

SUNRISE HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

The City of Sunrise - in partnership with the North Pole - has a variety of exciting events and programs planned for the month of December. Celebrate the holidays with:

Breakfast with Santa. Join Santa and Mrs. Claus for a morning of family fun! Start the day with breakfast and get your picture taken with Santa and friends and participate in fun activities. Each person who wishes to have breakfast must pre-register for the event. An adult must accompany children. Preregistration by December 20 is required.

Letters to Santa. Children 10 and under are invited to drop a letter in one of Santa's special mailboxes between November 23 and December 14. Santa will reply to all letters that are legible, include a return address and are mailed by December 14. Santa's mailboxes are located at City Hall (10770 W. Oakland Park Blvd.), the Leisure Services Department (second floor of the Sunrise Civic Center, 10610 W. Oakland Park Blvd.) and the City's U.S. Post Office (at 3225 Hiatus Rd.).

Ho! Ho! Hotline. If your child is a Sunrise resident age 10 or younger, he or she can receive a call from Santa. He will be making all of his calls from the North Pole on December 11 to December 13 and December 18 to December 20 between 5:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Ho! Ho! Hotline registration forms are available in the current issue of Horizons, on the City's Web site (www.sunrisefl.gov), and through the Leisure Services Department. No long distance telephone calls, please. For more information, please call (954) 747-4600.

Steven B. Feren, Mayor; Roger B. Wishner, Deputy Mayor;
Commissioners Sheila D. Alu, Donald K. Rosen and Joseph A. Scuotto



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WHAT'S NEW
CITY REDUCES THE
PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR
13TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

PLUS
HOLIDAY EVENTS

November 2007

What's New

SUNRISE REDUCES TAX RATE FOR 13TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

New rate marks a 16.15 percent decrease from FY 2006/2007

The Sunrise City Commission unanimously approved a budget for fiscal year 2007/2008 that reduces the property tax millage rate for the 13th consecutive year -while maintaining the City's commitment to providing the highest level of services.

Although property tax legislation approved by the Florida Legislature in 2007 required local governments to roll back property tax rates, **the City Commission lowered property taxes by approximately \$800,000 more than the amount required by the legislation.**

Sunrise's efforts to lower the taxes by more than the required amount makes it the only city in South Florida to cut taxes this significantly beyond the state-ordered rollback.

In fact, the new millage rate of 5.12 marks a 16.15 percent decrease from the 2006/2007 rate of 6.11. The City's dedication to lowering the millage rate will result in a tax savings of \$6.3 million for Sunrise property owners next year.

The City's new budget year began on October 1, 2007, and ends on September 30, 2008. The budget was developed through a complex process involving detailed requests from City departments, input from the City Commission and opinions

from residents. Throughout the budget preparation process, City staff sought to identify which services and programs should be undertaken with the resources available. The resulting budget totals just over \$380 million for all funds with approximately 1,300 positions.

The City's operating budget comes from a variety of sources. In addition to property taxes, revenues are generated through service/program user fees, sales tax, state and federal grants, intergovernmental funds and other sources.

The City of Sunrise is proud to continue to reduce the property tax rate without negatively impacting programs and services, particularly in an era when so many local cities are struggling financially. Sunrise has successfully demonstrated it is responsible with its resources. Considerable restraint had to be exercised in order to achieve a budget that was funded within the available revenue.

The approved budget outlines the day-to-day operating costs of running the City of Sunrise and allows the City to continue to offer superior recreational amenities and Police and Fire Rescue operations, among other services – all while lowering the property tax rate.

RESIDENTS GET A "SUITE DEAL"

In 1998, the City Commission adopted a one-of-a-kind program that offers residents two tickets in a suite at the BankAtlantic Center through random drawings, named the "Suite Deal" program.

Over the last nine years, residents have been able to rock and roll at concerts featuring legends Billy Joel, Bruce Springsteen, Tina Turner, Bob Dylan, Rod Stewart, Cher and U2. They've also enjoyed special presentations such as a concert by Andrea Bocelli, Disney on Ice, and Cirque du Soleil's Delirium, as well as numerous National Hockey League games.

Most of the approximately 7,500 residents have attended events in the Suite as part of the City's Suite Deal program, which allows residents to submit an entry form to win two tickets to enjoy events as a guest of the City. Residents can enter the drawing by filling out and mailing a coupon that appears annually in the City's Horizons recreation publication. There is still time for residents to enter for this year's Suite Deal program.

The entry form can be found in the November/December/ January edition of Horizons - available on line and at City facilities - as well as on the City's web site at www.sunrisefl.gov/suitedeal.pdf. Entries must be received by January 31, 2008.