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Meet Your Staff



[Craig Morell](#) is the horticulturist at Pinecrest Gardens. He has been renovating the gardens since he started with the Village in 2004. He has a BS in Horticulture from the University of Florida. A career horticulturist, he is a life-long plant collector, travels widely, spends his free time gardening at home, scuba diving, and visiting other gardens.

Pinecrest

E-News

January 2010

From the desk of Mayor Lerner



[Strategic Planning in Process](#)

The Village Council has begun the strategic planning process to develop, with resident input, a five year plan for infrastructure, capital improvements and other Village planning needs. It will help us set priorities for allocating your precious tax dollars over the next few years. During the initial stages, the planner reviewed all previous planning studies, land use and master plans, interviewed all councilmembers and staff, and conducted several resident focus groups, which were held this past November. The next step will be to conduct a telephone survey of residents in January. The phone survey will inquire residents' input on planning issues. If you are one of the residents contacted, I hope you will take a few minutes to provide your thoughtful input to the questions asked. We will be inquiring about parks, public works, traffic, communications, police, fire rescues, code enforcement, and more. This input will help us determine how to allocate resources and better serve your needs. After the survey results are reviewed, we will hold a public workshop to discuss how to best meet the needs that have been identified and to develop the strategic plan.

[Acquisition of Additional Property for Neighborhood Park a Possibility](#)

The nine acre property where the Morningstar Renewal Center is currently located, on Southwest 124th street and 72nd Avenue, is up for sale. The Village has signed an option to purchase, but must await two appraisals to determine whether to proceed. It is owned by the Archdiocese of Miami, which has put this property, and many other properties throughout the county, up for sale. This nine acre parcel is the last large parcel of property that could be made available for park space in the interior of the Village. There is no other property that is undeveloped anywhere else in the Village.

We will soon be asking the residents to share their ideas for the type of

Business Association

www.pinecrestbusiness.com

TASTE OF PINECREST
March 7, 2010
[Information](#)

Police Tips



Safety Tips while at a Gas Station

We all have to stop sometime to fuel up our vehicle and thieves take advantage of this situation. While at the pump, please keep the following tips in mind:

- Lock your vehicle when you step out to pump. Even if it is for a minute.
- Do not leave valuables out in plain view. Secure them in the trunk or take them with you.
- Try to pump in the lanes closest to the cashier. The outer lanes make a quick get away for the subject.
- Try to be aware of your surroundings at all times. While at the pump, avoid all distractions like talking on your cell phone.

A subject knows that an alert person is less likely to become a victim of a theft or robbery at the pump. Stay alert!

park activities they would like to see, if the Village were to purchase it. Once we have created a community plan for its use, we will have to take the issue to a referendum in order to be able to finance the purchase of the property. It will then be up to the will of the voters in Pinecrest whether to finance the purchase with a general obligation bond. I have received numerous e-mails from residents indicating they really want the property to be purchased, to become a neighborhood park. I voted to approve the resolution to enter into an option agreement, so I am convinced of the need. Now it is time to hear from you.

Although we currently meet the "level of service" set by a previous Village Council in 1999, that level of service is lower than the national standards recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and, I believe, is too low to meet the recreation and quality of life requirements for a community like Pinecrest. The village currently owns 62 acres of park land (including the 22 acres at Pinecrest Gardens). It includes Coral Pine Park (9 acres at 6955 SW 104 Street); Evelyn Greer Park (10 acres at 8200 SW 124 Street); Flagler Grove Park (3 acres at 7551 SW 104 Street); Suniland Park (8.4 acres at 12855 Pinecrest Parkway); Veterans Wayside Park (4.5 acres at 11111 Pinecrest Parkway) and the Village Green at Pinecrest Gardens (5.0 acres at 5855 SW 111 Street). The NRPA has recommended a national standard of 5 to 8 acres of park for every 1,000 population. Our population stands at 19,500 residents. Pinecrest does not meet the national standard. I believe we must increase our level of service to provide the kind of lifestyle Pinecrest residents deserve and expect to get for their tax dollars. However, it is the voters of Pinecrest who will have to approve the financing, and will be able to help determine the type of use for the property. Of course we will have to come up with the plan for its use before we can take the matter out for a vote, as people will want to know what the intended use is before they can decide whether they are willing to minimally increase their taxes in order to make this purchase. Once we have designed the community plan, for those in favor, you should start talking to your neighbors and let a grassroots movement proceed. If you are opposed, I suppose you would do the same.

Below is some additional information from the NRPA to inform you of national standards.

Balanced planning of lands for recreation within cities requires that the total acreage secured by application of the principle of 1 acre for every 100 of the population be divided into types of areas of varying sizes, each type performing a specific, primary recreational function. Among some of the most outstanding types of recreation areas are:

1. Children's Playgrounds.-Of the total recreation area secured through the application of the principle of 1 acre to every 100 inhabitants, not less than 12 percent should be allocated to children's playgrounds for children from 5 to 14 years of age, each playground ranging from 3 to 8 acres in extent with an average size of 5 acres. From 3 to 5 percent of each 160 acres of residential area should be reserved for a children's playground. These areas may also be sites for grade schools. In fact, the distribution of grade-school sites and community-playground sites will in general coincide, and in an ideally planned city the great majority of the children's playgrounds should be located adjacent to schools.

2. Neighborhood Playfields or Playfield-Parks.-From 15 to 18 percent of the gross area, under the principle of 1 recreation-acre to every 100 inhabitants, should be allocated to neighborhood playfields or playfield-parks.

3. Miscellaneous Recreational Areas.-These include athletic fields, stadia, golf courses, bathing beaches, areas devoted exclusively to tennis or some other special type of facilities. In a properly balanced system of recreational areas in a city, it is probably desirable to use for active recreation from 30 to 50 percent of the total recreational area, assuming 1 recreation-acre for every 100 inhabitants.

New Mural enhances Coral Pine Park

We are grateful to Dimitrios Gulbalis, of Custom Creative Tiles, for creating and

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donating the beautiful tile mural now enhancing the park building depicting the beauty of the Everglades. The Village Council held an unveiling ceremony on Monday, December 27th to dedicate the mural and thank the artist for his donation. The next time you go

by Coral Pine Park, drop in and enjoy the mural.

Palmetto Island Unveils Entrance Sign



Did you know that there is an island, surrounded by canals, right in the middle of the Village? The entrance to the "island" is between 70th and 71st Avenues on Southwest 126th Street. The Palmetto Island Homeowners Association raised the funds to erect the sign and held a ceremony to unveil it and commemorate the neighborhood.

Senior Citizens - Our "Pincrest Pioneers"



We have a sizable population of seniors who have lived here for 40 plus years. Their children have long since grown and may have even moved away, yet they plan to continue to live in their own homes as long as they live. In December, we held a birthday celebration at Pincrest Gardens to honor the ten residents 90 or older who participated. They were serenaded by

the beautiful performance of the Palmetto Middle School orchestra and we all enjoyed a delicious pot luck luncheon. Those residents, volunteers and family members present agreed there are many other ways we can continue to interact with our senior residents. For example, the Pincrest Garden Club is inviting them to their monthly meetings held either at the library or the gardens. In addition, I hope to train some of our Youth Advisory council members to take their oral histories, so we can capture much of the history of the pioneers who first settled Pincrest. The Village will be knitting a security net, by establishing a caring community to assure we are connecting them to necessary resources, enrichment activities, social contact, intergenerational events, transportation, and in-home services as needed. We are creating a "caring committee," and if you would like to participate, please e-mail me at mayorlerner@gmail.com.

Youth Advisory Council

Our first Youth advisory council members have been appointed for the 2010 term. The letters will go out the first week in January and we will announce them at the January Village Council meeting. I appreciate all the students who applied and ask them all to stay involved. They can apply again in December 2010 for the following year. The appointed Council will be meeting in January, for an orientation on Village governance and to identify their first projects.

Transportation Advisory Council

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 20th, 7:00 p.m., at Village Hall, to discuss traffic calming and other transportation issues. This advisory council has been meeting under the leadership of Councilmember Joe Corradino for almost a year now, to discuss many different issues and will now be tackling the highest priority traffic and transportation issues. One of those issues is the perceived need for traffic calming throughout the Village, trying to keep Pinecrest from being a "cut through" for outside motorists; another is sidewalks to provide a safe route to schools, the community center and library. Below is a copy of a press release on the progress being made to keep children safe in Miami-Dade County. It is a priority for the Village Council that we do so in Pinecrest.

Report Shows How Safe Routes to School Initiatives Protect Children Walking and Bicycling in Miami-Dade County

Miami-Dade County, FL - Miami-Dade County's Safe Routes to School initiative, WalkSafe, has been profiled in a new national report entitled, Safe Routes to School: Putting Traffic Safety First - How Safe Routes to School Initiatives Protect Children Walking and Bicycling, the report explores five different communities used through Safe Routes to School to create safer environments for children walking and bicycling.

The overarching goals of WalkSafe are to improve pediatric pedestrian safety, increase daily physical activity, and improve walkability around elementary schools. The WalkSafe™ curriculum teaches and reinforces pedestrian safety through the use of videos, formal educational curricula, workbooks, outside simulation activities, and a poster contest. Because of the alarming rates of pediatric pedestrian injuries in Miami-Dade County, the Miami-Dade County Public School Board has mandated that all children receive pedestrian safety education through WalkSafe.

The WalkSafe™ program has had a significant impact on pedestrian safety in Florida, particularly in Miami-Dade County (MDC), where the program originated. Since the launch of the program in 2001, there has been a 43% decrease in the total number of children ages 0-14 hit by cars in MDC. There has also been a 66% decline in the number of children hit by cars that are seen at trauma centers in Miami-Dade County, indicating that the severity of the incidents is also decreasing. With such success, WalkSafe has expanded outside of MDC to 11 other counties in Florida. During the 2008-2009 school year, 213 schools in Florida participated in the WalkSafe™ program, 5,369 teachers were trained, and 127,206 students received the pedestrian safety education. The success of the program can be attributed to a \$403,983 award of federal Safe Routes to School funds from the Florida Department of Transportation.

In 2007, an estimated 14,000 children ages 14 and younger in the United States were injured as pedestrians, while more than 300 children were killed while walking. In 2008, an estimated 52,000 bicyclists were injured in motor vehicle crashes, and 21 percent of those bicyclists-nearly 11,000 children-were age 14 or younger. Children walking and bicycling to school represent 11 percent of injuries and fatalities during the school commute, but just 14 percent of trips and less than two percent of miles traveled.

Congress launched the Safe Routes to School program in 2005 through the federal transportation bill and provided \$612 million for five years of state-level implementation of programs that build sidewalks, bike lanes, and pathways, while also providing funding for education, promotion and law enforcement programs. Federal Safe Routes to School funds are used to educate children on safe bicycle and pedestrian practices, increasing traffic enforcement to improve adherence to traffic laws and speed limits, and making infrastructure improvements to create safe places for children to walk and bicycle.

Deb Hubsmith, Director of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership noted, "Miami-Dade County's success story is a wonderful example of the power and promise of Safe Routes to School to help communities all across the country in addressing traffic safety risks and improve conditions for students walking and bicycling to school."

The report can be viewed at www.saferoutespartnership.org.

The [Safe Routes to School National Partnership](http://www.saferoutespartnership.org), hosted by the non-profit Bikes Belong Foundation, is a network of more than 400 nonprofit organizations, government agencies, schools, and professionals working together to advance the Safe Routes to School movement in the United States. The Partnership focuses on building partnerships, changing policies, advancing legislation, and improving the built environment.

Events

SMART Ride on January 8, 2010 at 6:00 a.m. - This 165 mile bike journey from Pinecrest to Key West raises monies for AIDS service organizations. The ride begins at the Morningstar Renewal Center on 124th Street. Additional information is available at www.thesmartride.org.

State of the Village Address on January 9, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

- The Village Council and I invite our residents and our community partners to join us as we present the State of the Village and vision for the coming year. It will be held at our beautiful Pinecrest Gardens on the terrace overlooking Swan Lake on Saturday, January 9th at 3:00 p.m. The event is being sponsored by Baptist Health Systems. We thank them for their generous support. We will also enjoy the talented Palmetto Senior High School Jazz ensemble entertaining us and refreshments provided with our sponsor's support.

Pinecrest Family Bike Day on January 23, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.
- We are partnering with School Board Member Dr. Larry Feldman, Miami Children's Hospital and village resident Tim Hardaway's Foundation to host a Family Bike Day. We will all gather at Palmetto Senior High School and follow a route mapped out by Miami-Dade County School Police with the support of the Pinecrest Police. Safety lessons and helmet give-aways included, as well as other surprises. More information to follow soon.

Going Green Conference on January 29, 2010 at Pinecrest Community Center and Pinecrest Gardens - For the past eight months, we convened a Going Green Advisory Council in order to learn from local experts, and solicit input from our residents, and received many great ideas. We learned much about programs that reduce the carbon footprint, increase energy efficiencies and or conserve energy and water resources. We heard from experts about how to identify alternative energy sources such as solar and gas, how to develop recycling programs, non-toxic cleaning, and sustainable procurement policies. The Pinecrest Green Action will include: an audit of all municipal buildings to measure the baseline of energy efficiency and make necessary changes to become LEED certified; create a procurement policy that incorporates sustainable elements, implement recycling in all parks, community center and municipal buildings; professional development of staff to include having at least one LEED certified professional on staff and a review of proposed ordinances to create incentives for green building. We are hosting a Going Green Conference on January 29th, inviting city and county managers and elected officials to learn how their municipality can become a green municipality, and will also have a separate track for residents to learn how to make their homes more energy efficient, how to conserve water and alternative energy options such as solar energy.

[Green Tip for the Month](#)

One of the most important green purchases you can make - a solar water heater which can save about \$300/year and reduce water heating by 70% or more (current tax credits provide an 18% tax-free return on your investment).

[Potable Water Backbone Project](#)

Phase 1 is finally complete and the newly constructed water main project has been transferred to the county. Residents who so desire may now connect to the county water system. [Click](#) for a copy of the letter that was mailed to all residents who live along the route for the Phase 1 backbone, notifying them of the option to connect and the process they must follow. Phase 2 is under construction and will be completed in the spring. For the rest of us in the Village who do not yet have access, I will be aggressively seeking funding from federal and state sources to complete the project. This is our top priority for 2010.

Cindy Lerner
Mayor

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

Community Calendar

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

LIBRARY

CREATIVE WRITING CLASS

Tuesdays, January 05 - 26, 2010

12:00 PM - 2:30 PM - ADULT

Presented by the Miami Palmetto Adult Education Center. Call 305 235-1360 after 2 p.m. for further information.

ROUND ROBIN READ AND STORY SLAM

Tuesdays, January 05 - 26, 2010

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM - CHILDREN

Join us as we share our favorite short stories and poems. For ages 3 years and up.

THE GOOD READ BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday, January 06, 2010

7:00 PM - ADULT

Share insight and opinion on the following titles:

January 6: "Ahab's Wife, The Star-gazer: A Novel"

February 3: "Red Tent"

READING READY TODDLER STORYTIME

Fridays, January 08 - 29, 2010

10:00 AM - TODDLERS

Stories, songs and activities for toddlers and their care givers.

S.M.A.R.T. SCIENCE, MATH AND READING TUTORING

Saturdays, January 09 - 30, 2010

10:00 AM - GRADES K-12

Free tutoring and homework help in science, math and reading for student

ORCHIDS 101

Saturday, January 09, 2010

1:30 PM - ADULT, ALL AGES

Craig Morell, Pincrest Gardens horticulturist, discusses the basics of growing orchids in South Florida.

PARROT JUNGLE POETS

Monday, January 11, 2010

1:00 PM - ADULT

Published author Jnita Wright and program participants share and critique their poetic works.

ASTROLOGY STUDY AND BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

7:00 PM - ADULT

Monthly meetings for those with basic astrological knowledge and skills. Join us as we study the works of renowned astrologers,

and deepen our interpretative skills!

TALES OF THE FAR EAST BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

7:00 PM - ADULT

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

MIAMI POETS PRESENT A POETRY SOIREE

Thursday, January 21, 2010

6:30 PM - ADULT

Join us for an evening of poetry.

PAWS 2 READ

Saturday, January 23, 2010

10:30 AM - CHILDREN

Certified therapy dogs listen as children practice their reading skills.

GOING GREEN FOR MARDI GRAS

Monday, January 25, 2010

3:00 PM - TEEN

A 3-part workshop devoted to making masks for Mardi Gras. First part begins on January 25th and will be devoted to constructing the masks. The second part on February 1st will be devoted to decorating the masks. The third workshop on February 8th will encompass storytime, activities, songs, as well as an opportunity to show the masks in an exhibition.

Registration Required. Limited Seating.

THE LOST WOODEN SYNAGOGUES OF EASTERN EUROPE

Thursday, January 28, 2010

7:00 PM - ADULT

Share the story of the synagogues, the life that surrounded them before the war and what happened to them in the last fifty years.

HEALTH LITERACY WITH PEGGY GAINES

Friday, January 29, 2010

10:00 AM - FAMILY

Join Nutrition expert Peggy Gaines for a talk on how to get your kids eating healthy without them necessarily knowing.

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

Pinecrest

Branch Library - 5835 SW 111 Street

305-668-4571

VILLAGE MEETINGS

Pinecrest Gardens Advisory Meeting

January 4, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Pinecrest Community Center

Education Advisory Meeting

January 12, 2010, 9:30 a.m.

Pinecrest Community Center

Village Council Regular Meeting

January 12, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Pinecrest Municipal Center
www.pinecrest-fl.gov/agendas.html

Transportation Advisory Meeting
January 20, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Municipal Center

Village Council Committee of the Whole
January 26, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Municipal Center
www.pinecrest-fl.gov/agendas.html

OTHER

State of the Village
January 9, 3:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Gardens - 11000 Red Road

7th Annual Pinecrest Gardens Fine Arts Festival
January 16-17, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Gardens - 11000 Red Road

Going Green Conference
January 29, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Gardens - 11000 Red Road

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.



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