

VILLAGE OF PINECREST



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Meet Your Staff



Tony Lamazares has been the Park Manager since November 2006.

He joined the Village staff in 1999 as a part-time park service aide. He has also worked for the City of Miami and is currently also a part-time park aide with Miami-Dade County serving at Chapman Field Park. As the Park Manager, Tony oversees the daily functions and park staff of Coral Pine Park,

E-News

March 2009

From the desk of Mayor Lerner



We have added two new features to the E-News. Our police chief, John Hohensee, will provide us with monthly crime prevention or other safety tips, in an effort to help residents remain more aware of their surroundings and of potential trends he has identified.

In addition, in order to support and work more closely with our local businesses, we will be highlighting a member of the Pinecrest Business Association (identified by the association) each month.

Updates

February Council Meeting - This was the inauguration of our live streaming video of the monthly Village Council meetings on the Internet. You can watch the meetings live online, www.pinecrest-fl.gov/live, or go on at anytime to view what happened on a particular topic. We welcome your feedback on the meetings.

Water System Installation - Phase One of the Backbone Project is close to completion. The streets and swales that were dug up for the installation of the pipes will soon be repaved, the swales re-sodded and driveways repaired. Once the final testing and County approval is issued, those who want to hook up to the County water system will be able to do so. All homeowners on the pipeline will be sent specific information on the connection process from the Village.

For those well owners who wish to keep their wells and do not want to hook up, we currently have approval by the County that we not be mandated to connect for five years. We have an application before the Environmental Control Board, which will be heard on March 12th at 1:30 p.m. at the DERM offices located at 701 NW 1st Court, Suite 200, where we will be asking for lifetime exemption from mandatory connection. I will be at the hearing and invite well owners, who are able to join me at the hearing, have your voices heard.

Education Advisory Council - The next meeting is March 3rd, 9:30

Evelyn Greer Park, Suniland Park, Veterans Wayside Park, and Flagler Grove Park. He loves the outdoors and working in the parks and recreation field.

Pinecrest Business Association

www.pinecrestbusiness.com

Member Highlight



The **Law firm of Ruth E. Johnson, P.A.** offers a broad range of legal services and specializes in work-related accidents. The firm's goal is to provide quality representation in an effective and efficient manner.

305-720-2086

www.ruthjohnsonlaw.com

Crime Prevention Tips



In 2008, 50% of the vehicles burglarized in Pinecrest had been left unlocked. Opportunity is a major element in property crimes - as you prepare to exit your vehicle: secure

a.m., at the Pinecrest Community Center. The first meeting of the advisory council was held on February 3rd and brought together the five principals of our area public schools (Pinecrest Elementary, Palmetto Elementary, Middle and High School, and Howard Drive Elementary), our school board member Dr. Larry Feldman, our Pinecrest librarian Ellen Book, and thirty interested parents and concerned residents. The advisory council will serve as a venue to discuss the current challenges our area schools face and how the wider community can assist in helping to address their issues and needs. For example, the principals mentioned that they had many students in need of tutors, and our librarian advised that the library has a tutoring program on Saturday mornings. In addition several residents, including one who is a retired principal, offered to come tutor at the schools.

This coming month our focus and outreach will be on advocacy, as it is critical that we all contact our legislators to let them know we expect our children to receive the quality education they are guaranteed by the Florida Constitution, which requires sufficient funding. We cannot afford to continue to cut funding and maintain quality. If you would like to be involved, and cannot attend the meetings, send me an e-mail at mayorlerner@gmail.com.

Taste of Pinecrest - Be sure to go out and support the Taste of Pinecrest event on March 8th at Pinecrest Gardens. All proceeds will be distributed to support our five area schools.

Transit/transportation Advisory Group - The advisory group met on February 19th under the leadership of Councilmember Corradino. This meeting followed a transit workshop held in January to seek input from our residents. Councilmember Corradino explained that the Village will develop a transportation master plan, to help guide the Village in planning for improved streets and transit corridors as well as try to reduce traffic and our carbon footprint with available resources. Residents shared their ideas for how to improve transportation and transit within the Village. The advisory group will continue to solicit input from our residents, and will likely conduct a survey to determine need of some of the ideas discussed. If you would like to participate in the advisory group, please contact Councilmember Corradino at jcorradino@pinecrest-fl.gov.

Going Green - This month I met with mayors from Coral Gables, South Miami, Palmetto Bay, and Cutler Bay to discuss how we can improve our efforts to go green. Our Village will begin to review energy efficiencies in government buildings and make recommendations for training staff. We will be reaching out to residents to participate in the Going Green initiative. I will begin participating in the county task force as well, and welcome your involvement.

Homeowners Property Insurance - Have you been contacted by your insurance carrier? This has been brought to my attention by a Palmetto Bay councilmember and we want to know whether our Pinecrest residents are also experiencing re-assessments by their insurance carriers. If so, please let me know. It has recently come to our attention that a new tactic is being used by homeowners insurance companies to increase their income by reevaluating and increasing the insured amount of the covered

your keys; leave your valuables out of sight; and LOCK your vehicle.

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home. Several individuals have had valuations that they feel are WELL in excess of actual rebuilding costs. There is no clear way at this time for the individual to successfully challenge the company's decisions.

The Village is planning on taking up this issue and trying to get it worked on by the State to protect the homeowner. Most homeowner's have mortgages and their insurance is paid by the bank with the amount added to the monthly payment. In these economic times in which many are struggling to meet present mortgage payments, the additional insurance cost may well force them into foreclosure. We are trying to gather data to see how widespread this is in order to bring his to our lobbyists in Tallahassee, the State Legislature, and the State Insurance Commissioner. If you have been contacted by your insurance company regarding a significant raise in your home's value that you think is unwarranted, please contact me by e-mail with the details.

As always, please contact me if you have any comments or questions at clerner@pinecrest-fl.gov.

Cindy Lerner
Mayor

Rainfall Scarce This Dry Season

Fourth-driest start to dry season

Following an above-average 2008 wet season that lifted South Florida out of a prolonged water shortage, the region is once again experiencing near-record rainfall deficits, underscoring the need for continued water conservation. Meteorologists at the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) reported District-wide rainfall of only 2.03 inches for November, December and January, which is 29 percent of the historical average for this period. This low rainfall marks the fourth-driest start to the South Florida dry season since rainfall recordkeeping began in 1932.

During the past three months, all of the District's major basins received less than half the normal rainfall, leading to deficits of at least 3.5 inches in each basin. Some of the largest deficits occurred in eastern areas of Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties, with rainfall totals as much as 8.69 inches below average in eastern Palm Beach County. Water levels are currently declining throughout the District, as would be expected by the drier-than-normal weather, and water managers continue to monitor overall conditions. One particular concern is the potential for fire in the natural areas if the rainfall deficit persists. Lake Okeechobee's water level was 13.01 feet NGVD as of February 20. The water level stands more than a foot below the historical average for the date but remains more than 3 feet higher than what was reported in 2008, when drought conditions were affecting water supply throughout the District.

Federal meteorologists are forecasting that drier-than-average rainfall conditions may continue at least through mid-April due to the likely development of La Niña conditions. This weather phenomenon occurs when equatorial waters in the Pacific Ocean

are cooler than normal, which often leads to below-average rainfall in Florida.

For 2008, SFWMD meteorologists reported District-wide rainfall of 53.43 inches, or 3 percent above the historical average. Over the previous two years, a combined 83.63 inches of rain fell over the region, making 2006 and 2007 the driest back-to-back calendar years in South Florida since recordkeeping began.

An above-average wet season, highlighted by Tropical Storm Fay, lifted the region out of its two-year drought. From June through November, District-wide rainfall measured 38.93 inches, or 17 percent above the historical average. Fay alone dropped an average of 7.5 inches of rain across the District over six days in August, with some locations receiving as much as 15 inches. The storm caused Lake Okeechobee to rise from 11.34 feet on August 19 to 13.63 feet on August 26, the first time in recorded history that the lake level increased more than 2 feet in a single week.

Recognizing that water conservation is the most efficient strategy to ensure adequate water in the driest of times - and to meet growing demands on the region's limited supplies - the District is continuing to implement its broad Comprehensive Water Conservation Program to guide efforts in developing a lasting water conservation culture throughout South Florida.

To manage South Florida's water supply throughout this dry season, modified restrictions allowing twice-weekly irrigation remain in place. For details on current water restrictions, visit www.sfwmd.gov/consERVE. Read more about the District's water conservation plan and get more tips on saving water at www.savewaterfl.com.

Reprinted from South Florida Water Management District Publication

Be a Mentor

Be the change to want to see in the world

Palmetto Elementary School is looking for mentors for students in Grades 2 - 5. Mentoring has been shown to improve a student's self-confidence, attitude, desire to go to school, relationships with peers and families, academic achievement, and the student is less likely to get involved in drugs, alcohol abuse and delinquent behavior. Mentors benefit as well: morale improves; mentors learn more about themselves; get a fresh perspective on their lives and feel more satisfied. Potential mentors must first clear a screening process. Mentors will meet one on one with their student 2 - 4 times per month at lunchtime. For more information, please contact Julie Astuto, Counselor, Palmetto Elementary School, at (305) 238-4306, Ext. 119.

Community Calendar

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

LIBRARY

Book Discussion Group
March 4, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Toddler Story Time
Every Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Pinecrest Branch Library - 5835 SW 111 Street
305-668-4571

[Other Programs at the Library](#)

VILLAGE MEETINGS

Education Advisory Council
March 3, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
Pinecrest Community Center - 5855 SW 111th Street
305-234-2121
www.pinecrest-fl.gov

Village Council Regular Meeting
March 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway
305-234-2121
www.pinecrest-fl.gov/agendas.html

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

Planning Board
March 25, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway
305-234-2121
www.pinecrest-fl.gov

BENEFITS

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

OTHER

Public Meeting regarding FPL Transmission Lines
March 2, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
City of South Miami City Hall - 6130 Sunset Drive
305-668-2510

Community Foundation of Pinecrest Board Meeting
March 12, 2009, 8:00 a.m.
8744 SW 133rd Street
305-460-1057
www.communityfoundationofpinecrest.org

South Florida Palm Society's Spring Sale

March 14-15, 2009, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Montgomery Botanical Center - 12205 Old Cutler Road
305-245-6331

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 event information such as name of organization, date, time, place, and contact information.



Village of Pinecrest

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t 305-234-2121

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www.pinecrest-fl.gov

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