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## Meet Your Staff



Cesar Dumaran is the Maintenance Worker II in the Public Works Department and has been employed by Pinecrest since May 1999. Cesar is a very talented craftsman who can repair nearly anything that is presented to him. On his time off, he enjoys doing carpentry projects and is an avid Miami Dolphins fan.

## E-News

*April 2009*

### From the desk of Mayor Lerner



#### ***Well Owners Granted a Ten Year Extension from Mandatory Connection to the County Water System***

Dozens of Pinecrest residents turned out to attend and speak to the County's Environmental Quality Control Board hearing on March 12th. Our presentation to the board included Councilmember Joe Corradino, the Village Manager, Peter Lombardi, your faithful Mayor, and residents Jeffrey Roth, Pat Kyle Lawrence, Lisa Landy, Michael Irwin, Joyce Diehl, and Inson Kim, aide to Commissioner Gimenez, on behalf of Commissioner Gimenez, who supported our petition. We had filed an application to include hundreds of Pinecrest well owners who already have water lines abutting their properties, but who never wanted to connect, and who had not been included in the request for the five year extension in 2007, as well as all well owners identified on the Master Plan to have new installation of water mains, as funding becomes available, a total of approximately 1,800 homeowners.

Although we did not get lifetime exemptions, we do now have ten years (from the time you have a water line installed abutting your property, or from today if you already have a water line installed) and we can always go back again before that expires, or seek other relief, so I am pleased with these results. Of course the same three triggers apply that would require connection: (1) there is contamination of the well, (2) the owner sells the property or (3) there is an improvement to the home of more than 25% of the gross floor area ratio.

Many thanks to all who came to show support. Please let Commissioner Gimenez know how much we appreciate his support of our application for extending the exemption from mandatory connection for ten more years. [You can contact him](#)

## Pinecrest Business Association

[www.pinecrestbusiness.com](http://www.pinecrestbusiness.com)

### MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

#### Productive Computing, LLC

Specializing in software training, customization and bookkeeping. Learn to use more effectively Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Act, Quicken, QuickBooks, and more.

305-305-4186  
[at65@cornell.edu](mailto:at65@cornell.edu)

### Crime Prevention Tips



Did you know that the Police Department can provide free home and business security surveys? Just contact our Crime Prevention Officer, Alexandra Martinez, at 305-234-2100 or via [e-mail](#) to schedule this valuable service. She will point out how you can take some simple steps to better protect yourself and your property.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[by following this link.](#)

### *Pinecrest Gardens Advisory Committee*

This new committee was approved last month by resolution of the Village Council. I proposed to restructure the purview of the former botanic committee into a more comprehensive review of the overall possibilities that could be envisioned at the gardens. In June 2008, the Pinecrest Gardens Botanical Committee developed the master plan for the botanic aspects of the gardens. Our Council has been working to fund the many horticultural needs to further enhance our gardens.

Pinecrest Gardens has been the site of many events this year. In January, the 6th Annual Fine Arts Show; in February, the Community Gardens Charitable Fund's annual Soiree; in March, the Taste of Pinecrest and the Backyard Paradise. But the possibilities for our gardens are endless. In the resolution I have asked the committee to identify partnerships with other plant, educational and cultural entities. We should have a strong volunteer program, train docents to provide tours of the gardens, and collaborate with the numerous plant societies in our community. In addition, our 500 seat amphitheater has the potential to provide a venue for open air theatre and concerts. It would take little more than the addition of an open air stage and a few small enhancements to sound and lighting. Many of us sat in the Banyan Bowl during Taste of Pinecrest and were thrilled to watch our school children perform under the dome. Imagine the possibilities! We are already applying for grants from public and private sources. If you know of any potential funders, please contact me.

### *Education Advisory Council*

More than 40 people attended the second meeting on March 3rd, including four area school principals, our school board member, librarian and members of the new Pinecrest Community Fund. We invited Dr. Leslie Rosenfeld, from Miami Beach, to share with us how the City of Miami Beach's Committee for Quality Education, now more than five years in operation, has enhanced their public schools. They developed an interlocal compact with the school district, and eventually decided they wanted their public schools to all become international baccalaureate (IB) programs. Their city has invested half a million dollars in teacher training for the IB program. We will have to determine what works best for our village and our schools, but it was certainly inspiring to hear how far Miami Beach has come in supporting their schools. We also created two sub committees. The first will look at enhancing tutoring programs, which is a high priority for the five principals and is chaired by Ellen Book, our Pinecrest librarian. The Library already has a funded tutoring program on Saturdays, with certified teachers. The second committee is the Arts and Enrichment Committee, chaired by Carmen Lucas. Both committees have met since the last meeting, so we will hear a report from them soon. In addition, we are looking at how our Pinecrest Police can provide support and guidance to our school safety patrols. Finally, we will be celebrating Arbor Day on April 24th by planting trees at our schools. Councilmember Bob Ross will be spearheading that effort with the PTAs.

### ***Advocacy Message from the PTA***

In March, several Pinecrest parents and students boarded the buses heading to Tallahassee for the "Rally in Tally". Palmetto Middle School's PTSA sponsored three students to attend the rally. Max Lucas, 11, (6th grader), Leia Schwartz, 12, (7th grader) and Chris Fisk, 14, (8th grader and mayor of the school). Max, Leia and Chris prepared a "No More Education Cuts" petition for the students to sign. More than 1,200 signatures were obtained during one school day. In Tallahassee, Max and Chris presented the petitions to Representative Julio Robaina, who promised to support the kids and their cause. Max took his mini-digital video recorder and interviewed Superintendent Alberto Carvalho, Karin Brown, Representative Robaina and several other Florida legislators. Superintendent Carvalho gave a shout out to Palmetto. They were highlighted on network news and were recently acknowledged and honored by the superintendent at the school board meeting last week. Congratulations to our students and their parents for speaking up for the critical importance of funding our public schools.

The PTA encourages everyone to contact the governor and their state legislators and ask them to properly fund high quality public education in Florida. Visit [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov) to find your legislator and contact the governor at [charlie.crist@myflorida.com](mailto:charlie.crist@myflorida.com).

### ***Transit/Transportation Advisory Group***

Spearheaded by Councilmember Joe Corradino, we met in March for a second meeting. The participants reviewed the suggestions that have been made by residents thus far and discussed various projects. The most popular proposal seems to be to design a trolley route, after taking a survey of residents to see where the greatest need and desire for transit is in the Village. There were two additional proposals that have surfaced and will be discussed further at the next meeting; (1) expanding sidewalks to provide better access to students within walking distance of all schools, parks and the community center and (2) review the 2007-08 US 1 Intersection Study and determine whether to prioritize certain intersections and recommend that a design study be conducted. We invite all residents to attend the next meeting on April 29th and provide your input on how to improve transit and transportation throughout the Village.

As always, please contact me if you have any comments or questions at [clerner@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:clerner@pinecrest-fl.gov).

Cindy Lerner  
Mayor

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## **Water Restrictions in Effect**

Due to the severe drought in the region, the South Florida Water Management District has requested that all local governments

increase enforcement of the irrigation restrictions. **To avoid a citation, please adhere to the following schedule** (restrictions apply to all sources of water-from a utility, a private well or withdrawals from a canal, lake or pond).

Landscape irrigation for all property types and sizes is allowed two days a week:

**ODD** number address: Wednesday and Saturday, 12:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and/or 4:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m.

**EVEN** number address: Thursday and Sunday, 12:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and/or 4:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m.

**NO WATERING BETWEEN 10:00 a.m. AND 4:00 p.m.**

There are exceptions for new plantings, sod or landscaping.

Vehicle washing, pressure washing, decorative fountains and all other outdoor water uses are allowed anytime. However, voluntary conservation is encouraged.

For a complete list of water restrictions, please visit [www.sfwmd.gov/conserves](http://www.sfwmd.gov/conserves) or call the Water Conservation Hotline at (800) 662-8876.

## 10 Things for Teens

*@ the Pinecrest Branch Library*

What's there to do in the few after school hours before parents come home from work and it's dinner-time? Where should a teen go to get homework done fast or just have some downtime after a long day at school? The Pinecrest Branch Library, as well as the other 46 branches of the Miami-Dade Public Library System, offers these options:

*1. Free DVD Rentals:* As part of the Miami-Dade Public Library System, the Pinecrest branch has access to more than 13,000 DVDs including the latest feature movies such as The Dark Knight, Iron Man and Atonement. We also have a number of non-fiction DVDs, ranging in subject from religion to language instruction to travel.

*2. Free Internet Access:* Any teen with an active library card may use our desktop or laptop computers for up to two, one-hour sessions per day. Our computers are equipped with 2003 Microsoft Office software, including Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Publisher. It's a perfect opportunity to work on that college entrance essay, fine-tune your resume, or simply play catch-up with your friends online!

*3. Gaming @ Your Library:* The Pinecrest branch has joined the gaming craze and now carries more than 30 different video games for Xbox 360, Playstation 3, and Wii! The library recently hosted a Rock Band Tournament with more being planned, so stay tuned.

4. *Young Adult Fiction:* The Pinecrest branch carries the latest in popular YA fiction including novels such as *Wake* by Lisa McMann and series such as the *House of Night* and the *A-listers*. Can't find what you want? We'll be happy to do a Suggestion for Purchase on your behalf. If the library orders the book, you will be notified and your book will be placed on the hold shelf for easy pick-up.

5. *Young Adult Non-fiction:* The library's Young Adult Nonfiction collection covers a wide variety of topics from crafts, sports and self-help, to mathematics, biographies and fashion. There are also books devoted to opposing viewpoints on controversial topics such as global warming, as well as criticisms on notable authors like Robert Frost.

6. *Chess Club:* The Pinecrest branch hosts a Teen Chess Club on Thursday nights from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Beginners and masters are welcome! Participants may bring their own chess set or use one of ours. We even carry matching timers.

7. *Databases:* Have a paper that requires 15 sources? Don't Google it! We house several dozen reputable sources of information for teens doing research. With an active library card, you have access to our vast selection of databases from anywhere and at anytime! Teens may choose to research biographies from The Biography Resource Center or peruse the Miami Herald or The New York Times article archives. For the budding entrepreneur, we also carry Investext Plus, ReferenceUSA, and the Business and Company Resource Center. There is also the Learning Express Library which contains tools to help you pass the GED or land that perfect job.

8. *Programs, Programs, Programs:* The library currently hosts two ongoing YA programs: Teen Club and Teen Chess Club. Recently, we've held programs devoted to the Bright Futures Scholarship and Stephenie Meyer's Twilight series. Upcoming events include The Tell-All Wall, a program devoted to teens who will be able to share their secrets and experiences via postcards, and it's all anonymous! We will also be playing host to The Duct Tape Diva who will guide teens in creating a useful and funky craft with duct tape. Other programs in the works include a creative writing workshop, gaming tournaments, viral poetry, and a contest centered on the New Moon movie release. Stay tuned!

9. *Graphic Novels Galore:* The Pinecrest branch carries more than 400 graphic novels from both Japanese and American publishers. This particular section is so popular that we strive to keep it filled with the latest in manga and comics.

10. *College and Careers Collection:* The library has an entire collection devoted to study guides and career preparation. We carry materials for a wide variety of exams including the LSAT, GRE, SAT, SAT II, and MCAT. There are also books to help teens build their resumes, create cover letters, or learn about a career that sparks their interest.

Lastly, don't forget, our staff is willing and ready to help guide teens towards productive and creative outlets. Our doors are open and the welcome mat is out. The Pinecrest Branch Library

is one of 47 branches of the Miami-Dade Public Library System. We are located at 5835 Southwest 111 Street, Pinecrest. For more information call (305) 668-4571 or visit [www.mdpls.org](http://www.mdpls.org)

*By Ellen Book, Librarian*

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## Splashing Safely Into Summer

Summer is just around the corner, and our minds are already wandering to lazy days by the pool. When you look around, it seems like you are surrounded by a different body of water in every direction, either by beaches, lakes or backyard pools.

With all of this water around us, we must remember to teach our kids about water safety. Drowning is the number one cause of death for children in Miami-Dade County. Since the beginning of 2007, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue has responded to 199 drownings. The majority of these incidents involved children under 16 years old, and 32 percent of them were children under five years of age.

A drowning can occur at any time in a split second. In Miami-Dade County, the majority of drownings occur between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Within this time range, the peak hours tend to be in the late afternoon from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The peak months for drownings are just around the corner; they are May, June, July, and August. In order to make sure you have a safe summer, remember the following guidelines:

1. Always think of your pool as a potentially dangerous place.
2. Always directly supervise children when they are in a pool or around any body of water. Youngsters can drown in just a few inches of standing water. Bathtubs and large buckets also pose a threat. Most childhood drownings occur without an adult immediately present.
3. Keep a phone at poolside so you don't have to leave the kids to answer the phone and so you can call 9-1-1 immediately in case of an emergency.
4. Never assume that swimming lessons or flotation devices can completely protect a child from drowning. Don't have a false sense of security!
5. Install alarms on all doors that lead into a pool area so you will know if a door to the pool has been opened.
6. Secure long hair to the head, braid it, or cover it with a cap. Long hair can get suctioned into pool vacuum lines.
7. Ensure that all family members learn how to swim and what to do if they see someone in trouble in the water.
8. Have your family members learn CPR. Drowning victims have

a better chance of surviving if they get assistance right away.

9. Know and comply with the Florida and Miami-Dade County statutes for pool fencing and pool safety. Pool fencing has been proven to save children's lives.

*By Cristina Armand, PIO, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department*

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## Community Calendar

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

### **LIBRARY**

*Job Search Assistance*

April 1, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

*Introduction to E-mail*

April 2 and April 16, 2:00 p.m.

*Resume 101*

April 15, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

*Earth Day Mini-Festival*

April 25, 2009, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pinecrest Branch Library - 5835 SW 111 Street

305-668-4571

[Other Programs at the Library](#)

### **VILLAGE MEETINGS**

*Village Council Regular Meeting*

April 14, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway

305-234-2121

[www.pinecrest-fl.gov/agendas.html](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/agendas.html)

*Transportation Advisory Group*

April 29, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway

305-234-2121

[www.pinecrest-fl.gov](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov)

*Education Advisory Council*

May 5, 2009, 9:30 a.m.

Pinecrest Community Center - 5855 SW 111th Street

305-234-2121

[www.pinecrest-fl.gov](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov)

### **OTHER**

*Friends of the Everglades 40th Annual Founders Day*

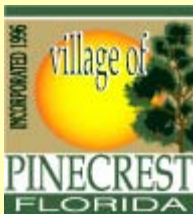
April 4, 2009, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fairchild Tropical Garden - 10901 Old Cutler Road

305-669-0858

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](mailto:communitycalendar@pinecrest-fl.gov). Please include complete event information such as name of organization, date, time, place, and contact information.



Village of Pinecrest  
12645 Pinecrest Parkway, Pinecrest, Florida 33156  
t 305-234-2121  
f 305-234-2131  
[www.pinecrest-fl.gov](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov)

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