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Meet Your Staff



[Maria "Jackie" Villegas](#) is a permit clerk with the Building and Planning Department. She has been a member of the Village staff since 1997 and has extensive experience with the processing and issuance of building permits. She has an A.A. degree from Miami Dade College and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Public Administration.

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E-News

February 2009

From the desk of Mayor Lerner

Updates

State of the Village Address



On Saturday afternoon, January 31st, the Village held a reception at Pinecrest Gardens to provide an opportunity for our residents to hear your mayor's State of the Village address in the beautiful setting overlooking Swan Lake, and enjoy refreshments, socialize with neighbors and then to tour the gardens and the new community center. The community pitched in to make this event special. The entrance was decorated beautifully by resident Pat Kyle Lawrence's Galloway Farms Nursery. We were serenaded by the wonderfully talented resident Jimmy B (who will be performing on Feb 27th at the Garden Fund Soiree) and the State of the Village address was videotaped, which can be seen on the [Village's web site](#), by residents Kathy and Carl Hersh's [Close Up Productions](#). I am very grateful to these wonderful residents for donating their talents to help make this event so successful.

Tree City USA



On Friday, January 30th your Council and I marked the official designation of the Village of Pinecrest as an official Tree City USA - installing a sign so designating us on Ludlam road near Old Cutler Road. The event celebrated the Village of Pinecrest's acceptance into the Tree City USA program, sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation. This was not an award as much as a commitment the Village is making to continue to value its trees as an important component of residents' quality of life. Since the Village's founding, we have planted more than 12,000 trees in public spaces including swales,

parks and the U.S. 1 median. Most of them were planted during an intensive six-year effort in which we invested \$250,000 annually in new plantings. We not only restored the devastation caused by Hurricane Andrew, but moved well beyond that. Today, we enjoy a leafy community-wide ambience that provides a wonderful setting for our daily activities.

Our Tree City USA commitment has four requirements:

1. We employ an arborist - Gary Krackenberger - who has essential tree care knowledge.
2. We have a tree care ordinance that defines standards and practices.
3. We are spending \$50,000 this year on our tree program, exceeding the Tree City USA standard of \$2 per resident per year.
4. We have agreed to hold an annual Arbor Day tree-planting or personal recognition event, and this year it will be on Friday, April 24th. If you are interested in participating in planning this event, please contact me.

Please contact me if you have any comments or questions at clerner@pinecrest-fl.gov.

Cindy Lerner
Mayor

Water Project Updates

Water System/Well Water Update

The Village is in the process of installing water mains along main corridors, the so-called Backbone Project, which will enable several hundred more homes to connect to the county water system, if they so choose. For those on well water who wish to retain their wells and do not want to connect to the county system, I have pledged to go back to the county and petition on your behalf to allow you to continue the use of your wells for as long as you live in Pinecrest and there is no contamination. The Village of Pinecrest has filed an Application before the Environmental Quality Control Board requesting a lifetime waiver for all well owners in the Village from the county mandatory hookup requirement. I have also enlisted the support of our two county commissioners, Katy Sorenson and Carlos Gimenez. I will also be seeking the support of our county manager, who happens to be a Pinecrest resident. You may want to contact their offices to let them know your feelings about retaining your wells. You can email Commissioner Gimenez's aide, Insohn Kim, at inson@miamidade.gov or call the office at 305-669-4003 or Commissioner Sorenson's aide, Maria Levrant, at marial@miamidade.gov or call her district office at 305-378-6677. Our application will be heard on **March 12th**. I invite all Pinecrest well owners who do not want to be forced to hook up to attend the hearing with me. We do not yet have the time our application will be heard, so you will have to clear the entire day on your calendars, until we are notified of the exact time of the hearing. Please forward this to neighbors as well.

Engineer's Response to a Resident's Question

Thank you for your concern. You are correct that the location of the new meters can make quite a difference in costs incurred by the homeowner. After the wood stakes marking the proposed meter location have been placed by the Contractor, our office, as the Consulting Engineers, will distribute notices that allow the homeowner to consult with their plumber and confirm which side of the property is better to place the new water meter. It is during that time that the meter location can be changed. Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department has been very helpful in working with the requested changes. Please let me know if we can be of any further assistance. Thank you.

Sean Compel, P.E.

Corzo Castella Carballo Thompson Salman, P.A. (C3TS)

Advisory Councils Initiated

Advisory councils are starting up, and I invite you to attend any one of them that may interest you.

Education Advisory Council - The first meeting was held on February 3rd and more that 30 people attended, including every one of the Principals from our five public schools, and our School Board member. The group has identified advocacy issues such as the severe cuts to education, the unmet healthcare needs of our students, identifying additional tutoring and mentoring volunteers to help struggling students, creating enrichment programs for students afterschool, and of course, uniting to advocate for sufficient funding from the state legislature to support our public schools. The next meeting will be on March 3rd at 9:30 a.m. in the community center. Feel free to join us.

Transit/Transportation Advisory Group - The Village held a transit workshop on the evening of January 27th to solicit citizen input and hear the needs you have identified. CITT director Charles Scurr and Nestor Toledo presented an overview about what revenue can be used for. The list includes sidewalks, bike paths, a trolley, bus benches, and shelters. After hearing from those present, we decided to refer the issue to a citizen advisory council which will be meeting each month to hear from the community, act as a fact finding group and then make recommendations to the Council. The first meeting will be on February 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the community center.

Youth Advisory Council - As a 30 year child advocate, you knew I would make it a priority to create an environment for our youth that provided a forum for their expression, ideas and creativity, as well as to enhance the quality of community life and empower them to become leaders and effective agents for progress. Thanks to resident Kathy Hersh for helping me to brainstorm what this could be, define the purpose and help get it going.

Climate Protection/Greening of Pinecrest - Also in January I signed on to the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. This marks my commitment to engage our Village in

doing our part to support the key priorities of the agreement. We will soon convene a Pinecrest Climate Protection Advisory Council in order to inform our residents about the strategies and best practices we can employ in order to do our part.

Community Calendar

[Subscribe to the Parks and Recreation Program Calendar](#)

LIBRARY

Miami Poets Soiree
Third Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Branch Library - 5835 SW 111 Street
305-668-4571

[Other Programs at the Library](#)

VILLAGE MEETINGS

Village Council Regular Meeting
February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway
305-234-2121

www.pinecrest-fl.gov/agendas.html

Transportation Advisory Group
February 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Community Center - 5855 SW 111th Street
305-234-2121

www.pinecrest-fl.gov

BENEFITS

2009 Purina Walk for the Animals
February 21, 2009, 8:30 a.m.
Bayfront Park - 301 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami
305-749-1842

www.humanesocietymiami.org

Spring Garden Soiree
February 27, 2009, 6:30 p.m.
Pinecrest Gardens - 11000 Red Road
305-661-7488

<http://garden.ticketanimal.com>

Taste of Pinecrest
March 8, 2009, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Gardens - 11000 Red Road
305-662-8024

www.pinecrestbusiness.com

If you are a non-profit or civic organization holding meetings or events in Pinecrest and wish to be included in this listing, please send an e-mail to communitycalendar@pinecrest-fl.gov. Please include complete information such as name

of organization, date, time, place, and contact information.



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