steps to protect it from flooding. This includes installing a backflow valve, a sump pump, and elevating your appliances and valuables.
- 4. Clear your gutters and downspouts.** Clogged gutters and downspouts can direct water towards your foundation and increase your risk of flooding. Be sure to clean your gutters and downspouts regularly, especially before and after heavy rains.
- 5. Have a flood plan.** In the event of a flood, it is important to have a plan in place. This includes knowing where to go, what to take with you, and who to contact.

DATA

According to FEMA, over one-third of all Americans live in flood-prone areas. Flooding is the most common natural disaster in the United States, and it can cause billions of dollars in damage each year.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why does flood insurance take 30 days to activate?

A: Both private and federal government carriers often require waiting periods to stop people from only buying insurance coverage just before or after a disaster strikes.

Q: Can I shop around for flood insurance?

A: There's no need to shop around for policies backed by the National Flood Insurance Program. All FEMA- approved providers use the same rating factors to calculate their premiums, so you won't find a better deal from one carrier over another.

Q: What is proof of "loss"?

A: Proof of loss-the policyholder's valuation of claimed damages – is a sworn statement made by the policyholder that substantiates the insurance claim and is required to be submitted to the NFIP or WYO company within 60 days of the loss.

Common Myths

Myth: If I don't live near a river, stream, or ocean I'm not at risk of flooding.

Fact: Flooding can occur anywhere, even in areas that are not near a body of water. Floodwaters can travel long distances and can quickly inundate areas that are not typically thought of as flood prone.

Myth: I have homeowners' insurance, why would I need flood insurance.

Fact: Homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage. Flood insurance is a separate type of insurance that is necessary to protect your property and contents from flooding.

Questions and comments can be forwarded to Floodplain Manager, Ingrys Farias, ingrys.farias@cityofdoral.com or 305-593-6700 ext 3108.



Cyber Security Awareness: Email Security

In light of the recent phishing attempts impersonating City of Doral communications, we want to empower you with the knowledge to protect yourself and your business. Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility, and being informed is your first defense. Here are some crucial best practices to help you identify and avoid phishing scams:

- **Verify the Email Sender:** Always check the sender's email address carefully. Scammers often use addresses that look similar to legitimate ones, with slight differences.
- **Look for Urgent or Threatening Language:** Phishing attempts often create a sense of urgency or fear. Be wary of emails pressuring you to act quickly or threatening consequences.
- **Inspect Links Before Clicking:** Hover over any links in the email (without clicking) to see the URL. If it doesn't match the legitimate website's URL or looks suspicious, do not click.
- **Be Skeptical of Unsolicited Attachments:** Avoid opening email attachments from unknown senders. They could contain malware or viruses.
- **Seek Out Official Channels:** If an email asks for sensitive information, verify its legitimacy by contacting the organization through official channels, not by replying to the email.
- **The City of Doral Will Never Ask for Sensitive Information via Email:** We will never request your password, social security number, or other sensitive personal information through unsolicited emails.
- **Educate Your Team:** Share this information with your colleagues, friends, and family. Awareness is a powerful tool against cyber threats.

Remember, when in doubt, it's safer to err on the side of caution and verify the authenticity of the communication through known, official contact methods. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at infodoral@cityofdoral.com.

We are proud to bring you the Doral Life Spring Issue. This official City publication will reach all Doral homes to communicate exciting news, events and initiatives of interest to our residents. It can also be viewed online at www.cityofdoral.com. Email us at publicaffairs@cityofdoral.com with ideas on what else you may want to see published in this magazine. Your feedback is very valuable to us!

The Doral Life magazine can also be enjoyed in Spanish.

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La revista "Doral Life" también se puede disfrutar en español.

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