

## VILLAGE OF PINECREST



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### Meet Your Staff



Sabrina Aguilar is the Police Department's Dispatch Supervisor. Ms. Aguilar joined the Village staff in June of 2003 as a dispatcher and was promoted to Dispatch Supervisor in March of 2008. Ms. Aguilar is presently attending Florida International University where she is working on two Bachelor degrees, one in Psychology and the other in International Relations. Ms. Aguilar enjoys reading and

## E-News

June 2009

### From the desk of Mayor Lerner



The **Going Green Advisory Council** met in May and the turnout was large and enthusiastic. We heard from Commissioner Katy Sorenson about the Greening programs around the county, from Palmetto Senior High School's environmental science teacher Pam Schlachman, who has been a leader in the Green Schools challenge program since it began several years ago, and from other experts in the field. The consensus was that the Village should immediately develop programs to recycle and to identify buildings and operations that could become more energy efficient, thus saving the taxpayers money and reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the same time. Residents also want to learn how to make their homes and our schools and local businesses more energy efficient, so we will include an awareness and education component to our plans. Assistant Village Manager Yocie Galiano Gomez will be the point person for the Village, and will organize subcommittees to develop projects and a Green plan for Pinecrest. We are also researching various state and federal grants to apply for funding for these projects. Please join us at the next Going Green meeting on June 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Pinecrest Community Center. We will have a speaker on the residential programs that are available. Yocie can be contacted at 305-234-2121.

**Community Center Programs and Classes** - The summer schedule is out, and all residents have been mailed the Hibiscus Herald with information on classes, programs and summer camp schedules and costs. Included in the pamphlet is a survey that we ask you to complete. This is your chance to let us know what you would like to see offered at the Pinecrest Community Center. There are several new offerings for this summer for teens, as a result of input from our Education Advisory Council, such as an after school jazz band and a DJ Mixing 101. For more information, call 305-284-0900.

We also have signed the contract with Ken Ballard, a nationally renowned recreational consultant. He will be conducting an operational audit of the center's programs and the functionality of

writing and loves going on road trips.

Pinecrest Business Association

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

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

All-Gentle Chiropractic

Along with traditional chiropractic, X-rays, massage, nutrition, and physical therapy, Dr. Gentle is now certified in sedation chiropractic.

[www.chiropractormiami.com](http://www.chiropractormiami.com)  
[gentlejune@aol.com](mailto:gentlejune@aol.com)

Crime Prevention Tips



ATM Safety

1. Find a well lit and highly active ATM that is close to a main street. You might have to wait in line but more people means extra security.
2. At night, try to have someone with you to watch for potential danger. If you are alone and have to use the ATM, drive around the premises first to check for vehicles or person(s) lingering before getting out of your car.
3. Have your card

the building, and make recommendations on how we can improve. If you would like to be involved in this review, please contact me at [mayorlerner@gmail.com](mailto:mayorlerner@gmail.com).

**Education Advisory Council Update** - The budgets for our public schools will be set in July and allocations for classrooms and teachers will be based on how many students have registered for the schools in the fall. Don't wait; register your children for school now. The Council is looking into expanding tutoring and creating an after school study hall program. If you have any ideas, please join us at the last Education Advisory Council meeting until the fall. It will be on Tuesday June 2nd at 9:30 a.m. at the Pinecrest Community Center.

**Summer Youth Employment** - The Village of Pinecrest will be benefiting from the federal stimulus package providing youth employment for the summer. The program is being administered by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and we have positions available in many departments. However the Village does not conduct the screening or hiring, it will be done through the schools and Workforce Florida. For more information about the program or to apply, please visit <http://www.southfloridaworkforce.com/w/youthSummer09.html>.

**Youth Advisory Council Will Start in the Fall** - I am so excited about this newest outreach effort. It's to our youth and I must say, they are equally excited about the possibilities. As I have traveled throughout the Village, speaking at various schools, at career day or the induction for national honor society, or honoring our newest Eagle Scouts, I have been advertising the fact that we will be starting a youth advisory council. And after every one of these events, I hear from a few students that they like the idea and want to be sure I will get them involved. Not being one to ignore an opportunity, I invited about a dozen of these students to sit down over pizza and discuss possible topics to include as we plan for the fall. We had a fabulous discussion and have so many ideas, from developing programming for our own radio station, to creating a dog park in Pinecrest, to bringing back the Pinecrest parades, they are good to go! We will certainly need some adult volunteers to help us move these ideas into action, so if you are interested in joining us, please contact me at [mayorlerner@gmail.com](mailto:mayorlerner@gmail.com).

**Mentor Miami** - Juiceblendz, Pinecrest's very own smoothie shop, recently took part in the Mentor Miami event at Pinecrest Gardens. They provided fresh, healthy smoothies to the participants and to the inspirational speakers on the day of activities. Juiceblendz also helped teach the kids about nutrition and maintaining a healthy lifestyle in the local elementary school class parties in conjunction with the American Heart Association this past school year. Thanks go out to the community for its support of Juiceblendz. The Pinecrest Juiceblendz is located in the Suniland Shopping Center at 11401 South Dixie Highway.



**Pinecrest Pioneers to Celebrate Milestone Birthdays** - There is something about the water in the Village - it surely must

ready in hand and make your transaction as quickly as possible.

4. Account inquiries should be done in person, by phone or on line. Not at the ATM.

Always stay alert and aware of your surroundings. This will help minimize your chances of becoming a victim at the ATM.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

spring from the Fountain of Youth, as we recently identified that we have over 110 residents living here who are 90 years young or older! In fact we have four residents having milestone birthdays this month, so we are throwing them a party! We also hope to record their oral histories and add them to our collection of recorded histories about our community. We are fortunate to be able to collect their wisdom, biographies, as well as the history of our surroundings. If you would like to be involved please contact me at [mayorlerner@gmail.com](mailto:mayorlerner@gmail.com).

**Hurricane Season Begins June 1-Be Prepared!** - By planning ahead, you and your family can stay safe and secure. The Village of Pinecrest is preparing a web page with resources, services and emergency information. Miami-Dade County and local media outlets have provided residents with all they need to know to be storm ready. You should have received a hurricane guide in the mail from the county last week, the web site for the county is [www.miamidadegov/hurricane](http://www.miamidadegov/hurricane) or you can call 311 for further information. You can also find information from [www.Floridadisaster.org](http://www.Floridadisaster.org) and one for your children to participate in interactive learning about storms and preparation at [www.kidsgetaplan.com](http://www.kidsgetaplan.com).

The Village of Pinecrest is a caring community, and if you know of an elderly neighbor who may need some help in preparing for the upcoming hurricane season, I have located a useful program that the Village staff will be looking into called Create the Good. The following information is listed on the website of Florida's chief financial officer, Alex Sink. Operation Hurricane Prepare ([www.aarp.org/hurricaneprepare](http://www.aarp.org/hurricaneprepare)) begins with a web site created within the Create the Good initiative targeted to AARP members and Americans of all generations living along the Gulf and South Atlantic Coasts. Online resources at the site offer step-by-step instructions in English and Spanish to help coastal residents prepare for hurricane season. AARP is also reaching out to nearly 8,000 neighborhood and community associations, local government organizations, disaster-preparedness officials and others to share information about Create the Good/Operation Hurricane Prepare. AARP also is publicizing the initiative through AARP Bulletin, which reaches about 2.3 million AARP members in Florida alone, plus outreach to AARP members in other Gulf and South Atlantic states. Every Florida legislator will receive information on the initiative, as will local governments, business groups and other organizations. Later in 2009, AARP plans additional national efforts to promote the Create the Good initiative. "Florida's elders have always been resilient, but sometimes they can use a helping hand. It's critical that as good neighbors, we assist those who might not be able to prepare for a disaster. We must all be ready to help our neighbors and ourselves, if and when that time comes," said Elder Affairs Secretary Beach. Beach noted that AARP's initiative augments the department's Disaster Preparedness Guide for Elders, a 24-page tabloid publication containing numerous tips to help seniors prepare for and respond to a wide range of emergencies. Some 240,000 copies of the guide were distributed this month, and it is also available online at <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/english/disasterguide/2009.pdf>. Whether coastal residents have five minutes, five hours or longer, Create the Good/Operation Hurricane Prepare offers ways to engage:

Get involved individually. At [www.aarp.org/hurricaneprep](http://www.aarp.org/hurricaneprep), viewers will find step-by-step instructions to help friends, neighbors, loved ones or others in their communities prepare. The same materials can help Floridians improve their own preparedness, as well.

*Lead a group activity.* At [www.aarp.org/hurricaneprep](http://www.aarp.org/hurricaneprep), viewers will find ideas for organizing group functions that you and your neighbors can do together.

*Post an opportunity to give back.* If someone in your neighborhood or community would like to connect with fellow Floridians interested in giving back, AARP can help. Go to [www.createthegood.org](http://www.createthegood.org) and look for "Post an Opportunity." Submit your organization's opportunity - that's all you have to do. It's free, quick and easy.

"This initiative has real potential to have an impact," Parham noted. "In Virginia, an initiative focused on winter home weatherization in 2008 engaged 20,000 people and made a significant difference in the lives of many more." In Florida, Operation Hurricane Prepare will be the first Create the Good initiative, but the Association will continue to promote the resource for a broad range of community-engagement initiatives, Parham noted.

**WARNING** - The recent brutal killing of beloved pet cats in Cutler Bay and Palmetto Bay is horrifying and frightening. More than 20 cats have been killed in brutal fashion, and discovered by their owners in the past few weeks. Our sister cities and the county have created a task force to catch the perpetrator. It would be prudent for all cat owners in Pinecrest to make sure their cats are kept indoors and secure until this dangerous killer is caught and taken off the streets. The following message was sent to me by Palmetto Bay Mayor Eugene Flinn:

*Investigators for both Palmetto Bay and Cutler Bay continue to work together to solve the cat killings.*

*Reward for information in the Cat Mutilations increased to \$3,500.00.*

*MDPD/County Animal Services will prosecute Animal Cruelty:*

*Humane Society USA initially offered \$2,500.00. The reward is now up to \$3,500.00 through Crime Stoppers and the Humane Society of the United States.*

*Anyone who would like to donate to increase the reward can do so by contacting Miami-Dade Crime Stoppers  
Attn: Maureen (305-471-6160)  
1030 NW 111 Ave.  
Miami, FL 33172*

*Please write "Donation-Cats" on your check. If you are able to send \$500 or more, please call Maureen at 305 471-6160 for the necessary forms. Your donation is tax deductible.*

*Keep an eye out and report any suspicious activity.*

*Anyone who witnesses or has information regarding an incident of animal cruelty is urged to call the police at 305-4-POLICE (305 476-5423). Please call the police immediately and do not dispose of any evidence.*

Animal cruelty is a serious offense wherever it occurs and will be prosecuted.

**DID YOU KNOW?** - Motorized scooters are illegal to ride on our sidewalks. State law forbids it. Florida Statutes 316.1995 -- Driving upon sidewalk or bicycle path-- No person shall drive any vehicle other than by human power upon a bicycle path, sidewalk, or sidewalk area, except upon a permanent or duly authorized temporary driveway. A violation of this section is a non-criminal traffic infraction, punishable as a moving violation as provided.

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing summer.

Cindy Lerner  
Mayor

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## Financial Series at the Library

The crumbling economy affects us all. Unemployment, foreclosures, and bankruptcies are the bad news buzz words. According to the Labor Market Statistics, Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February 2009 is 9.4 percent. One out of three people today is affected by home foreclosures.

Looking on [www.realtytrac.com](http://www.realtytrac.com), using the Zip Code 33156, there were 379 properties listed in "pre-foreclosure default" status on April 22, 2009. For Miami-Dade County, there were 21,592 properties listed in this status.

The very idea of possibly becoming homeless makes a person feel vulnerable and afraid. Understanding the process behind rental vouchers, mortgages, foreclosure lists and apartment searches is critical. Prospective homeowners can avoid trouble later on by making informed decisions when purchasing a home. Borrowers are better able to keep their homes if they understand their mortgage options and how much they can really afford. Education also helps buyers identify and avoid dishonest sellers or lenders.

Now is the time to lean on your local libraries. The Miami-Dade Public Library System is stepping in to provide help and answers. On Saturdays, June 13 and 27, July 11 and 25, and August 15, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., the Pinecrest Branch Library will host workshops to assist people who are facing foreclosure, bankruptcy, debt, or job loss. There will be professionals on hand to answer questions about taxes, stimulus checks, credit scores, credit reports and many other personal and financial issues.

The sessions will be headed by Dr. Roselyn Smith, a licensed clinical psychologist, stress management specialist and whole life coach, with the ultimate goal of educating patrons about how to correct financial missteps and how to recover from financial

difficulties while managing finance-related stress.

On **June 13**, the topic will be "Keeping Apprised of Current Work Opportunities that Exist - Even in a Down Economy," with Dr. Roselyn Smith and Concepcion Tuma, human resource professional, as the panelists.

The **June 27**, topic will cover "Strategies for Accessing Health and other Needed Services on a Limited Budget," with Dr. Roselyn Smith and Carlos Franco from United Way's Consumer Credit Counseling.

**July 11**, topics will be "Strategies for Managing Debt, Talking to Your Credit Card Companies," "Putting Together a Workable Budget," "How Foreclosure Affects your Taxes," and "How can you be helped by the Federal Government's Stimulus Plan," with Dr. Roselyn Smith, Marc Williams - Affordable Housing Home Financing Center, and David Jacobs, C.P.A.

The **July 25** session will take on a much lighter note with the topics "Make a Great First Impression - Low Cost Dressing for Success when you are Job Searching" featuring Dr. Roselyn Smith, Joanna Barusch from Second Showing Consignment, Carmen Docurro, make-up artist and Joan Harris form Harris Career Coaching, who will show you how to "wow" an interview panel.

On **August 15**, the discussion will center around "Thinking Clearly when Exploring the Difficult Options - Loan Restructuring, Foreclosures, Reverse Mortgages," and "Going Through Bankruptcy Without Going Through Depression," with Dr. Roselyn Smith, Brett Trembly, attorney-at-law, Marc Williams from Affordable Housing, Home Financing Center, Danielle Blake, vice president of government affairs, Realtor Association of Greater Miami and the Beaches, Carlos Franco from United Way's Consumer Credit Counseling, and Doreen Reitnauer, retired vice president of Colonial Bank's Commercial Lending Department.

Each program will offer insight into regaining your financial health. You will learn how to stave off foreclosure, find housing alternatives, interpret your credit report, improve your credit score, and how to attain credit during the credit crunch. There will also be job counseling and interview advice.

Without comprehensive business training, most people would not know where to start looking for information on some of the issues they are facing. When you cannot afford a financial advisor, be sure to check out your public library - it's free! Some of the most popular book titles today are Rich Dad, Poor Dad, Think and Grow Rich, and Suze Orman's 2009 Action Plan. The library offers plenty of resources to help you protect your assets.

For more information about the Pinecrest Branch Library's Financial Assistance Series or other Miami-Dade County Public Library programs, visit [www.mdpls.org](http://www.mdpls.org) or call 305-668-4571.

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## Tips for a sizzling safe summer meal

The official start of summer may still be a month away, but in South Florida, the temperate climate lets us enjoy summer weather year-round. One of the highlights of summer is gathering on a weekend afternoon for a barbecue.

Even though we enjoy outdoor cooking year-round in the "Sunshine State," there are still some common hazards we must consider when using a barbecue grill. Here are some precautions to help keep your grilling safe:

**For all type of grills:**

NEVER grill indoors or in an enclosed area. This may seem obvious, but an average of about 20 deaths per year occur as a result of indoor grilling.

Make sure you use a level, stable surface, away from high-traffic areas and away from children and pets.

Always grill in a well-lit, well-ventilated area, at least 10 feet away from combustible construction, including siding material and the eaves.

Avoid grilling in covered porches or patios especially if the covering is wood, canvas or other flammable material. Hot air and flames rise, so nothing combustible should be located directly above the grill.

Keep a fire extinguisher nearby in case of fire.

**For gas grills:**

Periodically inspect your grill. Check hoses for cracks, holes and leaks. Check burners for obstructions, and make sure the igniter is working.

If your igniter does not successfully light your grill on the first attempt, shut it off and wait for the gas to clear before trying again.

Always keep propane gas containers upright, and do not store spare gas containers under or near the grill.

NEVER keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.

**For charcoal grills:**

Charcoal grills produce Carbon Monoxide (CO), which is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate to fatally toxic levels in enclosed areas.

Always use charcoal grills in extremely well-ventilated areas, and NEVER use a charcoal or hibachi-type grill inside a house, tent or vehicle, even if ventilation is provided.

Freshly used coals will continue to produce CO after the fire is extinguished, so leave the coals and grill outside until the coals are cool to the touch before bringing inside for storage.

Next time you fire up the grill, remember to never leave it unattended. By keeping watch on the grill you will avoid a potentially dangerous situation and enjoy a delicious meal.

## Community Calendar

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

### **LIBRARY**

#### COMPUTER BASICS

Monday, June 01, 2009

10:00 a.m. ADULT

Basic computer instruction.

#### PUPPETRY ARTS & CRAFTS BASICS

Mondays, June 01, 15, 29, 2009

3:00 p.m. CHILDREN

Learn a new puppetry art each session.

#### ROUND ROBIN READ AND STORY SLAM

Tuesdays, June 02 - 30, 2009

3:30 p.m. CHILDREN

Join us as we share our favorite short stories and poems.

#### "The Good Read" BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday, June 03, 2009

7:00 p.m. ADULT

#### TODDLER STORYTIME

Fridays, June 05 - 26, 2009

10:00 a.m. TODDLERS

Stories, songs and activities for toddlers and care givers.

#### WORD WIZARD SCRABBLE CHALLENGE

Saturdays, June 06 - 27, 2009

11:00 a.m. ALL AGES

Test your spelling and vocabulary skills by playing others.

#### TEEN CLUB: CHESS

Saturdays, June 06 - 27, 2009

10:30 a.m. TEEN

Sharpen your chess skills by playing others.

#### INTRODUCTION TO E-MAIL

Monday, June 08, 15, 2009

10:00 a.m. ADULT

Instructions for setting up a free e-mail account and receiving/sending mail.

#### PARROT JUNGLE POETS

Monday, June 08, 2009

1:00 p.m. ADULT

Published author JNITA WRIGHT and program participants share and critique their poetic works.

#### JUNIOR BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

3:30 p.m. CHILDREN

Children ages 8-12 years will discuss their favorite books.

ATACAMA TRAILS: BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION IN DESERT

Thursday, June 11, 2009

7:30 p.m. ADULT

DONNA TORRES will talk about her project teaching the indigenous community of San Pedro de Atacama, Chile, how to document medicinal plants.

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATIONS WITH SILVIA BOTA

Saturday, June 13, 2009

10:00 a.m. ADULT

Silvia Bota will demonstrate her skills in preparing a botanical plate from a live specimen.

DOWNTURN OR NEW HORIZON?

Saturday, June 13, 2009

2:00 p.m. ADULT

A panel discussion to keep you apprised of current work opportunities that exist even in a down economy. Panel includes: Dr. Roselyn Smith, licensed clinical psychologist; Concepcion Tuma, human resources professional and Carlos Franco, Consumer Credit Counseling Service.

CREATIVE CRAFTS

Wednesdays, June 17-24, 2009

3:00 p.m. CHILDREN

Eco-friendly crafts for summer time fun.

TALES OF THE FAR EAST BOOK CLUB

Thursday, June 18, 2009

7:00 p.m. ADULT

Old and new tales of the Far East to be discussed.

MIAMI POETS PRESENT A POETRY SOIREE

Thursday, June 18, 2009

7:00 p.m. ADULT

Join us for an evening of poetry.

DRAWING PLANTS FOR BEGINNERS

Saturday, June 20, 2009

10:00 a.m. FAMILY

This workshop will teach parents and children ages 8 years and up the basics of botanical illustration.

INTERNET BASICS

Monday, June 22, 2009

10:00 a.m. ADULT

Introduction to the history of the Internet, what's needed to get online and guided simple searches using a web browser. Please call branch to register, seating is limited.

PAWS 2 READ

Saturday, June 27, 2009

10:30 a.m. CHILDREN

Certified therapy dogs listen as children practice their reading skills.

ACCESSING HEALTH & SERVICES W/ LIMITED FUNDS

Saturday, June 27, 2009

2:00 p.m. ADULT

Strategies for accessing health and other needed services on a limited budget.

**JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE**

Monday, June 29, 2009

10:00 a.m. ADULT

Use the Internet to search for job opportunities.

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

[Other Programs at the Library](#)

**VILLAGE MEETINGS**

*Education Advisory Council*

June 2, 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*

June 2, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

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

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

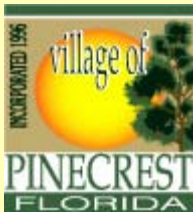
*Village Council Regular Meeting*

June 9, 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)

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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