

VILLAGE OF PINECREST



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Meet Your Staff



Ida Mesa is a Code Compliance Officer with the Building and Planning Department. She joined the Village staff in May 1997 and holds the highest level of certification from the Florida Association of Code Enforcement. She takes pleasure in the time she spends with her family and enjoys biking with her husband.

Pinecrest

E-News

July 2009

From the desk of Mayor Lerner



It is time for a Dog Park in Pinecrest - The Village of Pinecrest prides itself on the quality of life we enjoy, enhanced by the semi-rural nature and the wonderful amenities that allow for our residents to enjoy life, with wonderful parks and recreation available for all. That is, all except our dog owners. Let me say right up front, as a disclaimer, my husband is a veterinarian, so we have been an extremely dog friendly family for thirty-three years.

When I first read the Village of Pinecrest Parks and Recreation regulations, I was surprised to learn that we do not permit our residents to bring their four legged best friends onto a single park in the Village. We have relegated our residents with dogs to walking along our streets, with little opportunity to socialize and meet other dog owners. Dog parks are the fastest growing amenity being created by parks and recreation departments all across the country, and it is high time we provided one in Pinecrest. Certainly we should be planning for the acquisition of additional park space in the future, but until we are able to purchase additional land, I believe that it will be necessary to identify a portion of current park space for the enjoyment of our dog owners.

Last month I placed the item on the Council agenda, proposing a resolution to turn the Veterans Wayside Park on US 1 and SW 112th street, or a portion thereof, into a dog park, as our neighbor to our south, Palmetto Bay, has done with their Wayside Park. All it would take is some fencing, benches and water. There are already plenty of parking spaces. That park is a wonderful setting for residents to peacefully enjoy the lake, and landscape, but sadly, they never do. We can create an environment fairly cheaply and quickly where we can congregate, socialize and allow dogs to run and play. It has been underutilized for years, and it is the perfect space to turn into the next great environment for our dog owners to enjoy.

Several residents spoke on the issue at the Council meeting,

Business Association

www.pinecrestbusiness.com

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

**Weathermakers
Air Conditioning
Contractors, Inc.**

305-233-5820

www.weathermakers.net

Crime Prevention Tips



Watch Orders

As many of you make plans for summer vacation, the Pinecrest Police Department wants you know about the Watch Order program.

Daily, officers get a list of watch orders. As time allows during their shift, patrol officers go by the addresses on the watch order list and look to make sure things are in order. If you plan to be away for any length of time this summer, please call the department and have your address put on the list. We invite you to take advantage of this service.

The Police Department can be reached at (305) 234-2100.

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including young Max Lucas, a Palmetto Middle School student, who had done some research and had a list of eighteen recommendations. This will also be a great project for our Youth Advisory Council to participate in. The Village Council chose to review all of the Village's park sites, and approved a resolution to have a consultant recommend the site, design and costs associated with the redesign of a portion of one of our current parks. If you have ideas or suggestions, let me hear from you, at mayorlerner@gmail.com.

Celebrate July 4th at Black Point Park - Looking for a neighborhood fireworks celebration? The Village of Pinecrest is a sponsor of the 6th annual Community Fireworks display at Black Point Marina located at 24775 Southwest 87 Avenue. We have joined our neighbors, the Village of Palmetto Bay and and Town of Cutler Bay, as well as County Commissioner Katy Sorenson, in supporting this south Miami-Dade event. The festivities kick off at 6:00 p.m. with a cocktail hour (cash bar) and live entertainment. At 7:00 p.m. there will be an old fashioned barbeque, and the fireworks start promptly at 9:00 p.m. This event was started by the Perrine Baseball and Softball Association and proceeds go to support their 501(c)(3) association. Unless and until the Village of Pinecrest begins its own July 4th celebration in the future, this is a great opportunity to enjoy the holiday with our South Dade neighbors.

I did receive this week a letter from one of our younger residents, ten year old Kyla Valls. She wrote to say she thought we should have a July 4th celebration at Flagler Grove Park and suggested we invite families to bring blankets, picnics and buy hotdogs and ice cream, then to have a fireworks show. Thank you Kyla for your recommendation. If you think we should plan a Pinecrest July 4th celebration for next year, let me hear from you, at mayorlerner@gmail.com. We will put Kyla on the committee.

Budget Workshops-Let Us Know Your Priorities - The opportunity for residents to participate in the budgeting process is approaching. The month of July is when the Village Council is presented with the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year, which begins on October 1st. At the Village Council meeting on July 14th, we will hear the proposals from the Village Manager and have to set a proposed millage rate in order for the property appraiser to mail notices in August. As you know, the economy has impacted all of us, and the Village is no exception. According to the property appraiser, our assessed valuation has reduced by 7.1%, causing us a reduction in revenue of approximately \$1 million expected for the coming year.

We will set a schedule for workshops to be held in July, a daytime one and an evening one. These workshops will be an opportunity for the Village Manager to walk us through the proposed budget and an opportunity for the Council and residents to ask questions and discuss priorities.

Florida Statutes (200.065 and 200.185) have established a process that municipalities in Florida must follow to formally review, amend and then adopt a tentative budget and proposed millage rate. They must hold two public hearings (in September) for adoption of an annual budget, and the levy and

establishment of the millage rate for ad valorem taxes.

You should remember that the Village of Pinecrest is only one of several governmental bodies that assess property taxes, and indeed one of the smallest components. Out of every dollar paid in property taxes, approximately 11 cents goes to Pinecrest. More goes to the county, the school board, and fire rescue and libraries. We do not have any control over whether they raise or lower their assessments, only over the Pinecrest millage rate, which is currently set at 1.95%. The Village's rate of 1.95 represents approximately 11 cents of every dollar paid in property taxes. The County's rate of 4.8646 (not including Fire Rescue or Library) and the School Board's rate of 7.948 collectively represent approximately 69 cents.

Pinecrest Crime Watch Areas - We are pleased to report that crime is down in Pinecrest. You can monitor our crime reports by reviewing the weekly reports on our web site. However, we also know that there is usually a spike in crime when the economy turns down. In fact, there was a bank robbery in Pinecrest, on Southwest 117th Street and US 1, on June 23rd. We continue to urge our residents and businesses to remain alert and vigilant. Keep your cars empty of valuables whenever you leave the car parked, even in your front yard and keep the doors locked at all times. Keep your garage doors closed. And always pay attention to your surroundings. If you and your neighbors are interested in learning about setting up a crime watch neighborhood, please contact our Pinecrest Police Crime Prevention Officer, Alexandria Martinez, at 305-234-2100.

Water Restrictions Continue - I have heard from several residents who received citations for watering in violation of the Miami-Dade County water use restrictions. Please be aware that there continue to be restrictions, even though we have had an abundance of rain this month. There has been ample notice and warning for months, by all forms of media to alert residents throughout the county of the need to restrict and to conserve. You should consider cutting off your sprinkler timers this time of year, as the rain keeps our lawns more than sufficiently watered. The [Village's web site](#) has the schedule of permissible watering times and other useful information. If you have received a civil violation notice and want to appeal, you may request an administrative hearing before a hearing officer within fourteen days, or you must pay the fine of \$75.00 within the fourteen days of receiving the notice.

Pinecrest Pioneers Project Gets Additional Support -We are now reaching out to our Pinecrest Pioneers and are looking for volunteers. I have identified over 110 residents who are 90 years young or older who have lived here for decades. In addition to surveying their needs, we want to provide community support when needed. For some seniors, it may be they would like some assistance when preparing for a hurricane, for others, they may want help in maintaining their yard, home repairs, marketing, or even helping find home healthcare. I am so happy to now have the commitment of our newest non-profit organization, Community Foundation of Pinecrest (www.cfofp.org). The Community Foundation of Pinecrest has recognized the importance of bringing the community together to support our long time residents. They have adopted a new

project and are looking for residents and businesses to participate. For more information, please contact Jennifer Wollman at 305-776-2792.

Youth Advisory Council-Planning for the Coming Year - Teen activities have already begun at the library; Chess club, Creative writing, Twilight craft, and jewelry making are all happening over the summer. The Youth Advisory Council will be an opportunity for youth to help guide the programming at our parks, community center and even participate in our Going Green initiatives and transportation planning. They will help program our radio station, 1590 AM, with youth oriented information, creative poetry, music, and commentary. We hope to provide opportunities for intergenerational activities, and teach our youth in collecting oral histories about the lifestyles of the 1940s when some of our oldest residents settled in what is now Pinecrest, to learn more about the beginning of our community. We will host the first Youth Advisory Council meeting once school begins in the fall. If your teen is interested, have them send me an e-mail at mayorlerner@gmail.com.

Going Green Advisory Council - The Going Green Advisory Council has been organized into workgroups with specific projects they will be researching and working on. If you are interested in getting involved, please join us at the next meeting, on July 7th at 7:00 p.m., at the community center. We have identified recycling, energy conservation, education and awareness, Eco-mobility, and waste and water conservation projects to start to work on. These work groups will get together on their own and bring back information to the council. If you have suggestions, please contact me at mayorlerner@gmail.com.

Clarification - Last month's E-news cited a Florida law (Section 316.1995) which outlaws motorized scooters on sidewalks. The law does not preclude using "electric personal assistive mobility devices" i.e. Segways, from travel on our sidewalks. I learned quickly from two of Pinecrest's Segway aficionados that their mode of transport is allowed on sidewalks, as these devices are not considered "vehicles" under that section of the law. So if you see Al or Charles coming your way on a Pinecrest sidewalk, wave to them and move over!

Cindy Lerner
Mayor

Beat the Heat!

The longest day of the year may be behind us, but summer has officially just begun; and in Miami, it is just starting to heat up. We are fortunate enough to live in a city that enjoys a warm climate year round, but summer days can become insufferable.

Fortunately, the body has its own built-in way to keep cool. Heat escapes the body by perspiration through the skin. If the body does not cool properly or enough, a heat-related illness can occur, and it can become serious or even deadly if not treated quickly. Those most at risk are the elderly and children under the

age of five.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue wants everyone to enjoy a safe summer by remembering the following tips:

- **Stay Hydrated!** Drink plenty of cool fluids throughout the day, but avoid those that contain caffeine, alcohol or high sugar content since they actually contribute to dehydration and make a heat-related illness worse.

- **Keep Cool.** Stay indoors in an air-conditioned place and limit your outdoor activities to the early morning or evening hours, avoiding the mid-day sun.

- **Dress for Success.** Dress for the heat by wearing lightweight, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy. Wearing a hat or using an umbrella can also help.

- **Don't Sweat It.** If you must exercise, drink two to four glasses of cool, nonalcoholic fluids each hour. A sports drink can replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat. Also try to exercise in the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning.

- **Pamper your Pets.** Don't forget your animals. Keep them in an air-conditioned area if possible and provide plenty of fresh water.

- **Can the Car.** Never leave anyone alone in a closed, parked vehicle. It takes only 10 minutes for the temperature to rise 19 degrees in a hot car. In 20 minutes, it rises 29 degrees.

On average, heat waves kill more people in the US than all other natural disasters combined. Heat-related illnesses usually progress in stages, so if you catch it at an early stage, you should be able to prevent the development of a life-threatening situation.

Victims of heat-related illness should be moved to a cool place and given cool water to drink. Ice packs or cool damp cloths should be applied to the skin. If the person refuses water, vomits or loses consciousness, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Remember that in order to stay safe and healthy throughout the South Florida summer, you should beat the heat by staying hydrated and trying to plan outdoor activities during early morning or late afternoon hours.

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

Save Energy

Most people don't think about the cost of leaving a computer on overnight, but all the power wasted while computers are sitting idle overnight adds up, and one study has finally tried to measure it. The tally - an estimated \$2.8 billion wasted on excess energy costs each year in the U.S. alone. On a CO2

basis, that's 20 million tons of carbon dioxide, about the amount produced by 4 million cars on the road. The full report is available for download at www.1e.com/energycampaign/index.aspx.

Community Calendar

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

LIBRARY

Botanical Illustrations - A Cuban Perspective
Thursday, July 2, 2009
7:30 p.m.

Resume 101
Monday, July 13, 2009
10:00 a.m.

Miami Poets
Thursday, July 16, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Drawing Native Plants and Butterflies
Saturday, July 18, 2009
10:00 a.m.

Creative Crafts
Wednesday, July 22, 2009
3:00 p.m.

Toddler Story Time
Friday, July 24, 2009
10:00 a.m.

Teen Club: Chess
Saturday, July 25, 2009
10:30 a.m.

Scrabble Challenge
Saturday, July 25, 2009
11:00 a.m.

[Click for additional information and other programs](#)

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

VILLAGE MEETINGS

Pinecrest Gardens Advisory Committee
July 6, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Community Center - 5855 SW 111th Street

Going Green Advisory Council
July 7, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Pinecrest Community Center - 5855 SW 111th Street

Village Council - Committee of the Whole

July 9, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway

www.pinecrest-fl.gov/agendas.html

Village Council Regular Meeting

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

Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway

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



Village of Pinecrest
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www.pinecrest-fl.gov

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