

JUNE 2026

PINECREST

THE NEWSLETTER OF YOUR VILLAGE GOVERNMENT



IN THE SPOTLIGHT
CORAL PINE PARK

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Thirty years ago, our founders, Evelyn Greer, Gary Matzner, and Pinecrest’s earliest leaders set a clear course: build a Village defined by its green spaces and its tree canopy. This spring, you saw those priorities in action across the Village.

Two major projects reached completion, each one a direct investment in the quality of life that makes Pinecrest exceptional.

The Coral Pine Park Improvement Project features a new multipurpose building, a multipurpose exercise station and brand-new pickleball courts.

Kendall Linear Park provides a scenic, safe route for pedestrians and cyclists from Red Road to 65th Court and eventually to Ludlam Road. Families and students heading to Gulliver Prep and Temple Beth Am now have an additional protected route to their schools.

Two additional park projects will enhance our community later this summer.

Veterans Wayside Park will add a new playground, enhanced landscaping, upgraded lighting, a bioswale system for improved lake water quality and a redesigned Veterans Memorial area.

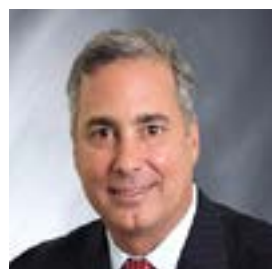
We also look forward to opening Gary Matzner Park, featuring a canopy of native trees, a walking path, a covered playground and natural play areas.

Each of these projects is directly aligned with our founders’ vision and exemplifies our goal of maintaining our character in an evolving world while enhancing our quality of life. Because of projects like these over the years, we’ve been able to subtly transform the Village from what it was in 1996 into the jewel it is today, benefiting all of our citizens greatly.

The work does not stop there. Across the Village, we tend to 50,837 street trees, resurface roads, upgrade stormwater systems and invest in the infrastructure that keeps Pinecrest running well. This takes sustained commitment from a dedicated team and an engaged community.

At its core, Pinecrest has always been neighbors serving neighbors. Thirty years in, that has not changed.

If you have questions or would like to share your thoughts, please contact me at 305.606.2364 or jcorradino@pinecrest-fl.gov.



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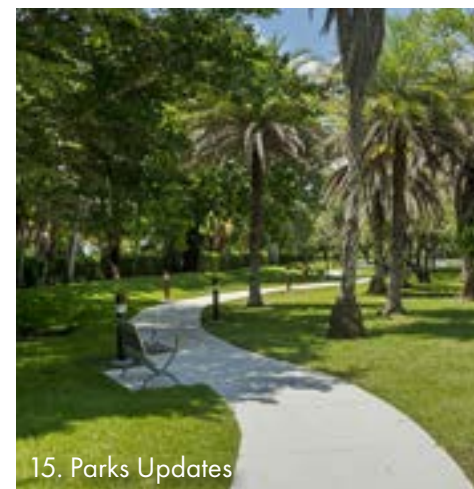
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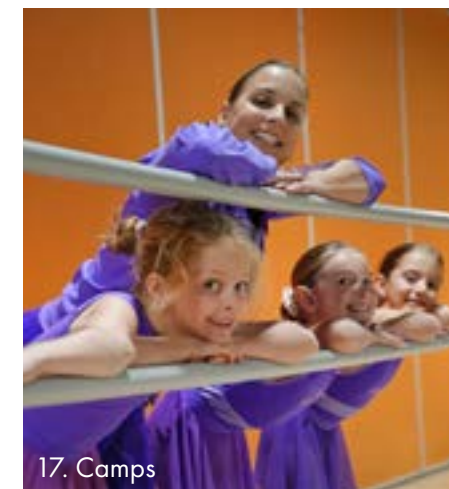
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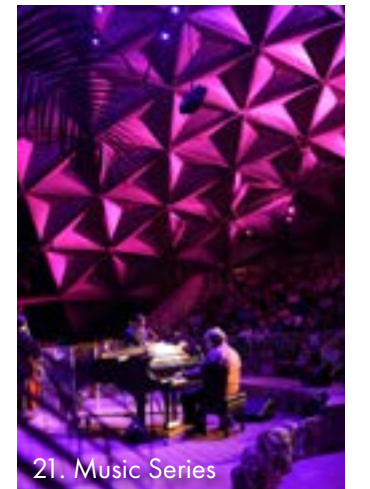
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ON THE COVER

Pinecrest residents celebrated Arbor Day and the Village Council officially cut the ribbon on the Coral Pine Park Improvement Project in April.

The brand-new pickleball courts and improved walkways at Coral Pine Park are officially open for your morning match or family stroll.

The modern multipurpose room with a beautiful terrace and premium indoor space is available to rent for graduation parties, meetings, private events and more.

Visit pinecrest-fl.gov/parks or contact Parks and Recreation for booking details.



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Pinecrest, FL 33156
305.234.2121
www.pinecrest-fl.gov



PINECREST POLICE LAUNCHES BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM TO SUPPORT SAFER TRAFFIC STOPS

The Village of Pinecrest Police Department has launched the Blue Envelope Program, a proactive initiative designed to improve communication and safety during traffic stops for motorists with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Traffic stops are among the most common interactions between law enforcement and the public. While routine for officers, they can be highly stressful for drivers, particularly those with communication differences or sensory sensitivities. The Blue Envelope Program was developed to address this gap by providing a simple, effective tool to enhance understanding during these critical moments.

The program provides motorists with a clearly marked blue envelope to store essential driving documents, including a driver's license, registration and insurance. In addition to organizing these materials, the envelope serves a more important function. It acts as a visual cue to the officer that the driver may have a communication difference and that the interaction may require a modified approach.

Motorists may also include a voluntary information card inside the envelope. This card can provide helpful guidance to officers, such as communication preferences, potential sensory triggers, or instructions to help reduce anxiety during the stop.

Research shows that individuals with ASD may experience communication differences, sensory sensitivities, and heightened anxiety during stressful encounters, making clear and effective communication during traffic stops especially important. These differences may include delayed responses, difficulty interpreting verbal instructions, limited eye contact, or reliance on nonverbal communication methods. In a roadside setting, these behaviors can be misunderstood without proper context.

THE BLUE ENVELOPE HELPS PREVENT THOSE MISUNDERSTANDINGS BEFORE THEY OCCUR.

Studies indicate that many law enforcement officers report limited knowledge and confidence when interacting with individuals with developmental disabilities, despite the likelihood of encountering them in the field. While training improves awareness, research suggests that practical tools bridge the gap between awareness and action.

The Blue Envelope Program provides that tool.

For motorists, the benefits are immediate. Traffic stops often involve flashing lights, direct commands and time pressure, all of which can increase stress. For individuals with sensory sensitivities, these conditions can be overwhelming. The envelope offers a structured and predictable way to communicate, allowing the driver to present information calmly and efficiently.



Importantly, the program is entirely voluntary and does not involve any type of registry or database. Motorists decide whether to participate and what information they choose to include. This approach protects privacy while still offering a meaningful safety resource.

Autism is increasingly recognized as a common neurodevelopmental condition, and as awareness increases, so does the likelihood that officers will encounter individuals with communication differences during routine patrol operations. Law enforcement agencies must adapt to meet these evolving community needs.

Pinecrest's approach combines officer awareness, training and practical tools to support effective communication in the field. Officers are trained to recognize the Blue Envelope and adjust their communication style accordingly, including using clear, direct language, allowing additional time for responses, and maintaining a calm, controlled interaction.

The Pinecrest Police Department is working in collaboration with community partners including the National Alliance for Mental Illness Miami-Dade County, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, and UM-NSU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities to support outreach and distribution of the Blue Envelope Program. Materials can be picked up at the Pinecrest Police Department, will be available at community events throughout the year and will also be distributed through these collaborating partners to ensure broad access for residents and families who may benefit from the program. You may also email police@pinecrest-fl.gov for more information.

Participants receive both the blue envelope and a corresponding vehicle decal. The decal is intended to be placed on the driver's side rear window, where it is clearly visible to responding officers prior to contact.

This initiative reflects a simple but important principle: effective policing requires effective communication. By focusing on one of the most common law enforcement interactions—the traffic stop—Pinecrest is taking a practical and proactive step toward safer, more informed, and more respectful encounters for all members of the community.



PREPARING FOR THE 2026 HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane season in Florida runs from June 1 through November 30. Now is the time to ensure your home and family are prepared for extreme weather.

GET READY: PRE-SEASON CHECKLIST

- **Build Your Kit:** Stock at least three days' worth of water (one gallon per person per day), nonperishable food, medications, and extra batteries.
- **Know Your Zone:** Identify your specific flood zone to understand your property's vulnerability to rising waters.
- **Fortify Your Home:** Install storm shutters, reinforce doors, and trim dead branches to reduce the risk of falling debris.
- **Special Needs & Pets:** Make arrangements for family members with special needs, the elderly and pets in advance. Remember that not all shelters accept pets.
- **Stay Informed:** Monitor local news and alerts from the Village of Pinecrest and the National Hurricane Center.

UNDERSTANDING ALERTS

- **Hurricane Watch:** Conditions are possible within **48 hours**. This is the time to prepare, fuel your vehicle and make sure you have cash on hand.
- **Hurricane Warning:** Conditions are expected within **36 hours**. Take immediate action: stay indoors, move to an interior room and keep your emergency kit within reach.

POST-STORM RECOVERY

The Village's Emergency Management Team activates during a storm to coordinate recovery efforts. Residents can assist through:

- **Generator Safety:** Always place generators at least 20 feet from the house with exhaust directed away from windows and doors.
- **Debris Placement:** Place vegetation and storm debris at least six feet away from mailboxes and fences to allow collection trucks safe access.
- **Document Damage:** Assess your property and document damage for insurance purposes once it is safe to do so.

STAY INFORMED

For the latest updates, resources, and to access the Village's hurricane web portal, visit www.pinecrest-fl.gov/Hurricane.

PROGRESS REPORT: PINECREST'S SUMMER INFRASTRUCTURE WORK

STORMWATER DRAINAGE PROJECT

Construction continues on Basin 2, one of 15 priority drainage basins identified in the Village's 2015 Stormwater Master Plan. Crews are working on the SW 72nd Avenue corridor between SW 104th Street and SW 98th Street, with work progressing south to north. Traffic moves in both directions through the work zone, controlled by flaggers.

The work is funded through the Village's Stormwater Utility Fee. In addition, Pinecrest has pulled in significant outside dollars, including \$750,000 secured by U.S. Rep. María Elvira Salazar for Pinecrest's drainage infrastructure through the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act, on top of \$1 million she helped secure in 2024.

Since the master plan was adopted, the Village has installed dozens of storm drains and hundreds of feet of French drain and completed Basin 13. Basin 1 is the next major phase of a long-term effort to keep streets passable during heavy summer downpours, reduce repeat standing-water spots and clean runoff before it reaches local canals.

For project updates and to report a drainage issue, visit www.pinecrest-fl.gov/SMP.

SIDEWALKS

The Village's sidewalk maintenance program reached a milestone this spring. ADA compliance work is complete. The Village contracted a firm to survey every sidewalk in Pinecrest, grind down trip hazards where possible and replace sections that could not be salvaged.

Now the focus shifts to upkeep. The Village purchased its own pressure washer and will begin a rotating cleaning schedule. Each property owner can expect a pressure washing about every two years. No sign-up required. Crews will work through the Village neighborhood by neighborhood.

SWALES: YOUR ROLE IN THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM

Basin construction, including French drains, inlets and canal outfalls, is one piece of the Village's drainage system. The other piece runs along the front of every Pinecrest property: the swale. That grassed strip between your property line and the road is the primary drainage feature for most Village streets. Swales hold and filter runoff before it reaches French drains, canals or Biscayne Bay.

Per Village Code, the abutting property owner maintains the swale, and only sod and street trees are permitted there. A few simple practices keep swales doing their job:

- Mow regularly and compost leaves and grass clippings.
- Keep garbage, trash, limbs and garden debris out of the swale. Anything piled there washes downstream.
- Skip fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, irrigation and lighting. New sod requires a free Public Works permit and proper grading.
- Use a string trimmer, not an edger blade, near pavement and tree trunks. Edgers damage road edges and tree roots.
- Avoid mulch volcanoes piled against tree trunks. They rot the bark and shorten the tree's life.



PINECREST'S PEACOCKS: A HUMANE APPROACH

Pinecrest's peafowl population has long sparked strong opinions. Some residents treasure the birds. Others want them gone. Permanent relocation is not an option because peafowl are protected under Miami-Dade County regulations. The Village found a humane solution that balances resident concerns with legal obligations.

In September 2023, Pinecrest launched a first-of-its-kind humane sterilization initiative in partnership with Dr. Don J. Harris, a renowned avian expert and longtime Pinecrest veterinarian. Residents and the Village place humane traps around the Village. Every bird handled by the program is safely retrieved, examined, treated, tagged and safely returned to Pinecrest. The long-term goal is to bring the population to a manageable, sustainable size, for residents and birds alike.

As of April 1, 2026, Dr. Harris and his team have endoscopically vasectomized 317 males. Blue ankle bands mark vasectomized males. Additionally, 291 females were examined to verify sex and assess overall health. (Some birds appearing to be females are actually juvenile males.) In November 2025, Dr. Harris developed a humane endoscopic tubal transection procedure for female peahens and began performing it as part of the standard program. So far, 60 peahens have received the procedure and received a yellow band. Of the 608 birds trapped and treated, there have been zero incidents of morbidity or mortality.

Females retrieved before November 2025 that did not receive the sterilization procedure have been marked with an orange band, so the Village and Dr. Harris can track which birds still need treatment. The goal is for all peahens to receive the procedure going forward as part of the Village's humane population management plan.

Residents are prohibited to feed the peacocks, as it can disrupt their natural behaviors, interferes with the trapping process and it violates the municipal code.

Blue or **Yellow** band = **Treated** peafowl
Orange band or **No** band = **Untreated** peafowl

For more information or to report peafowl on your property,
please visit pinecrest-fl.gov/peacock or email peacock@pinecrest-fl.gov.

MOSQUITO SEASON: WHAT YOU CAN DO

South Florida's warm, wet climate fuels mosquito breeding, and peak season runs from April through October. The good news is that Miami-Dade County operates one of the most active mosquito control programs in the nation, and Pinecrest residents play a direct role in keeping the problem in check.

Miami-Dade's Mosquito Control and Habitat Management Division monitors, traps, and treats mosquito populations countywide, deploying both aerial and ground applications to suppress breeding in public waterways and open spaces. The Village coordinates with the county program and supports it through its own canal maintenance contract with Aquatic Control Group. That contract covers debris removal and water quality management in Village-maintained canals, reducing the stagnant, organic-rich conditions that allow mosquito populations to spike.

A forgotten planter, a clogged gutter, or a bucket that collected last week's rain can produce dozens of adult mosquitoes in as little as eight to 10 days. The most common South Florida species, *Aedes aegypti*, breeds in containers, not canals. Female mosquitoes lay eggs on the inner walls of any vessel holding water. Those eggs can survive up to eight months without water and later hatch within hours of being submerged.

Spot standing water? Report problem areas in public spaces, drainage ditches, or neglected properties directly to Miami-Dade Mosquito Control at miamidade.gov/mosquito or by calling 311.



MOSQUITO-PROOF YOUR YARD IN FIVE STEPS:

1. Empty water in birdbaths, pet water dishes and planters weekly.
2. Clear gutters of debris so water drains freely.
3. Turn over or store any container that collects rain, including buckets, wheelbarrows and recycling bins.
4. Change the water in ornamental ponds weekly or treat with a larvicide tablet (available at hardware stores).
5. Report standing water on public or neglected property to Miami-Dade Mosquito Control at miamidade.gov/mosquito or 311.



GO GREEN AT HOME SUSTAINABILITY IN PINECREST

RECYCLE MORE, THROW AWAY LESS: PINECREST'S EXPANDING GREEN TOOLKIT

Pinecrest has spent the past year building one of the most ambitious local sustainability programs in South Florida. From a landmark composting partnership with the Miccosukee Tribe to adopting a new app that tells residents exactly which bin common household items go in, the Village is expanding what "going green" looks like at the neighborhood level.

Pinecrest's community composting program, the first of its kind in Miami-Dade County, has diverted more than 200,000 pounds of food waste from landfills since its launch. That track record helped the Village secure a \$400,000 USDA grant to launch the Everglades Earth Cycle Project, a partnership with the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Dr. Lanette Sobel of Fertile Earth Worm Farm and the Love the Everglades Movement. The project converts food scraps into nutrient-rich compost that goes directly to Everglades soil restoration.

Residents can drop off food scraps at two Village sites: the Pinecrest Community Center and Evelyn Greer Park. Composting bins will soon be available at Veterans Wayside Park and Coral Pine Park. Free composting bins are available every Sunday at the Pinecrest Farmers Market.

DRIVE-THRU RECYCLING

This spring, hundreds of residents turned out for Pinecrest's Drive-Thru Recycling Event at Evelyn Greer Park, dropping off electronics, chemicals, and clothing for safe, proper disposal. The event keeps hazardous items out of the trash and makes responsible disposal easy, with no sorting required on your end.

SCRAPP: SCAN IT, SORT IT

Not sure if that takeout container goes in the blue bin? The free Scrapp app takes the guesswork out of recycling. Scan a barcode or search any household item to get an instant answer on how and where to recycle it correctly. The app also sends bin-day reminders and service alerts for your address. Getting it right matters more than ever. Miami-Dade County enforcement officers may now inspect recycling carts at the curb, and residents whose carts are tagged for contamination more than three times may face a \$152 special collection fee. A contaminated cart also doesn't get serviced. It sits until the next scheduled pickup day. Scrapp is the easiest way to avoid both the hassle and the fine.

COFFEE CUPS

Standard paper coffee cups have long been a recycling problem. A plastic polyethylene lining fused to the paper interior makes them nearly impossible to process in curbside recycling. New drop-off programs have changed that and these cups may now be placed in your blue recycling bin.

BY THE NUMBERS: PINECREST'S SUSTAINABILITY RECORD

200,000+ POUNDS of food waste diverted from landfills through Miami-Dade's first free residential composting program. Food waste is a key driver of methane emissions into the atmosphere.

10,000+ TREES planted since 1997. Pinecrest has held the Tree City USA designation for 29 consecutive years and has one of the largest tree canopies in Miami-Dade County.

500-SQUARE-FOOT FLOATING FLOWER ISLANDS, part of a pilot project, filter nitrogen and phosphorus from Village canals, reducing nutrient loads headed for Biscayne Bay and suppressing invasive and smelly hydrilla without chemicals.

PINECREST EARNED TWO SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS IN 2025: the Florida League of Cities Environmental Stewardship Award and an ICMA Community Sustainability Award.



KNOW THE RULES: PINECREST UPDATES PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & NOISE STANDARDS

The Village Council recently approved an ordinance amending Chapter 15 of the Code of Ordinances to consolidate property maintenance and noise standards into a single chapter.

What's new: Residents must bring trash and garbage receptacles back in on the same day as scheduled pickup. Violations carry a \$250 civil penalty, though the Village will issue courtesy reminders before escalating enforcement. Residents who need help managing their bins are encouraged to contact the Village.

The following standards were already in effect and remain unchanged:

- **Noise Standards:** Keep noise from animals, electronics and tools at levels that don't unreasonably disturb neighbors.
- **Roof Maintenance:** Keep roofs free of scaling, algae, mildew and disrepair.
- **Stagnant Water:** Prevent the accumulation of ponding or stagnant water.
- **Vegetation Control:** Maintain grass, weeds and undergrowth at a height of less than 12 inches.
- **Right-of-Way Maintenance:** Keep abutting swale areas and sidewalks free of debris and yard waste, and free of slippery conditions.
- **Exterior Surfaces:** Maintain the exterior of all structures, walls and fences to prevent staining, graffiti, or peeling paint.



NATIVE PLANTS: YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE GROWING THEM. MAYBE YOU SHOULD, TOO.

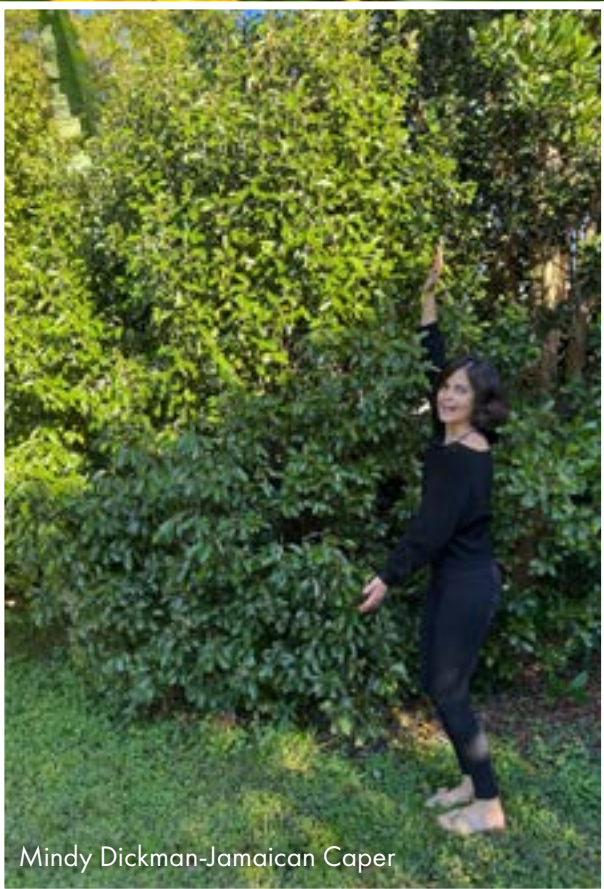
The best garden advice in Pinecrest comes from residents who have already done the work and watched their yards come alive with birds, butterflies, and color. Native plants need far less water once established, require no fertilizer additives, and support the pollinators that define South Florida.

Resident Sarah Noppen has spent 20 years transforming her yard into a native habitat. She anchors her landscape with South Florida slash pine (*Pinus elliottii* var. *densa*) and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), the defining combination of the pine rockland ecosystem.

Narrowleaf yellowtops (*Flaveria linearis*) add vivid gold blooms that draw pollinators. Pineland lantana fills in as a virtually maintenance-free ground cover with year-round yellow flowers, while pine rockland twinflower produces blue and purple blooms that host the common buckeye butterfly. “The diversity and number of birds and butterflies keeps growing,” Noppen says.

“I get to enjoy a garden full of life and color.”

Author and longtime resident Mindy Dickman swapped her common clusia hedges for a native alternative and hasn’t looked back. Clusia constantly pushes toward tree size, demanding regular trimming just to hold its shrub shape. Her top pick is Jamaican caper, a native shrub that maintains a dense privacy screen with zero trimming, produces fragrant blooms, and feeds the native birds she writes about in “Life in the Everglades.” For residents who prefer a different silhouette, she also recommends marlberry for its distinctive starburst growth habit.



Mindy Dickman-Jamaican Caper



Peter Rabbino-Golden Creeper

Resident Peter Rabbino recommends the golden creeper as a standout native ground cover. Once established, it spreads across large areas without supplemental irrigation or pesticide treatments, creating a dense, textured habitat that attracts birds and butterflies. For residents who want to cut maintenance time and water use at the same time, it’s a practical starting point. Rabbino’s takeaway: going native doesn’t require a full yard overhaul. One well-chosen plant can start the transformation.

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WHERE TO FIND NATIVE PLANTS

Ready to get started? Pick up native plants at local nurseries, including Flora of Miami, Silent Native Nursery, Plant Creations Nursery and Veber’s Jungle Garden. When shopping, ask staff specifically for species adapted to Miami-Dade’s sandy limestone soil.



HOW PINECREST'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL IS BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



PINECREST NEIGHBORS SHOW UP FOR EACH OTHER

In Pinecrest, residents support one another in big and small ways. From food insecurity to mentorship, local organizations tackle community needs year-round.

Several local initiatives help ensure neighbors have access to essential resources. **PORCH Pinecrest**, a volunteer-led organization, supports families facing food insecurity through community donations and outreach. Miami Palmetto Senior High School's student-led **Palmetto Pantry** provides food assistance to students and families in need, while **Open Closet**, another student-led initiative, collects gently-used business attire for donation to Miami-based shelters.

The **Rotary Club of Pinecrest** supports local education, among other initiatives. It funds high school scholarships, runs backpack drives and hosts the annual GRATITUDE writing contest, which spotlights student writers across the community.

At the middle school level, the **Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)** program brings fathers and father figures onto campus as volunteers. Their presence strengthens school safety and gives students consistent, positive male role models.

Upcoming volunteer opportunities within the Village of Pinecrest include the Senior Games and Zombie Run. Pinecrest Gardens also welcomes volunteers year-round to support its programming, events and conservation efforts.

These programs run on the time and resources neighbors choose to give. Get involved and serve our community by visiting: pinecrest-fl.gov/volunteer.

Young residents are active participants in local government through the Village's Youth Advisory Council (YAC). Composed of middle and high school students, members serve as official advisors to the Village Council, bringing youth perspectives into community decision-making.

YAC members attend public meetings, discuss issues impacting youth and work on initiatives that reflect the needs and concerns of their peers. Through this hands-on involvement, students gain firsthand experience in how local government works, from policy discussions to community outreach. They also learn that their voices matter.

This past school year, the Council focused on youth health and wellness, including an anti-vaping awareness effort. Local health professionals explained how vaping products are marketed to teens, equipping students with information they can share at school and with their peers. The initiative reflects YAC's broader mission to empower young residents to make informed decisions and serve as peer leaders.

For many members, YAC provides confidence, civic engagement and professional skills. Danny Mazer, who held several leadership roles on YAC, credits the program with shaping his understanding of public service:

“Being part of YAC from 8th through 12th grade completely changed the way I see my community and my role in it. It opened my eyes to what civil service looks like at the local level and showed me how decisions made in our municipal meetings directly impact people's lives,” said Mazer. “As vice chair and chair, I learned how to confidently step into the political process, grow as a public speaker and speak out on the issues that matter most to me. YAC is a launchpad for informed, engaged, and empowered future leaders.”

To learn more, visit www.pinecrest-fl.gov/YAC.

YOUR PARKS ARE OPEN

KENDALL LINEAR PARK IS OPEN

The Village cut the ribbon on Kendall Linear Park on April 8, completing a project that replaces a 5-foot sidewalk with an 8-foot shared-use path stretching from Red Road to SW 65th Court.

The path connects Gulliver Prep and Temple Beth Am to a protected route away from traffic and links to the Red Road Linear Park, Old Cutler Trail and Howard Drive Path. Once Gary Matzner Park is complete, Kendall Linear Park will extend to SW 67th Avenue, completing continuous connectivity from the Village's northern boundary.

In keeping with the Village's Tree City USA designation, the Public Works Director personally selected 73 mature trees, including live oaks and gumbo limbos standing 26 feet tall. Additional pigeon plums and Simpson's stoppers were planted as understory throughout the corridor. The Village will continue adding gumbo limbos, green buttonwoods and slash pines on both sides of Kendall Drive.

CORAL PINE PARK: RENOVATION COMPLETE

Coral Pine Park held its ribbon cutting on April 24, capping a renovation that transformed the facility into one of the Village's most versatile destinations.

The upgrades include a beautiful new multipurpose building, a walking path, a fitness station, expanded parking and four new pickleball courts, adding to the first dedicated courts in the area, built in response to years of community demand.

RENTALS AT CORAL PINE PARK

The new multipurpose building is available for private rentals.
Visit pinecrest-fl.gov/parks or contact Parks and Recreation for booking details.



Coral Pine Park Multipurpose Room



Coral Pine Park Multipurpose Room Patio



Veterans Wayside Park Playground

PARK UPDATES

GARY MATZNER PARK

The restroom and office building are progressing, the playground is installed and awaits safety surface installation and lighting, and a walking path is underway. Landscape is beginning to be delivered for installation and the water and sewer lines are being connected. A grand opening is planned for this summer.

NEW CAFE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Salty Sisters, a fast-casual eatery serving coffee, sandwiches, bowls, house-made pastries, ice cream and more is now open in the Pinecrest Community Center.

VETERANS WAYSIDE PARK

The Veterans Wayside Park Beautification Project is nearly complete, featuring a vibrant new playground for youth ages 2–12 and a thoughtfully enhanced north side with walking paths, a monument plaza and flagpole, native landscaping, picnic tables, benches and a welcoming great lawn. The south side complements these improvements with an ADA-accessible path to the waterfront and loose stone walkways designed to support stormwater retention while enhancing the park's natural beauty.



ZOMBIE RUN

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable evening of spooky fun at the Zombie Run powered by Baptist Health on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at Evelyn Greer Park.

Runners and walkers make their way through the course in costume while dodging zombies. The event is open to all ages. Register early at www.pinecrestzombierun.eventbrite.com

VOLUNTEER AS A ZOMBIE

Volunteers needed to play zombies on the course. Contact Janelle Marzouka at jmarzouka@pinecrest-fl.gov.



YOUR PARKS THIS SUMMER

Pinecrest Parks and Recreation offers programs this summer for kids and adults across the Village’s parks and Community Center. Register early; many camps reach capacity quickly.

ARTS AND CREATIVE CAMPS

- **DANCE AND CRAFTS CAMP** | Ballet, salsa, jazz, flamenco, hip-hop and ballroom paired with arts, theater and costume design at Pinecrest Dance Project.
- **STARS SUMMER CAMP** | A fully inclusive camp for ages 5 to 16 featuring sports, art, music, STEM, field trips and special events at Evelyn Greer Park.
- **THE CHAT LAB 3-DAY SUMMER PROGRAM** | Grades 3 through 5 build emotional awareness, resilience and social skills through games, group challenges and creative activities at Coral Pine Park.

STEAM AND TECHNOLOGY CAMPS

- **SNAPOLOGY SUMMER STEAM CAMP** | LEGO and robotics-based challenges focused on creativity, problem-solving and teamwork at Suniland Park.
- **WORLD OF TECH AND CODING CAMP** | Hands-on projects including coding Roblox and Minecraft games, robot building and drone flying at the Pinecrest Community Center.
- **FUNCAMPS** | A 37-year tradition combining MagiCamp, Amazing Science and Space Camp, and JurassiCamp at the Pinecrest Community Center.

SPORTS CAMPS

- **DAVID ENSIGNIA TENNIS** | Drills, games and matches for ages 4 to 17 building technique, confidence and teamwork at Coral Pine Park.
- **MIAMI STONE CRABS LACROSSE** | Ages 6 to 14 learn passing, shooting, dodging and positional play from NCAA and pro coaches at Flagler Grove Park.
- **SUPER SOCCER STARS** | Age-appropriate drills emphasizing coordination, teamwork and sportsmanship at the Pinecrest Community Center.
- **HUDDLE UP MIAMI FLAG FOOTBALL** | Skill-building drills, scrimmages and weekly Fun Friday competitions at Suniland Park.

FALL AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Pinecrest Parks and Recreation continues through the school year with after-school programs for youth and adults, led by experienced instructors across the Village’s parks and Community Center.

DANCE

- **PINECREST DANCE PROJECT** | Acro, ballet, hip-hop, jazz, musical theater and a dedicated special needs dance class for all ages and abilities.

MUSIC

- **SHARPMINDS MUSIC ACADEMY** | Piano, guitar, violin and vocal instruction for children and adults, plus a Children’s Chorus for group performance experience.

INCLUSIVE AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL PROGRAMS

- **STARS MIAMI** | A fully inclusive program for children ages 5 to 16 with special needs, offering art, sports and social opportunities.
- **THE CHAT LAB** | Children build emotional awareness, stress management, social problem-solving and mindfulness through interactive, age-appropriate workshops.
- **BEING FRIENDS WITH YOURSELF** | Designed for tween and teen girls, this program builds self-confidence, emotional awareness and resilience through mindfulness, movement and guided reflection.

STEAM AND ENRICHMENT

- **KIDS ARCHITECTURE** | Project-based learning in design and spatial thinking for young builders.
- **TEKNIK LABS** | Hands-on engineering and technology challenges that develop critical thinking and teamwork.
- **SNAPOLOGY** | LEGO-based STEAM learning built around creativity, problem-solving and collaboration.
- **CHESS MASTERY** | Strategy, focus and problem-solving through competitive and recreational chess.

ARTS

- **BUDDING ARTISTS** | Young creators explore painting, drawing and crafting in an open, experimental studio environment.
- **CRAYOLA IMAGINE ARTS ACADEMY** | Structured arts programming that builds fine motor skills and creative confidence.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- **MUSIC TOGETHER** | Toddlers and caregivers bond through rhythm, language and social skill development.
- **GROW WITH US** | Play-based activities support motor skills, cooperation and empathy for preschool-age children.

YOUTH SPORTS

- **MIAMI STONE CRABS LACROSSE** | Fast-paced lacrosse fundamentals, teamwork and sportsmanship for all skill levels.
- **DAVID ENSIGNIA TENNIS PROGRAM** | Expert instruction in technique, agility and strategy through drills, games and match play.
- **WE MARTIAL ARTS** | Traditional martial arts training that builds discipline, self-control, fitness and respect.
- **SUPER SOCCER STARS** | Age-appropriate soccer drills emphasizing coordination, teamwork and sportsmanship.
- **HUDDLE UP MIAMI FLAG FOOTBALL** | Flag football fundamentals taught through drills and friendly scrimmages.

ADULT PROGRAMS

- **WILD PALETTE ADULT AND SENIOR ART CLASSES** | Instructor Jenn Hammer guides adults and seniors through watercolor, acrylic, pencil and pastel in a collaborative studio setting.
- **LINE DANCING FOR ADULTS** | No experience required. Build coordination, rhythm and social connection through group line dance.

Register for camps and programs at www.pinecrest-fl.gov/parks.



SUMMER AT PINECREST GARDENS: EXPLORE, LEARN, AND GROW

PLAN YOUR PERFECT SUMMER VISIT

Plan ahead and make the most of every visit to Pinecrest Gardens. Consider arriving in the afternoon when the Gardens are quieter after morning camps and field trips. Bring swimsuits, towels, and sunscreen to enjoy the Splash 'n Play after time on the playground. Check the website or call ahead before visiting during storm season. For a cooler escape, the shaded Lower Gardens offer a tranquil spot to watch aquatic wildlife.

SUMMER CAMPS AT PINECREST GARDENS

The Garden's two summer camp offerings provide hands on learning at June 8 - August 7. The STEAM camp with Discovery Lab engages ages 4–9 in science-based exploration, while younger children (ages 2–4) can build creativity and confidence in a half-day camp with Pinecrest Dance Project. Campers enjoy daily access to the Gardens, including the mini zoo and splash areas.

NEW THIS FALL: WELLNESS PROGRAM FOR ADULTS

Learning takes a more reflective turn this fall with a new Wellness Series developed with JMW Coaching. For many people midlife is a powerful transition marked by shifting roles—from empty nesting and career pivots to caring for aging parents. This four-week workshop, based on Jennifer Warren Medwin's Brave Bites Forward I.M.P.A.C.T Method, offers an intentional space to move from emotional overload to purposeful action. Attend the full series or single sessions on Thursday mornings at 10 am from September 10 through October 1.

YEAR-ROUND FAMILY PROGRAMS

Parent & Me classes run weekday mornings September through May. Homeschool Co-School, runs from October through May. Mini Camps are scheduled on teacher planning days with the first scheduled on September 21. Little lizards is a biweekly program that gives learners 4 -12 hands on experience in art & science in a variety of nature themes, meets on Wednesdays at 2:30 PM - May through April. Together, these programs reflect a broader commitment to accessible, inclusive learning rooted in nature. Registration opens in August.

LEADING THROUGH EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION

As highlighted in our companion feature, this spring, Pinecrest Gardens hosted horticulture professionals from across the region in partnership with Public Gardens as Sentinels Against Invasive Plants (PGSIP), reinforcing the Gardens' role as both a classroom and a living laboratory.

PINECREST GARDENS AS A SENTINEL AGAINST INVASIVE PLANTS

This past March, Pinecrest Gardens hosted a first-of-its-kind regional workshop. Led by Public Gardens as Sentinels Against Invasive Plants (PGSIP), participants from major public gardens of our area gathered for a day-long educational and training session. PGSIP is a national organization sponsored by the Morton Arboretum in Illinois. It maintains a specialized database tracking introduced plant species that originated in U.S. public gardens. These facilities often maintain good observational information about the plants that they grow and are usually quick to control species that show signs of unwanted spread or weediness.

Florida, with its benign climate and as a center for international trade, is a "ground zero" for the introduction and spread of exotic organisms. Unplanned introductions can cause great environmental damage and upset ecosystems, ruin crops and even cause human illness. Many plant species were introduced, sometimes intentionally, but often without knowing that they thrive too well in South Florida's climate and soils and easily spread. Two well-known examples are melaleuca, introduced to help with swamp drainage, and Brazilian pepper, once planted as an ornamental landscape tree. Once a plant has escaped its point of introduction, control efforts can be extremely costly, take many years, and are sometimes impossible.

Tropical and subtropical plants have been displayed at Pinecrest Gardens since 1936. The Gardens has regularly introduced species and varieties new to local landscapes, or even completely new to horticulture. Acquainting visitors with novel and unusual plants has always been a part of the Gardens' purpose. Over time, the Gardens exchanged plants with nurseries, local growers and other gardens. Some species became common in South Florida's urban landscapes. Others fell out of favor as awareness grew of their invasive tendencies. Today, who would knowingly want to plant the striking but horribly invasive pampas grass, or the ornamental but highly toxic castor bean?

Plants previously unable to naturally propagate on their own in South Florida suddenly started popping up unexpectedly, with the inadvertent introduction of their pollinator insect. Some plants that are currently on display have unknown invasive potential or are too new to cultivation to be assessed, being scarce in cultivation and only found in a few gardens and specialist collections. Horticulture and Collections staff, working directly in the Gardens' landscape, have a good sense of the plants and whether seedlings are dispersing. Knowing and sharing that information with other public gardens will ultimately help scientists, land managers, governments, the nursery industry and property owners make better planting choices.

ARTS & EVENTS AT PINECREST GARDENS

South Florida’s most distinctive cultural venue offers an exciting new season of live music, special events, and community gatherings. From performances in the Banyan Bowl to festive seasonal celebrations, Pinecrest Gardens has something worth putting on your calendar.

26/27 JAZZ AT PINECREST GARDENS

Pinecrest Gardens proudly presents the 17th Annual Jazz at Pinecrest Gardens season, a curated lineup of award-winning artists spanning classic, contemporary and global jazz traditions. Set in the iconic Banyan Bowl, this year’s season celebrates the breadth of jazz while honoring the 100th birthday of Antonio Carlos Jobim through special performances.

Full season subscriptions are on sale now, with single tickets available beginning August 3, 2026.

More information: pinecrestgardens.org/jazz

ALLYSON BRIGGS & THE DAN GABEL BIG BAND | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 8 PM

Allyson Briggs “Fleur Seule” fronts the 18-piece Dan Gabel Orchestra for a night of Great American Songbook classics and vintage Big Band glamour.

ALLAN HARRIS SINGS NAT KING COLE CHRISTMAS | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 8 PM

Celebrated vocalist and guitarist Allan Harris brings warmth and depth to holiday favorites and jazz standards. His rich tone and storytelling create an intimate and perfect holiday concert experience.

THE SWEET TOOTH JAZZ BAND | SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 8 PM

Swing, blues, and early jazz collide in this high-energy performance from a spirited ensemble with serious charm. This performance invites audiences to move, listen and have a great time.

LUCY YEGHIAZARYAN TRIO | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 8 PM

A rising voice in jazz, Lucy Yeghiazaryan captivates with her warm tone and expressive style. Her performance blends technical precision with emotional depth, offering a fresh take on classic jazz traditions.

MUSIC OF MANCINI WITH JUKEBOX SATURDAY NIGHT | SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 8 PM

A tribute to legendary composer Henry Mancini, featuring iconic film scores and timeless melodies. Blending live music with storytelling, this program revisits classics like “Moon River” and “The Pink Panther Theme.”

ELIANE ELIAS: JOBIM CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION | SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 8 PM

Grammy-winning pianist and vocalist Eliane Elias honors Antonio Carlos Jobim with an elegant program of bossa nova and jazz. Her performance blends Brazilian rhythms with sophisticated artistry in a fitting centennial tribute.

FALL SOUND SESSION CONCERT

SOUND SESSION FEATURING HAZMAT MODINE | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 8 PM

This ensemble fuses blues, world music, and jazz into a high-energy set driven by harmonica, horns and rhythm. This evening can be paired with the Uncorked Wine Tasting Experience mentioned later in this article.

SUMMER EVENTS TO GATHER AND CELEBRATE

FIFA WORLD CUP WATCH PARTIES | JUNE & JULY

This June and July, Pinecrest Gardens hosts FIFA World Cup Watch Parties at Cypress Hall. Enjoy live match broadcasts indoors or on the outdoor deck, with concessions available throughout the day. Dates and match schedules will be announced via email, social media, and the Gardens’ website.

HOST YOUR PRIVATE EVENT AT PINECREST GARDENS

Pinecrest Gardens offers indoor and outdoor venue spaces for picture-perfect weddings, fun-filled kids’ birthdays, exciting corporate gatherings, enchanting holiday parties and more, all set within 14 acres of lush botanical surroundings. Whether you’re planning an elegant affair or a relaxed gathering, the Gardens provide a backdrop you won’t find anywhere else in South Florida. Contact events@pinecrestgardens.org to start planning.



SAVE THE DATE: FALL HIGHLIGHTS

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

This playful, high-energy night under the stars features an interactive outdoor screening at the Banyan Bowl with live performers, audience participation and a lively costume contest. Early bird tickets are now on sale.

FALL GARDEN DAY | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Garden Day: Arts for Wellness, presented in partnership with All Kids Included, showcases a day of adventure, nature, and more.

UNCORKED WINE TASTING EXPERIENCE | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Sample wines and light bights during this signature evening of wine tasting and live music in the Gardens. “Add-on” a vibrant concert experience featuring Hazmat Modine in the acoustically stunning Banyan Bowl Amphitheatre. Early bird tickets are now on sale.



DO YOU REMEMBER PARROT JUNGLE?

Have old photos and memorabilia from your visits to Parrot Jungle? Snapshots with Pinky, the flamingos, or beneath the banyans?

As Pinecrest celebrates 30 years, we’re collecting memories from the early days. Email your photos and a short note to events@pinecrestgardens.org. Selected submissions may be featured on the Village’s social media and in an upcoming exhibition.

CHARISMA AT PINECREST GARDENS OPENS SOON

Pinecrest Gardens welcomes an Italian chophouse-style restaurant this fall. Enjoy dinner indoors or outdoors on the terrace.



Village of Pinecrest
12645 Pinecrest Parkway
Pinecrest, FL 33156

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2026 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Qualifying Period for the 2026 Pinecrest Municipal Election and the Special Election to Fill a Vacancy in the Office Council Seat 3 shall commence at 12:00 noon on Monday June 8, 2026, and end at 12:00 noon on Friday, June 12, 2026, pursuant to Section 2-231 of the Pinecrest Code of Ordinances.

Candidates may qualify, during the Qualifying Period, for Council Seat 3, Council Seat 4 (At-Large) or the Mayor's Office in the Office of the Village Clerk, at the Pinecrest Municipal Center, 12645 Pinecrest Parkway, Pinecrest, Florida.

The Pinecrest Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. A Special Election to fill a vacancy in office Council Seat 3 will be held in conjunction with the General Election on November 3, 2026. A run-off election, if any necessary, will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2026.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.PINECREST-FL.GOV/ELECTIONS OR **SCAN THE CODE**

