

VILLAGE OF PINECREST



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Meet Your Staff



Wayne Myers is the Park Manager of Pinecrest Gardens. Wayne joined the Village staff in December 2002. He was previously employed by Parrot Jungle prior to the Village's purchase of the property. In his spare time, Wayne enjoys traveling. Wayne is also a freelance writer and has had essays published in

E-News

August 2009

From the desk of Mayor Lerner



Village Budget workshops scheduled for August 5th at 9:00 a.m. and August 6th at 7:00 p.m.

The Village Council will be conducting public workshops on the 2009-2010 Village budget during the first week of August. Florida law requires municipalities to set their millage in July and hold final budget hearings to approve the budget in September. In between is when you can, and should, participate in the budgeting process. Of course those residents who leave town for the summer will not be present to attend the workshops, but you can review the [proposed budget](#) on the Village's website, and certainly send us your comments via e-mail, or call us, and you can also tune in via the Internet from anywhere in the world, now that we have live video streaming of all Village Council meetings.

The budget should set policy priorities for the level of municipal services you demand for your tax dollars at work, and these workshops are your opportunity to tell the Council what you want in service and oversight of municipal functions.

The Village has been affected just like every other city and the county government by the economic downturn as well as reduction in property values. As we all know, we are in the midst of the worst recession in half a century. Unemployment is up to 10.6% in Miami-Dade County. The property values are down in the Village by 7% after we factor in the few new construction starts. Our building permits are off more than 25%. The gross taxable value of properties in the Village decreased 7.2% in the past year, thus we have a reduction in revenue of \$1 million for the coming budget year, and have had to make some reductions as a result. The manager has recommended using one million of the general fund reserves of \$8,066,458 to balance the 2009-

the Palm Beach Post
and Seminole Tribune.

Pinecrest Business Association

www.pinecrestbusiness.com

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Citibank

305-235-2967

[Information](#)

Police Tips



Special Needs Program

Do you know someone who is a shut-in or lives alone and/or has a disabling medical condition? The Pinecrest Police Department participates in a Miami-Dade County program that maintains a list of persons with special needs which is especially important during sustained power outages or evacuations during a disaster or impending hurricane.

Program requirements and applications can be obtained by calling 305-513-7700 or by [clicking on this link](#).

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2010 operating budget in order to maintain service levels of police, public works and parks and recreation. That leaves a reserve balance of \$6,959,558.

At the beginning of this calendar year, it was clear to me that we must be more cautious in taking on major new capital projects, so at my recommendation, the Council agreed to cancel the restaurant lease which had just been signed by my predecessor, and \$1.2 Million capital improvement to the empty space where the former restaurant stood at Pinecrest Gardens. It was clear to me that this economic downturn was no time to be going into the restaurant business and taking a gamble. I believe we must find new sources of revenue for the Pinecrest Gardens complex, but now is not the time for a restaurant venture. Instead we will bring in many more cultural arts programs, and expand the programming of our exquisite gardens. You will see some additional management decisions recommended in order to create a revenue stream.

We are not planning significant capital projects for the coming year, other than Phase 2 of the water expansion project, and some improvements to Pinecrest Gardens in order to be able to generate more revenue at that complex, and hopefully making improvements at one of our parks to create a dog park.

We will continue our police force at full strength of 50 sworn personnel, and 18 civilian personnel and 4 part time school crossing guards. If you would like to register any budgetary concerns, you can review the proposed budget online, and can contact me at mayorlerner@gmail.com.

Transportation Planning

At the July Village Council meeting, we approved the selection of a transportation consultant to study the feasibility of starting a circulator transit system for the Village of Pinecrest. The funds for the study come out of the CITT dollars that the Village receives each year from the half cent transit tax all county residents pay. This circulator bus feasibility study will include an assessment of existing transit services available now to residents, review of our existing transportation studies and plans and existing land use patterns to determine the likely success of such a transit system within the Village and connections to neighboring sites. For example, the proposed trolley could take residents to the Datan Metrorail Station, to Dadeland, the Falls and South Miami. It could transport students to parks, the community center and library after school each day, or even provide a route to take students who live within the two mile school bus limit to school each morning, thereby reducing the crunch of traffic before and after school.

One important component of this study will rely on obtaining feedback from our residents and businesses. An online survey will be developed to gauge community interest as well as potential usage. Residents and businesses will be driven to the web address through a direct mailing, so be aware that we are asking for you to participate in a survey in the next few months. We will also create a study advisory committee to work with the consultant and staff, so if you are interested in participating, or if you would like to register your concerns, please contact me at

mayorlerner@gmail.com.

Community Center Update

The operational audit of the new community center will enable us to ensure that we are maximizing revenue potential, by reviewing the programming, fee structure, marketing, and the functionality of the facility. Your Village Council wants to ensure the community center has the active involvement of our residents. We expect our center to be a real asset to the community and to become self sustaining. The nationally known recreational expert we have retained, Ken Ballard, was instrumental in making the Key Biscayne Community Center the success it is today, and he is also working with the City of Doral to create their new center. We will be working with him to create maximum opportunities for resident input through focus groups and by developing a survey to determine what our residents want to see in additional programming and whether they are satisfied with the operations. If you have suggestions for our center, please contact me at mayorlerner@gmail.com.

Pinecrest Gardens Advisory Committee

The next meeting will be on August 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Pinecrest Community Center. There are many new programs and events being planned for the gardens and we invite the public to join us as we expand our horizons. At last month's meeting, the Advisory Committee voted to approve several new projects for the Gardens. The Garden Club will renew the docent program developed several years ago, and will help to expand our volunteer program. If you would like to join them and have some time to devote to our gorgeous gardens, please contact Pat Kyle Lawrence at 305-338-6223 or Galloway_inc@bellsouth.net.

At the July meeting, the Village Council approved several amendments to the Botanical Master Plan, as a result of donations from the Pinecrest Garden Club to improve the garden entrance pond, and a donation from the Community Garden Charitable Fund for a hammock garden project. In addition, the first major fund raiser of the year, and our first art exhibition, Garden Pop, will kick off on November 7th with an opening night cocktail reception fund raiser in the Hibiscus Room at the Gardens. Invitations will go out soon, so save the date.

Going Green Advisory Committee

The Village is hosting a Going Green conference on October 23rd at the Pinecrest Community Center. Our advisory committee is working to identify topics and speakers for the conference. In addition, the committees are already working on researching the options for creating recycling programs for our municipal facilities and our residents, as well as our schools and businesses. The next Going Green Advisory Committee will be on September 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the community center. For more information, please contact our assistant manager, Yocie Galiano Gomez at 305-234-2121.

Youth Advisory Council

The Youth Advisory Council kick-off event date will be announced

soon.

The event will feature a program on Media Matters with several local media stars to present on their roles and a role for our youth, then lunch and an orientation of the center, library, the gardens, and our community resources. For more information and to RSVP contact mayorlerner@gmail.com.

Planning for the County's Future Growth

The Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan provides for long range planning of transportation, land use, parks. As we travel outside of the Village, we are impacted by what the county does to our infrastructure, including our roads, and county facilities. The Village has an opportunity to provide input to the county on their planning, as it has impact on us. In order to better inform our residents we will have a workshop for those who are interested in August (notices will be sent via e-mail).

Cindy Lerner
Mayor

**Help us expand the E-News readership -
please forward this to a Pinecrest neighbor.**

Community Calendar

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

LIBRARY

Toddler Story Time
Friday, August 7, 14, 21
10:00 a.m.

Teen Club: Chess
Saturday, August 8, 15, 22, 29
10:30 a.m.

Scrabble Challenge
Saturday, August 8, 15, 22, 29
11:00 a.m.

Orchids 101
Saturday, August 8
7:00 p.m.

Thinking Clearly in Difficult Financial Times
Saturday, August 15
2:00 p.m.

Miami Poets

Thursday, August 20
7:00 p.m.

Resume 101
Monday, August 31
10:00 a.m.

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

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

VILLAGE MEETINGS

Pinecrest Gardens Advisory
August 3, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Community Center - 5855 SW 111th Street

Budget Workshop
August 5, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway

Budget Workshop
August 6, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway

Education Advisory
September 1, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
Pinecrest Community Center - 5855 SW 111th Street

Going Green Advisory
September 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Community Center - 5855 SW 111th Street

Village Council Regular Meeting
September 8, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway
www.pinecrest-fl.gov/agendas.html

Transportation Advisory
September 23, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway

OTHER

Rain Barrel Workshop
August 8, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
[Information](#)

Rosh Hashanah Under The Stars
September 18, 5:00 p.m.
[Information](#)

Garden Pop
November 7, 6:00 p.m.
[Information](#)

The Villagers Holiday Home Tour
December 4

[Information](#)

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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