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## Meet Your Staff



Angela Gasca is the Assistant to the Village Manager. She has been a member of the Village Staff since July 2002.

Angela has a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and a Master's Degree from FIU. She enjoys reading, running and playing with her two year old son.

Her favorite movies include The Godfather, Grease and Good Will Hunting. She enjoys

## E-News

*May 2009*

### From the desk of Mayor Lerner



#### ***Mayor Lerner and Councilmembers Corradino and Ross visit Tallahassee***

The Village was well represented during the annual Dade Days trip to the legislature by municipal and county officials to lobby for our local issues. We were provided with an update on the Federal stimulus dollars coming to Florida, the eligibility requirements and process to apply for such funding. Councilmembers Joe Corradino and Bob Ross joined me as we visited our Miami-Dade legislative delegation where we requested additional state funding to continue the potable water project to additional parts of the Village. In addition, we continue to build collaborative relationships with other municipalities and county elected leaders. We are hopeful that the investment will be worth our while. I also participated in the Florida League of Cities and League of Mayors meetings. I have been appointed co-chair of the Miami-Dade League of Cities Legislative Committee.



#### ***Education Advisory Council Update***

The work of this council is already bearing fruit. The arts and enrichment subcommittee has identified many new and exciting classes and activities for our youth, and are working with the community center and Parks and Recreation Department. Watch for a jazz band club and a DJ mix class to start this summer, and many other exciting courses for the fall. The Village co-sponsored a Save our Schools forum last month at Palmetto Middle School and invited the school district to inform us of the status of the proposed budget cuts, and how to advocate to sustain the same funding levels as this past year, as we cannot bear more cuts. We have some terrific activists and advocates in

supporting her local teams: Miami Heat; Florida Marlins and Miami Dolphins. Her lucky number is 13.

## Pinecrest Business Association

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

### MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

#### Math Monkey

A math enrichment program for elementary age kids where the child is taught powerful techniques to perform math mentally with speed and accuracy.

[www.mathmonkey.com/pinecrest](http://www.mathmonkey.com/pinecrest)  
[Pinecrest@MathMonkey.com](mailto:Pinecrest@MathMonkey.com)

### Crime Prevention Tips



#### Identity Theft and Fraud

Never give personal information over the telephone (your bank or credit card company will not call you to update personal information). Frequently monitor your bank accounts and credit reports. If you suspect you are the victim of identity theft, contact the Pinecrest Police Department immediately at 305-234-2100.

our PTAs and they are working hard to communicate our concerns to our legislators. You must continue to put the pressure on, especially to our governor. Please make sure to communicate with him that we cannot tolerate anymore cuts to our schools. Our PTA legislative chair is Cheri Ball. She can be contacted at [Cheri\\_Ball@yahoo.com](mailto:Cheri_Ball@yahoo.com) for more information on how to contact our legislators. The Village also partnered with the schools for Earth Day, by planting new trees with the students at Palmetto Middle and Palmetto High schools. We will begin to look at other cities educational compacts and identify the issues and focus for what we would like to develop in our compact with our district. The next committee meeting is Tuesday, May 5th at 9:30 a.m. at the Pinecrest Community Center. All are welcome.

#### **Transportation and Transit Advisory Group Update**

This advisory council has been meeting every month, in order to develop a plan for the Village to reduce our traffic and our carbon footprint, and enhance our traffic corridors. We are also looking at bike paths and sidewalks in some areas of the Village. The Village Council approved a resolution to conduct a feasibility study of the possibility of contracting with Palmetto Bay's circulator system and identify potential routes based on Pinecrest residents' demands for access. Our schools agree that providing a route for students to have transportation, after school, to our parks, library and community center would be very successful, as well as offering transit for students not eligible for school busses to our schools. A survey will be conducted to get feedback from our residents.

#### **Youth Advisory Council**

This Youth Advisory Council is organizing and will officially start in September. I am excited to announce the creation of this group, an opportunity to engage our youth in hands on civics, by helping develop programs; including educational, cultural and community service activities to enrich their lives and our community. I will be working with a small group of youth to meet with me over the summer to help plan for the council. If you have a pre-teen or teen who will be here over the summer and wants to participate in planning and organizing the council, have them send me an e-mail at [mayorlerner@gmail.com](mailto:mayorlerner@gmail.com).

I recently had the pleasure of attending the 4th Grade Living Museum at Palmetto Elementary School and was honored to have had student Isabella Fernandez, of Mrs. Fisher's class, select me as her "famous person" to discuss and make a presentation. Isabella and all of her fellow classmates did a great job. I am looking forward to Isabella's participation on the Youth Advisory Council.



#### **Pinecrest Gardens Update**

The Pinecrest Gardens Advisory Committee met this month. Councilmember Nancy Harter chairs the committee and the members include Karen Mashburn, Germaine Butler, Nat Deleon, Annette Thompson, Paul Sasso, and Susan Randall. The

committee has been charged with developing the educational, cultural and horticultural possibilities in the Garden complex, updating the botanic master plan, developing a volunteer program for the gardens, identifying partnerships with other plant societies, and finally to identify grant and other funding opportunities for these programs. What this will allow is for the committee to reach out to the broader community to identify and recommend ways in which we can develop a true cultural arts complex at the facility. We will of course include the recommendations of the Banyan Bowl Arts Committee to create an open air theatre, and find funds for it, as well as provide art exhibitions. We are planning a very exciting art exhibition and sale entitled Garden Pop for mid September and welcome volunteers. Proceeds will support Pinecrest Gardens. Please contact me at [mayorlerner@gmail.com](mailto:mayorlerner@gmail.com) if you need additional information.

### ***Pinecrest is Going Green***

We are hearing quite a lot lately from our President about energy efficiency programs as economic stimulus and as an environmental principle. It is time the Village of Pinecrest makes a commitment to do our part to protect our planet and focus on reducing carbon emissions, in short to "Go Green." I am excited to announce the creation of the Pinecrest Going Green Advisory Council. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m. at the Pinecrest Community Center and the public is invited to attend and participate.

One of my first official acts as your mayor was to sign the U.S. Conference of Mayors' "Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement" committing that under my administration, the Village would begin to take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and preserve the environment. Since signing the agreement, I have been listening and learning, and looking at how we operate. It is time to engage the community, and I invite you to join us in this effort.

Last week, I attended the City of Miami sponsored "Gateway to Green" conference, where I heard speakers, spoke to vendors and many experts and learned about the Florida Green Building Coalition's local government certification for adopting green practices. I also learned that there are significant federal stimulus dollars and other grants available for cities to implement programs to reduce greenhouse emissions and grants that provide assistance to its residents to implement such practices in their homes. These initiatives will not only protect the environment, they are cost effective measures that will save money.

The Village has already demonstrated leadership over the years in creating a significant tree canopy, for which we recently acquired the "Tree City USA" designation. And Palmetto Senior High is participating in the green schools challenge. But now it is time to look at how we operate, to assure that our buildings, our parks, our staff, and our fleet are energy efficient and our building staff is trained in LEED principles. It is equally important that our residents are empowered to build green community awareness in our schools, our homes and our businesses in order to conserve our resources and promote

healthy living throughout Pinecrest.

So whether you have some knowledge about energy efficiency and green principles, or want to learn, please join our Going Green initiative and help us build a green movement in Pinecrest.

Cindy Lerner  
Mayor

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## Showerhead Exchange Program

*Want a FREE Showerhead and home water conservation kit?*

If your bathroom fixtures have not been upgraded since 1996, the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) will exchange your actual showerhead for a more streamlined, cost-effective "High Efficiency" showerhead as well as provide you with a conservation kit for your home.

Simply come into any one of the three (3) "Exchange Locations" with your actual showerhead and exchange it for a high efficiency model and home conservation kit absolutely FREE!

Caleb Center  
5400 NW 22 Avenue, 1st Floor  
(M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

South Dade Government Center  
10710 SW 211 Street, 1st Floor  
(M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Douglas  
3071 SW 38 Avenue, 1st Floor  
(M-F 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Also available at this year's Adopt-a-Tree Events!

For additional information about this or other water efficiency programs, please call 305-448-SAVE (7283).

Some interesting facts about WASD's high efficiency showerheads:

They use only about 1 ½ gallons of water per minute (1.5 gpm). This represents more than a 50% drop in the amount of water used by most people in the shower.

They are a fashionable white and include built-in massage, on/off valve and a swivel head for user comfort and convenience.

Why go High Efficiency?

After the toilet, the shower is the second heaviest water user in the home, using up to 30 percent of total household water. Having a high efficiency showerhead is a very practical way to reduce water consumption during bathing. It not only reduces your water bill, it reduces your sewer and energy bills as well.

This method of water conservation has a very short payback period, often as short as a few months.

Typical non-conserving showerheads have flow rates of 5 to 8 gallons per minute, meaning that a typical 5-minute shower would send about 25 - 40 gallons of fresh water down the drain and into the sewer. By contrast, the high efficiency showerheads being exchanged by WASD use only 1.5 gallons per minute, or 7½ gallons for a 5-minute shower, reducing water demand by at least 50%.

[www.miamidade.gov](http://www.miamidade.gov)

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## Are you ready?

Ready or not, hurricane season is just a month away; and we need to be prepared.

Since Hurricane Andrew struck South Florida in 1992, I have made sure that every June my family checks its inventory of hurricane supplies to see what we need. Andrew was a surprise at our house but also a hard lesson. We were prepared when the busy 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons rolled around.

When stocking up, you should have enough supplies so that your family is self-sufficient for the first 72 hours after the storm. Below are some tips that will help everyone prepare for this hurricane season:

1. Stock up on non-perishable foods such as canned goods, powdered or single-serve drinks, cereal, and cookies. Always have a manual can opener in your house to open any cans. Have one gallon of water per person per day and half a gallon per pet per day. Each person in your household should have a flashlight, and a battery-operated lantern is useful at night. Also have a battery-operated radio or TV so you can stay informed. Don't forget the extra batteries! Have a first aid kit nearby and have some unscented bleach or water purification tablets. Extra cash is important.
2. Have a way to heat up food. This can be in the form of a portable camp stove or a barbecue grill. It is a good idea to have extra stove fuel, charcoal with lighter fluid, or propane. Also stock up on plastic plates, cups and eating utensils, as well as aluminum foil.
3. Gather personal supplies such as prescription medicines. A one-month supply is recommended. If you wear contact lenses, make sure you have an extra pair along with glasses and plenty of saline solution. Also make sure you have enough personal hygiene products and toilet paper in your home. Have ways to keep your family entertained during and after the storm such as books, magazines, board games, or dominoes.
4. Remember to stock up on diapers for babies. Also make sure you have enough formula, food, medication, and diaper rash cream.

5. Don't forget about your pets! Make sure you stock up on dry or canned food. Look at your pet's identification tag and make sure your contact information is legible. Don't forget to have their carrying container nearby in case of evacuations.

6. Place all of your important documents in a waterproof container. These documents should include insurance and banking information, proof of occupancy such as a driver's license or a recent utility bill for your address, and photo inventory of your belongings.

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

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## Community Calendar

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

### **LIBRARY**

*Scrabble*

Every Saturday, 11:30 a.m.

*Teen Club: Chess*

May 2, 14, 21, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

*Computer Basics*

May 4 and 11, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

*Resume 101*

May 6, 14 and 27, 2:00 p.m.

*Introduction to E-mail*

May 7, 20, 28, 2:00 p.m.

*Parrot Jungle Poets*

May 11, 1:00 p.m.

*Miami Poets present A Poetry Soiree*

May 21, 7:00 p.m.

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

[Other Programs at the Library](#)

### **VILLAGE MEETINGS**

*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)

*Going Green Advisory Council*

May 5, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Pinecrest Community Center - 5855 SW 111th Street  
305-234-2121

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

*Village Council Regular Meeting*  
May 12, 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)

*Pinecrest Gardens Advisory Committee*  
May 18, 2009, 7:00 p.m.  
Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway  
305-234-2121  
[www.pinecrest-fl.gov](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov)

### **OTHER**

*7th Annual Wine Tasting sponsored by the PBA*  
May 8, 2009, 6:30 p.m.  
Palmetto Bay Village Center  
305-666-2511 X314

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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