

# Our Margate

THE OFFICIAL CITY OF MARGATE MAGAZINE

JULY  
AUGUST  
SEPTEMBER  
2024





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## YOUR MARGATE GOVERNMENT

### CITY COMMISSION

**Tommy Ruzzano** | Mayor  
**Arlene R. Schwartz** | Vice Mayor  
**Antonio V. Arserio, FRA-RP** | Commissioner  
**Anthony N. Caggiano** | Commissioner  
**Joanne Simone** | Commissioner

**Cale Curtis** | City Manager  
**Jennifer Johnson** | City Clerk  
**Weiss Serota Heffman Cole & Bierman**  
| City Attorney



ON THE COVER: PARKS & RECREATION EMPLOYEES IN UNDER THE SEA FLOAT GREETING RESIDENTS AT OUR FOURTH OF JULY PARADE.

### Publication Team

Maria Rosa Higgins Fallon  
Yarelis Fuentes

Let us know how we're doing! Please send us your feedback about this magazine at [PIO@margatefl.com](mailto:PIO@margatefl.com).

To read this magazine en español, visit [www.margatefl.com/ourmargate](http://www.margatefl.com/ourmargate)



# FROM THE MAYOR

Once again, the City of Margate is gearing up for a spectacular 4th of July celebration, filled with activities for the entire community to enjoy. Starting at 9 a.m., a traditional Parade will march through Margate Boulevard. If you want to be part of the parade, please register at [www.margatefl.com/registration](http://www.margatefl.com/registration) and join us as we salute our Independence Day with decorated floats and vehicles. Remember, there is no cost to participate in the parade. At the conclusion of the parade, come enjoy free hotdogs, chips, and cool refreshments.

As evening approaches, the excitement continues at the NW corner of Margate Blvd. and State Road 7 for a Fourth of July Extravaganza from 5 to 9 p.m. Attendees can enjoy live music and

plenty of food trucks offering a variety of menu selections for purchase.

The day's festivities culminate with a spectacular fireworks display at 9 p.m. The long-standing Margate tradition fireworks show lights up the night sky with dazzling colors, providing a fitting finale for the day's celebrations.

On Independence Day, we are all reminded of the enduring quest for liberty and justice. On this special day, Our Margate brings together residents from diverse backgrounds to celebrate our shared heritage and the values that bind us as a nation.

I hope you will join me for this occasion and all other events that the City of Margate organizes for your enjoyment. Have a great summer.

God Bless.



**Mayor Tommy Ruzzano**  
[truzzano@margatefl.com](mailto:truzzano@margatefl.com)

# FROM THE VICE MAYOR



The City of Margate is embarking upon updating our Strategic Plan, the document that defines and influences fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization is, who it serves, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future. This Strategic Plan involves the input of residents, businesses, and community stakeholders and follows a disciplined approach to information gathering by encouraging everyone in our community to provide his or her feedback in several different ways.

Please be on the lookout for a survey and an online portal where you can submit your thoughts for the future vision of Margate, including an Interactive Map where you can pinpoint neighborhood issues you care about. All of this information will be accessible through the City's website at [www.margatefl.com](http://www.margatefl.com).

Once the Strategic Plan is complete, it will serve as the guiding "north star," providing us clear direction, strategies and action steps necessary to make progress on the most critical issues for the residents and businesses in our community.

**Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz**  
[aschwartz@margatefl.com](mailto:aschwartz@margatefl.com)



# Dear Neighbors:



In April, we held an event to collect new and unused teddy bears, along with other stuffed animals to help children in need. Thanks to the kindness of residents who donated many toys, our first responders can now bring smiles and comfort to young faces, particularly during challenging times.

These toys symbolize the spirit of unity and compassion that defines Margate. Our first responders will have them in their vehicles to give to children during traumatic situations.

Please continue to support this initiative by bringing unused plush toys to City Hall. Your donations will be put to good use.

I hope you enjoy the sunny days this summer and make the most of this season while always looking out for each other. Have a fantastic summer!

**Commissioner**  
**Antonio V. Arserio, FRA-RP**  
aarserio@margatefl.com  
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Every year, the City of Margate publishes a Water Quality Report to inform residents about the source of our water supply and its treatment to verify that it meets our regulatory requirements. The most recent report for 2023 is available and can be reviewed online at this link, [www.margatefl.com/ccr2023](http://www.margatefl.com/ccr2023).

The City's water, sourced from the Biscayne Aquifer, is routinely monitored for contaminants and treated to ensure its purity. The report demonstrates to our residents that no violations occurred and emphasizes our commitment to providing clean drinking water. Clean water means a healthy life.

Our Margate promotes water conservation education among young students through the yearly Drop Savers Poster Contest. These students use their creativity to encourage others to conserve water. Congratulations to this year's winners for believing that water availability and quality are fundamental for the sustainability of our ecosystem. If we save water, we secure our future.

**Commissioner**  
**Anthony N. Caggiano**  
acaggiano@margatefl.com



During the Freedom Month Sales Tax Holiday, from July 1-31, 2024, residents can purchase recreation and outdoor items, and admissions to entertainment and cultural events exempt from sales tax.

During the Back to School Sales Tax Holiday, from July 29-August 11, 2024, you can also purchase tax-free items such as computers, school supplies, clothing, and other accessories.

The Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday returns on August 24-September 6, 2024. Residents can purchase qualifying disaster supplies tax-free during this time.

If you want to buy tax-free items used by skilled trade workers, take advantage of the Tool Time Sales Tax Holiday from September 1-7, 2024.

For a complete list of eligible items during these Sales Tax Holidays, visit [www.floridarevenue.com/salestaxholidays](http://www.floridarevenue.com/salestaxholidays).

Please be a good neighbor and don't park on sidewalks – clear sidewalks are crucial for pedestrians or people using wheelchairs or strollers. It is against the law to block sidewalk access, and you risk getting a citation. Enjoy your summer.

**Commissioner**  
**Joanne Simone**  
jsimone@margatefl.com





## MARGATE IS HIRING

### Join our team

**The City of Margate is now hiring for various positions in the following departments:** Environmental and Engineering Services (DEES), Public Works, Building, Parks and Recreation, and Police, among others.

To view job descriptions, requirements, salary rates, or benefits, visit the city's website at [www.margatefl.com](http://www.margatefl.com). We encourage you to apply if you have a passion for public service and seek a rewarding career.

## City Wins Telly Award For Video Series



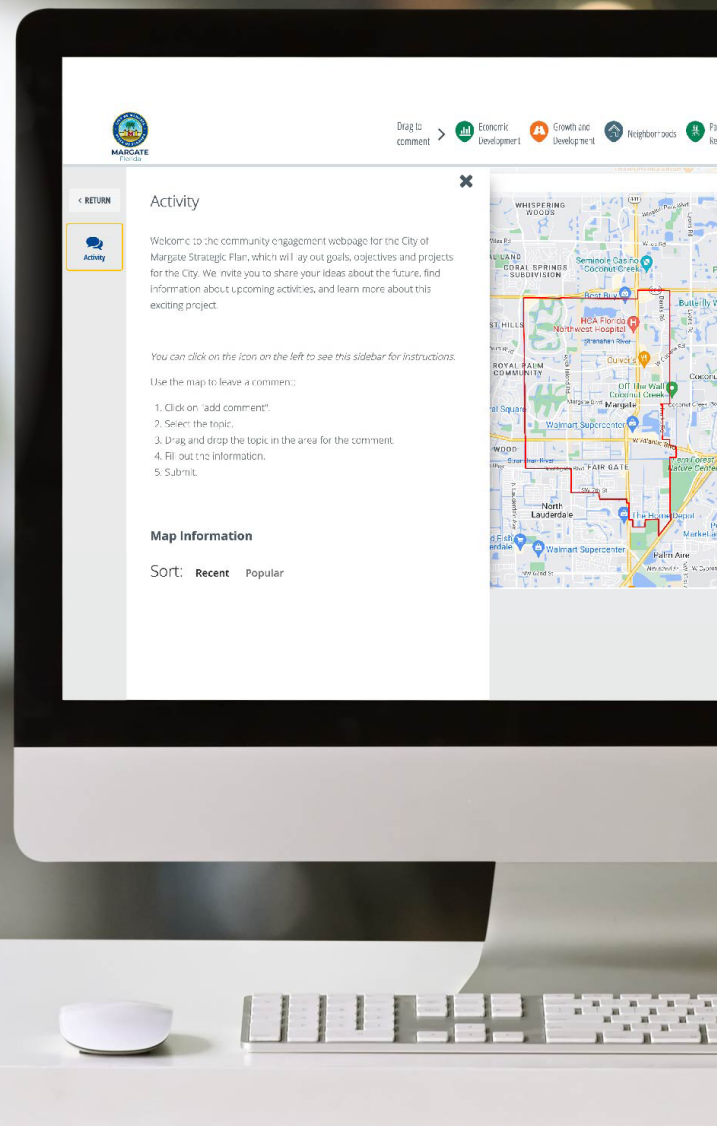
For the third consecutive year, the City of Margate Communications team has won a Telly Award, this time for the video series "Happy Holidays from Our Margate." The social media series won

a Bronze Telly for the short videos highlighting local businesses such as History Barber & Co., Zoom Room, and Just Chill Nutrition. In addition to the Telly Awards, the City of Margate has been recognized with another three Davey Awards since 2022. The award-winning videos can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/@cityofmargatefla](http://www.youtube.com/@cityofmargatefla).





# We Need Your Input for Strategic Planning

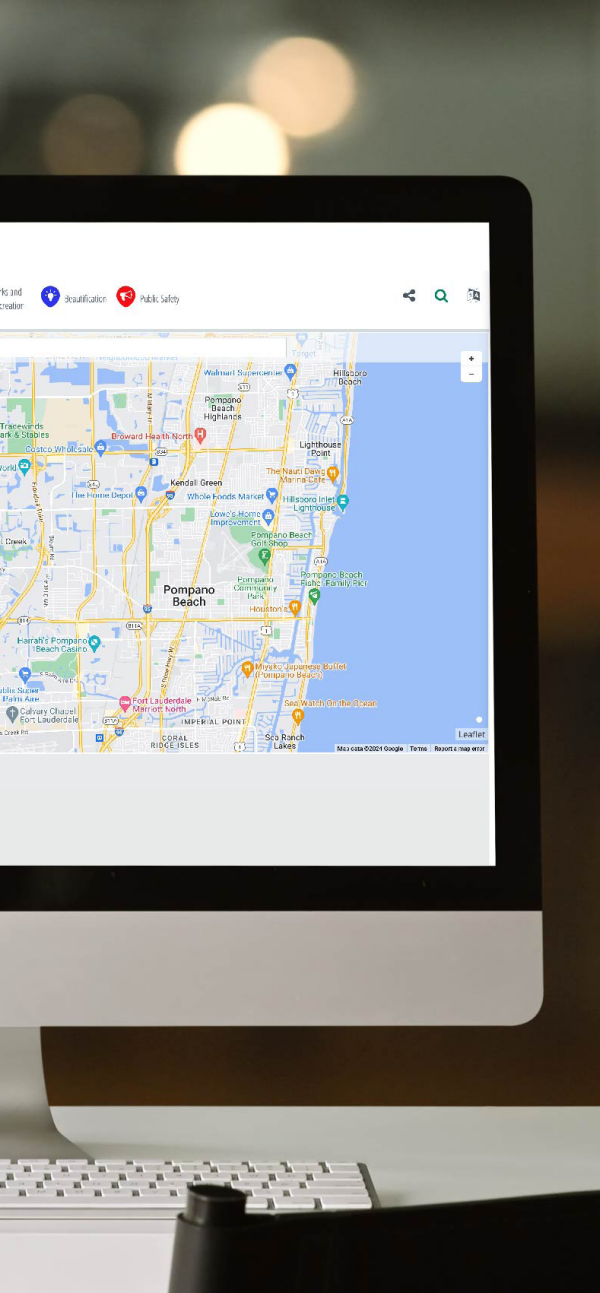


Margate is embarking on an ambitious strategic planning initiative and is inviting residents to actively participate in shaping the future of our community. The mission is to gather insights and ideas from the public to create a roadmap to address the City's evolving needs and aspirations.

A key feature is an Interactive Map available online at [www.margatefl.com](http://www.margatefl.com). This tool allows residents to easily share their information, concerns, and suggestions by pinpointing locations within Margate. The collected data on economic development, neighborhoods, growth and development, beautification, parks, and public safety will ultimately guide the City's long-term planning. Residents can also share their general ideas and thoughts for the future vision of Margate.

Once completed, the City's five-year Strategic Plan will align with the city's budget and resources to set strategic priorities and objectives.





## Temporary Conversion to Free Chlorine

To maintain high water quality in the City's water distribution system, the City of Margate Water Treatment Plant will temporarily change its treatment process to increase free chlorine disinfection from July 29 through August 19, 2024. This proactive measure prevents bacterial growth in the water mains and keeps the water safe for potable use. For more information, please call DEES at 954-972-0828.



## Water Quality Report Now Available Online

The 2023 Water Quality Report is now available online at [www.margatefl.com/ccr2023](http://www.margatefl.com/ccr2023). This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water. To have a report emailed or mailed to your home, click on the link and complete a fillable form to submit your contact information, e-mail [deesadmin@margatefl.com](mailto:deesadmin@margatefl.com) with your name/address, or call 954-972-0828.

## Investing in Infrastructure: Water &

### Our utility system by the numbers.

**85 years**

Margate owns and operates a system that is over **85 years old** with treatment technology that is soon to be outdated.

**17,000**

Today, Margate provides service to over **17,000 homes**.

**250**

Margate provides service to roughly **250 small and large businesses**.

**6.5 million**

Our current demand is **6.5 million gallons of water per day**, but we're permitted for 10.1 million gallons per day.

**10 million**

During the rainy season and tropical storms, our wastewater volumes approach the full **10.1 million gallons per day** permitted capacity.

### What?

The City of Margate has identified critical capital needs totaling approximately \$224.3 million over the next ten years to address upgrades to its aging water and wastewater utility system.

About half of this funding will come from Water and Sewer Rates and Reserves. The remaining balance will be financed through the issuance of Revenue Bonds, pending approval by the voters.

## \$224 MILLION IN CAPITAL NEEDS

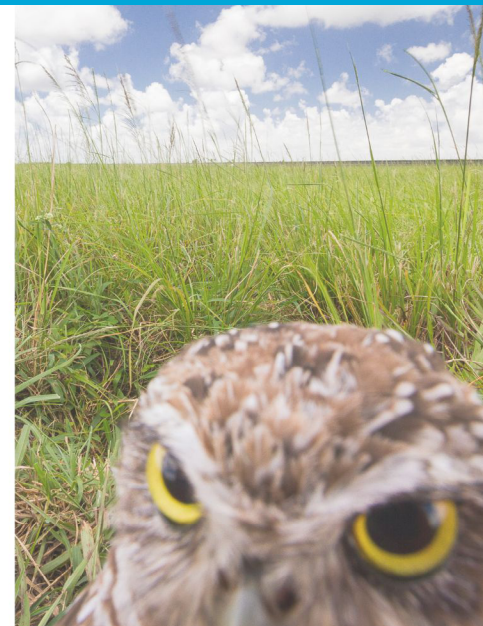
Margate's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) identifies capital needs of approximately \$224.3 million through the Fiscal Year 2033.

## So, how will Margate pay for these critical infrastructure projects?

\$104.3 million will be paid through annual budgets. The other half, we're going to need to borrow through revenue bonds. The good news is our current rate structure already includes these costs.

**\$104.3 million + \$120 million = \$224.3 million**

But before we can borrow money, our City Charter requires we get approval from the voters first.





# Wastewater Revenue Bond Referendum

## When?

The Water and Wastewater Revenue Revitalization Bond Referendum will be part of the City of Margate's Municipal General Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

**A question  
will appear  
on every  
Margate  
voter's  
general  
election  
ballot in  
November.**



"To ensure the public's safety and health and to comply with environmental regulatory requirements, shall the City of Margate issue not exceeding **\$120 million water and wastewater improvement revenue bonds**, in one or more series, bearing interest at rates not exceeding the maximum legal rate and maturing not later than thirty years after the issuance date(s), payable from water and wastewater revenues, to finance the cost of improvements to the City's water and wastewater system?"

\*pending final approval from the Broward County Supervisor of Elections

## How?

If voters approve, the city plans an initial bond issuance in 2025, a second in 2027, and a third in 2031.

## Revenue Bonds

**\$60M**

2025

Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades and water line replacements, totaling an investment of \$60 million.

**\$30M**

2027

Water and wastewater projects needed to address new EPA regulations, for example requirements related to PFAS/PFOA in drinking water and biosolids management in wastewater.

**\$30M**

2031

Will fund anticipated regulatory requirements and completion of previous projects.

**\$120M**

Total Revenue Bonds

## Why?

This bond referendum is intended to finance necessary projects to address the upgrades to our aging utility systems. These projects will improve the quality, reliability, and efficiency of our Margate's water and wastewater services. It will also ensure that services meet the latest United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) regulations.

For additional information, please visit the City's website at [www.margatefl.com](http://www.margatefl.com).

### How will this affect my taxes?

Because Revenue Bonds are not repaid through increases to property taxes, if the voters approve and the referendum ballot question passes, there will be NO increase in property taxes.

## 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY *Extravaganza*



Thursday, July 4, 2024

**Join us for this incredible day of activities for the entire family to celebrate Independence Day in Margate.**

### **Independence Day Parade, 9 a.m.**

Wear red, white, and blue to cheer the decorated vehicles and floats strolling Margate Boulevard from 76th Avenue to State Road 7.

### **Fourth of July Extravaganza, 5-9 p.m.**

Enjoy a live band, plus plenty of food trucks offering a variety of menu selections that are available for purchase.

N.W. corner of Margate Boulevard and State Road 7.

### **Spectacular Fireworks, 9 p.m.**

Don't miss the dazzling displays of color and light that will illuminate the night sky.

N.W. corner of Margate Boulevard and State Road 7.



**AUGUST**



**Tuesday, August 6**

6 - 9 p.m.

Margate Sports Complex Covered Field  
1695 Banks Road

Bring the entire family to this free yearly community-building event. Learn about crime prevention tips surrounded by food, music, and activities for kids of all ages.

**SEPTEMBER**



## Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Disposal Event 2024

**Saturday, September 14**

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Oriole Park, 7055 NW 1st Street

Secure Document Shredding (up to 3 standard-size paper boxes) will be available. Residents must show proof of Margate residency.

**movies**  
in the **park**



**Saturday, September 7**

5-9 p.m.

Margate Sports Complex  
1695 Banks Road

Be prepared to sing, dance, and have a blast at this Saturday concert series featuring live music and food trucks serving delicious snacks, meals, and desserts for purchase. Bring your blankets and chairs. Admission and parking are free. Presented by the MCRA.

**Saturday, September 21**

7:30 p.m.

Presenting: Kung Fu Panda 4

Margate Sports Complex | 1695 Banks Road

Gather the family and bring your blankets and chair to enjoy a free movie under the covered field of the Margate Sports Complex.



## Archery

Andrews Field (Behind Margate Middle School) 500 NW 65 Ave.

Learn archery, a sport where nearly everyone can be successful regardless of age, size, and physical ability. This all-inclusive sport is becoming one of the fastest-growing recreational activities among kids, teens, adults, and seniors. All equipment is provided, and reservations are required.

**Saturdays and Sundays:** 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Contact:

Karen Ludwig  
954-866-4935 (TEXT ONLY)  
Goarchery.net@gmail.com  
www.goarchery.net

## Martial Arts

Charley Katz Community Center  
6111 NW 10th Street

Hapkido is a non-sport mixed martial art focusing on physical and mental exercise, tactical defense, reactive responses, increased flexibility, self-confidence, and focus.

**Kids Class:** Tuesdays and Thursdays  
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Adult Class:** Tuesdays and Thursdays  
7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

**Mixed Age Class:** Wednesdays  
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**Fees:** \$120 per month, \$20 one-time

### Contact:

Phil Barrett  
954-917-0488  
hapkidobear@gmail.com

## Tennis

Firefighters Park  
2500 Rock Island Road

Get healthy and active by learning tennis taught by certified tennis instructors. Classes are available for all age groups and all skill levels. No experience is needed.

**Monday - Friday:** 4:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Fees:** \$25 registration. Please contact the program for additional pricing information.

### Contact:

Coach Peter and Coach Csilla  
954-496-6061, 954-825-1118  
peter@gsm-tennis.com

## Tribal Yoga

Leonard Weisinger Community Center  
6199 NW 10th Street

Yoga for all levels, from fitness-based approach to Vinyasa style flow. No experience is necessary. Variations/modifications will be provided.

**Mondays:** 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**Fees:** Drop-In \$8; 10 Classes: \$65.00

### Contact:

Wanda Olcima  
954-282-9926  
tribalyogainc@gmail.com

## Joy Deco (Dance and Gymnastics)

Leonard Weisinger Community Center  
6199 NW 10th Street

This program is designed to introduce children to the beautiful world of dance, cheerleading, and gymnastics, allowing your child to have fun while showing off their creative side.

**Mondays:** 5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Gymnastics basics, ages 4-7  
6:30 p.m. - 7:20 p.m., Gymnastics basics, ages 5-11



7:30 p.m. - 8:20 p.m., Gymnastics level 1, ages 7-12

**Tuesdays:** 5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Cheerleading & Cartwheels, ages 5-9

6 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., Dance & Cheer

(Jazz ballet), ages 4-7

6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Hip Hop/Jazz,

ages 6-12

**Wednesdays:** 5:30 p.m. - 6:20 p.m.

Gymnastics basics, ages 4-7

6:30 p.m. - 7:20 p.m., Gymnastics level 1-2

ages 5-11

**Fees:** \$60 per month, 1 class weekly

\$15 one-time registration fee

**Contact:**

Joy Deco Enterprises

954-971-9917

Register at [joydecoenterprises.com](http://joydecoenterprises.com)

## City of Margate Athletics:

**Youth Soccer:**

- Ages: 3 - 17

- Registration: June - July\*

- Season: August - January\*

For more information contact Margate Athletics

at 954-255-3501 or the Parks and Recreation

Department at 954-972-6458 or

[parksrec@margatefl.com](mailto:parksrec@margatefl.com)

**Youth Basketball:**

- Ages: 5 - 13

- Registration: June - July\*

- Season: August - January\*

For more information contact Margate Athletics

at 954-255-3501 or the Parks and Recreation

Department at 954-972-6458 or

[parksrec@margatefl.com](mailto:parksrec@margatefl.com)

**Fall Youth Baseball:**

- Ages: 3 - 13

- Registration: June - August\*

- Season: September - December\*

For more information contact Margate Athletics

at 954-255-3501 or the Parks and Recreation

Department at 954-972-6458 or

[parksrec@margatefl.com](mailto:parksrec@margatefl.com)

**Fall Youth Softball:**

- Ages: 6-17

- Registration: June - August\*

- Season: August - November\*

For more information contact Margate Athletics

at 954-255-3501 or the Parks and Recreation

Department at 954-972-6458 or

[parksrec@margatefl.com](mailto:parksrec@margatefl.com)

**\*All registration and season dates are subject to change by the City of Margate Parks and Recreation Department**

## Calypso Cove

### Swim Lessons

**Mondays and Wednesdays:**

**Session 1:** June 17 - July 10

**Registration:** May 27 - June 16

**Session 2:** July 15 - August 7

**Registration:** June 24 - July 15

**Tuesdays and Thursdays:**

**Session 1:** June 18 - July 11

**Registration:** May 27 - June 17

**Session 2:** July 16 - August 8

**Registration:** June 24 - July 15

**Saturdays:**

**Session 1:** June 15 - August 3

**Registration:** May 27 - June 14

**Sundays:**

**Session 1:** June 16 - August 4

**Registration:** May 27 - June 15

**Times:** 8:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m.

Each lesson is 25 minutes long.

**Cost Per Session:**

Margate Residents: \$55

Non-Residents: \$75

**Register online at:**

[www.margatefl.com/registration](http://www.margatefl.com/registration)

# older adults 60+

## Northwest Focal Point Senior Center

### SENIOR SERVICES

#### SHINE

(Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elder) counselor to assist with Medicare and health insurance questions.

#### EHEAP

(Emergency Home Energy Assistance) is a program that provides assistance for home-energy emergencies to qualified, low-income households with at least one person 60 years of age or older.

#### Broward County Property Appraiser

At the Center the first Monday of the month, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Margate residents can apply for Homestead Exemption and other tax-saving property exemptions. You can make an appointment for the Exemption Express service at [web.bcpa.net](http://web.bcpa.net) or by calling 954-357-5579.

#### Counseling

Available for individuals or support groups. Caregiver Support Group is also available on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

#### Adult Daycare

Provides care and companionship for older adults who need assistance or supervision during the day. The program offers relief to family members and caregivers, allowing them to go to work, handle personal business, or relax while knowing their relative is well cared for and safe.

#### Farmers Market

Every Thursday morning, the Center provides fresh produce and other food items donated by local stores.

## JOIN NOW!

**Northwest Focal Point Senior Center**

954-973-0300 | 6009 NW 10th Street, Margate, FL 33063

#### Classes and Activities for Seniors

*Below is a list of regular classes and activities for older adults you can enjoy by registering with the N.W. Focal Point Senior Center. Contact the Senior Center for a monthly schedule or visit the City's website. Activities are subject to change.*

#### CLASSES

Zumba Gold  
Stretch & Balance  
Dance with Me  
Tai Chi  
Chair Yoga  
Spanish

#### ACTIVITIES

Arts and Crafts  
Dominos  
Cards  
Wii Bowling  
Billiards  
Mah-Jong  
Rummikub  
Bingo

*Membership is required to participate in any activities at the Senior Center.*





## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 3, 11:30 a.m.** - Patriotic concert by the NW Focal Point Senior Center Choir

**July 16, 11:30 a.m.** - Crazy Hat Day/Ice Cream Social

**August 23, 11:30 a.m.** - Hawaiian Day (must sign up ahead of time)

**September 6, 11:30 a.m.** - Grandparents Day Talent Show

## ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

**Mondays and Fridays** - 9:30 a.m. | Zumba

**Tuesdays and Thursdays** - 9:30 a.m. | Stretch and Balance exercise class

**Wednesdays** - 9:30 a.m. | Dance with me

**Wednesdays and Fridays** - 11:30 a.m. | Bingo

**Thursdays and Fridays** | Live music

*Center membership is required in order to participate in all activities.*

*Activities are subject to change.*





# NEW WELCOME WE ARE margate OPEN businesses



## Nakama Sushi & Thai

5458 West Sample Road  
954-977-8980  
[www.nakamasushifi.com](http://www.nakamasushifi.com)



## Milani Dance Studio

2140 N. State Road 7  
954-892-4835  
[www.milani.studio.com](http://www.milani.studio.com)

## Your tax dollars at work

## Sidewalk Improvements Citywide

The City of Margate is investing approximately \$120,000 annually in ongoing roadway and sidewalk maintenance to improve your quality of life.



## No Renting of Trailers or RVs

The City of Margate's Code Compliance Officers are issuing notices of violations to property owners who offer trailers and RVs parked on their property as rental accommodations through platforms like Airbnb. This practice is not in accordance with our City Charter, specifically Section 40.351., which prohibits residences on trailers, campers, or mobile homes.

*Section 40.351, Prohibited residences, states that "No trailer, camper or mobile home shall be used or maintained for living quarters unless same are validly in or a part of any properly zoned trailer park or area designated for camping or recreational activities."*

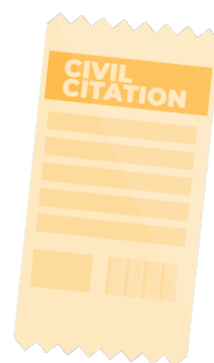
All residents must adhere to the city code and refrain from engaging in or facilitating the rental of trailers or RVs parked in their homes. We understand the importance of responsible and respectful neighborhood practices, and we appreciate your cooperation in maintaining the integrity of our community.

## Civil Citations to be Given for Urgent Violations

The City is introducing a new compliance method: Civil Citations. This approach is designed to immediately enforce certain violations where a warning or courtesy notice has proven insufficient or inappropriate. Civil Citations address issues that require prompt attention to prevent potential hazards or disturbances.

Examples of violations warranting a Civil Citation include placing bulk pick-up items out too early, setting out prohibited items for bulk pick-up, parking prohibited commercial vehicles like tractor-trailers or construction equipment on private property, committing tree abuse violations such as unauthorized tree removal, and health or safety violations like unsecured construction sites or pool areas.

This method does not replace the existing Notice of Violation or Courtesy Notice systems, which allow property owners time to rectify issues. Instead, Civil Citations supplement these systems, providing the City with an additional tool to ensure compliance when immediate action is necessary.





## Landscaping Not Permitted in Street Swales

Homeowners and business owners may not be aware that landscaping other than grass is not permitted in right-of-way swales and that other improvements in right-of-way swales are not permitted without an engineering permit. The swales accommodate stormwater and utilities, especially water and sewer, as well as electrical power lines, cable, and fiber optics.

Some swales are intended to convey stormwater to a drainage inlet. Planting trees in these swales can create a dam and obstruct the conveyance of water to the inlet. Some swales are intended to retain and percolate stormwater. Excavating, disturbing, or excessively compacting these swales may prevent the stormwater from dissipating in a timely manner. Many of our swales contain buried water mains, and some contain buried gravity sewer mains or pressurized sewer force mains. Tree roots can grow into these underground lines and damage them. If we have to repair water or sewer lines for any reason, trees can create obstacles that delay the execution of the repair work. If swale trees need to be removed to facilitate utility work, they will not be replaced or permitted to be replaced.

The City is replacing many miles of old water mains through the Department of Environmental and Engineering Services (DEES). This work often entails working in the swales, and any obstacles that interfere with the work may delay and add time and money to the project. Any barriers currently situated in the swales have more than likely been constructed without the required permits from DEES. If they obstruct the public right-of-way for public purposes, they will be removed and not replaced nor permitted to be replaced.

If a swale has no utility lines, constructing improvements in the swale can still be problematic. There may be a water or sewer line under the pavement or in the swale on the opposite side of the street. Should that utility line need to be replaced, the City may run a new line to allow the existing line to remain in service until the new line is constructed. When doing this, the City will often run the new utility main in the swale on the opposite side of the street. So, just because there is no underground utility line in your swale doesn't mean you can improve the swale without impacting future utility work.



## The relevant code sections are as follows:

### Section 35.0.3(d)(3) Maintenance of Swale Areas

"New trees and shrubs shall not be planted in swales where water mains are located. Property owners shall obtain a permit from the Department of Environmental and Engineering Services (DEES) to plant trees and shrubs in the swales where there are no water mains."

### Section 40.704(J)2 Application Required

"Anyone planting trees or shrubs within any portion of the non-traveled public rights-of-way (swales, parkways, etc.) within the city shall make written application for said planting to the Department of Environmental and Engineering Services and obtain approval if there are no water mains in the swales. If a tree is planted and has not been approved by the City, it shall be removed by the property owner who planted it if not approved by the City."

DEES is responsible for maintaining the water and sewer facilities and reviewing and issuing (or denying issuance of) engineering permits. The City does not require property owners to remove existing swale improvements or landscaping and is not issuing permits for any future enhancements or landscaping in the swales. The City requires all new unpermitted improvements and landscaping to be immediately removed per code section 40.704(J)2 provisions.

The only improvements allowed to occur in swales are driveway aprons, your mailbox or grass/sod (no engineering permits required), or other ground cover. Property owners are cautioned against placing anything in their swale without an engineering permit from DEES other than a mailbox. Before you dig, call 8-1-1 to know what's below the ground to avoid hitting a gas line, a water line, a sewer line, or other buried cable or electrical lines. For more information, please call DEES at 954-972-0828.





City of Margate  
5790 Margate Boulevard  
Margate FL 33063

## STAY CONNECTED!

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The City of Margate has several ways you can reach us and stay connected.

**Visit Our Website:**

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