

DECEMBER 2024

# PINECREST

THE NEWSLETTER OF YOUR VILLAGE GOVERNMENT



**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

# **PARKS & RECREATION CAPRA ACCREDITATION**

# A MESSAGE TO THE VILLAGE

## FROM THE MAYOR

Happy holidays, Pinecrest. I have some exciting news to share about our Parks and Recreation Department.

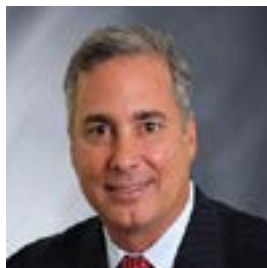
Imagine this: out of over 10,000 parks and recreation departments across the country, Pinecrest has joined an elite group of only 214 agencies to receive national accreditation. That's like being in the top 2% of parks departments nationwide. This accreditation comes from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the gold standard for parks and recreation agencies. It's not an easy feat to achieve – the Parks and Recreation Department had to meet 154 different standards to prove they're operating at the highest level.

This positively impacts the community. It means that Pinecrest residents and visitors can be confident they're getting top-notch services, well-maintained facilities, and innovative programs. The department had to go through a pretty intense process, including self-assessments and a site visit from trained volunteers, to show they're truly excelling in every area.

This recognition was officially awarded at the 2024 NRPA Annual Conference in Atlanta. It's not just about bragging rights, though. This accreditation process helps the department identify areas where it can improve even further. Pinecrest residents can look forward to even better parks and recreation services in the future. This accreditation aligns with four of the Village Council's Strategic Priorities: Organizational Excellence, Residential Character and Community Enhancement, Recreation and Infrastructure, and Environmental Sustainability.

Visit one of our parks to enjoy this wonderful weather and our five-star amenities. Congratulations to the Parks and Recreation Department staff for their excellent work.

## VILLAGE OFFICIALS



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## ON THE COVER

The Pinecrest Parks and Recreation Department has achieved an extraordinary milestone by earning national accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This prestigious recognition was awarded during the 2024 NRPA Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, placing Pinecrest among the top-tier park and recreation agencies in the country and internationally. Out of more than 10,000 parks and recreation departments nationwide, Pinecrest is now one of only 214 agencies to hold this distinguished honor.

Inside Photo Credit: NRPA and Caught in the Moment Photography



**PINECREST**

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# HOWARD PALMETTO BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

The 63rd season of Howard Palmetto Baseball & Softball (HPBSA) starts this coming January. Registration is open now until January 5th at [howardpalmetto.com](http://howardpalmetto.com). HPBSA is our community's recreational baseball and softball league. The league has been part of Pinecrest for so long, residents who played back in the 1960s now have their grandchildren playing. HPBSA is open to all skill levels making it the perfect place to try baseball/softball for the first time and a fantastic place to hone the skills of an experienced player. This is baseball/softball for the fun of baseball & softball. Most of the games are played here in Pinecrest at Suniland and Greer parks.

The league is an all-volunteer organization and encourages parental involvement. Families and players make new friends that will last them a lifetime while helping to strengthen Pinecrest's sense of community. HPBSA is open to all residents of the greater south Florida area, so if you have family or friends outside of Pinecrest, they are most welcome to register and join in the fun.

Pinecrest's athletic opportunities provide a unique window into our children's lives. With the ability to volunteer to coach or be a team parent, you can be actively involved in their social lives, which we all know will go by all too soon. Seize this opportunity to coach, cheer, and cherish time with your kids. Howard Palmetto is not just about hitting home runs or winning championships. It's about having fun, making friends, and physical development while teaching teamwork, discipline, and resilience. Play ball!



# FARMERS MARKET BUBBLE MAN



## THE BUBBLE MAN: HOW ONE MAN BROUGHT MAGIC TO PINECREST

By Layla Jaime, Pinecrest Youth Advisory Council (PYAC) Member

Growing up in the Pinecrest area, some of my earliest memories are of Alan Pasternack, more affectionately known as the Bubble man. I fondly recall the clusters of children that immediately formed around him at Evelyn Greer Park, pausing from their games of tag or their attempts to scale the seemingly massive, lilac-tinted dinosaur that previously stood on the playground. Each of us eagerly awaited an opportunity to try creating one of his massive, mesmerizing bubbles. Every interaction he had with a child was made of pure magic, instilling wonder and joy. The bubbles floated gently in the warm breeze, reflecting the sun's soft light into shades of purple, teal, and a pale yellow.

As children, we were all captivated by his bubbles, but as I grew older, I began to wonder how Pasternack's journey as the Bubble man began. His story started unexpectedly on a vacation to South Carolina thirty-five years ago, where he purchased a device similar to his Magic Bubble Wand. "My wife bought one," Pasternack recalls, "and I just copied it." Since then, he's brought the joy of bubble-making to Miami. "It's wonderful, if I can teach a child to blow a bubble, I'm in heaven," said Pasternack, on his connection with local youth. His joyful new career is a sharp juxtaposition to his previous role as an IRS employee, where he worked for forty years, a testament to how pursuing passions may lead to often unconventional and unexpected success (Feldman, 2012).

Even now, years later, as I walk through the bustling Pinecrest Farmers' Market, I've begun to see Pasternack almost weekly, a fixture posed at the lively market's entrance. Each time he makes his appearance, I am filled with the same childhood bliss I witness on the faces of other kids as they pass by. Pinecrest resident Annie Mieke, a student at Gulliver Preparatory School, shared a similar sentiment. In her awe, she playfully exclaimed "My dad can't do that, but he's not a professional!" Another local adult said, "We were admiring the colors on the bubbles when they hit the sun, how you can see the movement in the air, how it spins, too. It's just really neat – it's art."

From my childhood afternoons at Evelyn Greer Park to my weekly visits to the Farmers' Market, it's clear that Alan Pasternack has solidified his legacy as a beloved member of our Pinecrest community. He reminds us all how a simple moment, like blowing a bubble, can inspire wonder and create magic in the hearts of many.

Cited: Feldman, Hal. "Bubble man." MiamiHal, August 13, 2012.

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

## **ALEYDA MAS PARK**

The master planning process for Aleyda Mas Park is now underway. The Village has partnered with Urban Robot to develop a visionary plan to bring new life to this important community space. This seven-month process will begin with an electronic community survey, inviting residents to share their ideas and feedback. Urban Robot will analyze the survey results and present their findings at a community meeting early in the new year.

Drawing on survey insights, stakeholder meetings, site considerations, a feasibility study, a needs assessment, and public comments from the meeting, Urban Robot will craft a final conceptual rendering and master plan for the Village Council's review and approval. Once the conceptual design and master plan are finalized, Urban Robot will proceed with the development of construction documents, with renovations expected to commence in late 2025.

## **GARY C. MATZNER PARK**

Gary C. Matzner Park is currently in the construction document phase. Once finalized, the project will be put out for construction bids, with construction expected to begin by late winter. This project is focused on quality and aims to create a cherished space for all residents. The final park design includes open spaces, natural play areas, a covered playground, a walking path, a restroom shelter, parking, preservation of specimen trees, and a welcoming park gateway. The landscape will feature native species, creating a natural environment for visitors to enjoy.

## **CORAL PINE PARK**

The Phase 2 renovation of Coral Pine Park is underway, with the construction contract awarded to Waypoint Contracting, Inc. Final permitting is in progress, and construction is anticipated to begin in early winter. Planned enhancements include a new multipurpose room, upgraded restroom facilities, a walking path, an exercise station, and a covered walkway connecting the tennis and pickleball courts. This project is expected to be completed in 2025, providing improved amenities for the community to enjoy.

## **SHARED-USE PATH**

As one of the adopted projects of the Village's Transportation Master Plan approved in 2018, the Kendall Drive Shared Use Path (SUP) project will connect Ludlam Road to Red Road. The project consists of removing the existing five-foot-wide concrete sidewalk and constructing an 8-foot-wide asphalt path designed to accommodate two-way pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The path will be on the south side of Kendall Drive, with graded and sodded swales and additional street trees to beautify and add to the canopy. This project will enhance the SUP network in Pinecrest by adding connectivity to existing and future facilities. Miami-Dade County is considering a SUP along the north bank of the C-2 canal between US 1 and Ludlam Road, providing another connection point to this network. The Village will advertise for a contractor and construction is expected to begin in early 2025. The Village Council authorized the design of the Ludlam Road SUP and the Florida Department of Transportation granted \$1M for its construction. This project will provide an SUP on Ludlam Road from Howard Drive to Kendall Drive. The Village advertised to hire engineering design services, with design expected to begin in early 2025. Design and permitting are anticipated to take up to twelve months.

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



## **STORMWATER**

The Village commissioned a Stormwater Master Plan (SMP) in 2014 and adopted the plan in 2015. An SMP adopted by the Village Council is needed to obtain funding for projects from all levels of government agencies - county, state, and federal. The SMP analyzed the Village's drainage needs and provided a priority list of 15 basins (one being the highest priority). The Village has the five highest priority basins under design. The Village successfully obtained funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and continues to seek additional funding from different agencies to offset construction and construction engineering-inspection costs. The projects will be constructed according to their priority in the SMP. The five basins are currently in the final rounds of permitting, which is the final step before bidding for construction.

## **POTABLE WATER LATERAL CONNECTION INSTALLATION PROJECT**

This project will provide lateral connections from the potable water mains to new meter boxes for about 150 homes. The local utility, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) will perform the work of tapping the main lines and installing the laterals and meter boxes. The Village will provide any needed restoration to the pavement, swale, and sidewalks. Each connection will require a permitted design from WASD and the Village has contracted with a professional engineering firm to provide those services. The final necessary studies and approvals have been completed except for one final issue with the EPA. It is expected that this final issue will be resolved shortly, and work can begin with installations in early 2025. The Miami-Dade Environmental Quality Control Board (EQCB) provided a reprieve for homeowners who were provided a Notice of Required Connection (NORC) from the Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM). These residents now have 24 months to connect to adjacent water mains after the Village completes the Lateral Connection Project. The Public Works Department notifies affected residents once the work is completed. It provides step-by-step instructions on connecting to WASD potable water and applying for plumbing permits from the Pinecrest Building Department.

## **PINECREST GARDENS LAKEVIEW TERRACE & RAMP RENOVATION**

The investigative phase and design conducted by an architecture firm specializing in historical properties was completed, and the Village advertised an invitation to bid for construction which was awarded in July. Construction began in August 2024 with an expected completion date of May 2025.

# POLICE SAFETY



## A YEAR OF PROGRESS IN CRIME PREVENTION: **THANK YOU, PINECREST!**

As we approach the end of 2024, we are pleased to report a significant reduction in crime throughout Pinecrest. Total Part One crimes, have decreased by more than **30%** compared to this time last year. Specifically, auto thefts have dropped by a remarkable **67%**, and larceny cases have decreased by **29%**. Aggravated Assaults are down by **12%** Robberies down by **40%** and there were zero sex crimes reported in the Village.

This achievement would not have been possible without your help and dedication to following our crime prevention tips—your vigilance has made a real difference in keeping our community safer.

However, as we celebrate this progress, it's important that we don't become complacent, especially with the holiday season approaching. The end of the year often sees an increase in certain types of crimes, such as package theft, vehicle break-ins, and holiday-related scams. To keep yourself and your loved ones safe, here are a few reminders:

- **Secure your deliveries:** If you're ordering gifts online, consider using secure delivery options like lockers or scheduling deliveries when you're home to prevent package theft.
- **Lock your vehicle:** Never leave valuable items like shopping bags or electronics visible in your car, and always lock your doors, even for quick errands.
- **Be mindful of scams:** Scammers often increase their activity during the holidays, posing as delivery services, charities, or retailers. Be cautious when providing personal information or making online purchases from unfamiliar websites.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that the Village will be tripling the number of License Plate Readers (LPRs) throughout Pinecrest in 2025. These LPRs have already proven to be valuable tools in our investigations, helping us track down stolen vehicles and identify suspects. With more LPRs in place, we expect to not only solve crimes more efficiently but also deter criminals from targeting our community.

We are proud of the progress we've made together, and with your continued support, we can maintain this momentum. Let's remain vigilant and keep Pinecrest a safe place for everyone. Stay safe, and thank you for doing your part!



# RESTORING PINECREST'S NATURAL LEGACY



## **THE DADE SLASH PINE AND THE BRINGING PINES BACK TO PINECREST INITIATIVE**

Pinecrest continues the initiative that started over ten years ago, *Bringing Pines Back to Pinecrest*, to restore the magnificence of the Dade Slash Pine and rejuvenate the Village's ecological landscape. This ambitious project seeks not only to revive the unique splendor of the Dade Slash Pine but also to cultivate a deeper sense of environmental stewardship within the community.

## **THE DADE SLASH PINE: A UNIQUE FLORIDIAN TREASURE**

Central to this endeavor is the preservation of the Dade Slash Pine (*Pinus elliottii* var. *densa*), an extraordinary pine species that thrives in the sandy soils and coastal plains of the region. With its captivating bark pattern resembling an artist's masterpiece and its slender needle-like foliage, the Dade Slash Pine stands as an emblem of resilience and natural beauty within Pinecrest. Despite facing challenges from habitat fragmentation and human encroachment, dedicated conservationists and environmental groups in Florida are working tirelessly to protect its native habitat and ensure its continued survival for future generations to appreciate and admire.

## **A NEW PINELAND PRESERVE AT HIDDEN PINE SHARED-USE PATH**

As part of the Bringing Pines Back to Pinecrest initiative, the Village has begun establishing the Hidden Pine Shared-Use Path, a designated pineland preserve dedicated to safeguarding the Dade Slash Pine and other indigenous flora and fauna. Like its name implies this pocket park which is in its infancy – featuring small pine trees will provide a unique opportunity to walk in a pine forest and promote an understanding of the vital role played by the Dade Slash Pine. The Hidden Pine Shared-use path not only underscores the Village's commitment to ecological preservation but also fosters a deeper connection between the community and its natural heritage.

## **PINECREST PARKWAY BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT: EMBRACING THE DADE PINES**

In a concerted effort to integrate the essence of the Dade Slash Pine into the fabric of Pinecrest, the upcoming Pinecrest Parkway Beautification Project will introduce the majestic Dade Pines to the commercial corridor, symbolizing a warm welcome to all who enter the Village. This endeavor, designed to enhance the visual appeal of the area and instill a sense of pride in the community, highlights Pinecrest's commitment to sustainable development and the conservation of its natural resources.

# PARKS EVENTS & CAMPS



## **FUN WITH ELECTRICITY & ELECTRONICS LAB PROGRAM**

Get ready to embark on an insightful adventure about all things electricity. Our Fun with Electricity & Electronics Lab Program combines hands-on learning with electricity, circuits, light, and sound experiments.

Explore the realms of electricity and magnetism while building simple circuits and creating stunning light and sound displays. This program is designed to engage students in critical thinking and creativity, allowing them to apply grade-level concepts in a fun and interactive way.

Perfect for curious minds of all ages, our curriculum fosters collaboration and sparks a lifelong passion for STEM. Join us for a thrilling journey of discovery. Enroll today and power up your learning.

## **CREATE UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES AT THE ANNUAL DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE**

Mark your calendars for February 7 from 6 to 9 pm and prepare for a night of magic and joy. Join us for the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance at the charming Leslie Bowe Hall in Evelyn Greer Park. This is a special opportunity for fathers and daughters to bond, celebrate their unique relationship, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Enjoy a fantastic playlist that will keep you both moving on the dance floor. Engage in exciting activities that will spark laughter and joy. From interactive games to friendly competitions, there's no shortage of fun. Take a break from dancing to savor some light refreshments and treat yourselves to tasty snacks to keep the energy flowing. Don't forget to stop by the photo booth. Capture those precious moments with fun props and backdrops, ensuring you have lasting memories to cherish.

Space is limited, so buy tickets early to secure your spot to this enchanting evening. Admission is \$25 per person.

# PARKS EVENTS & CAMPS



## SPRING CAMPS ARE HERE: DISCOVER FUN AND LEARNING

This spring, we're thrilled to offer a variety of engaging camps designed for kids of all interests and abilities. Here's what's on the clipboard:

- **Dance and Crafts:** Let creativity shine as kids explore dance and artistic expression through fun craft projects - perfect for enhancing their imagination.
- **World of Tech and Coding:** Dive into the world of technology. Campers will learn coding basics and tech skills through hands-on projects that ignite curiosity and innovation.
- **Tennis:** Get active on the court. Our tennis camp is ideal for all skill levels, offering expert instruction and opportunities to strengthen your game and make new friends.
- **Snapology Bricks and Robotics:** Unleash your child's inner builder. This camp combines LEGO® bricks and robotics, allowing kids to explore engineering concepts while having a blast.
- **STARS Inclusive Camp:** Join our inclusive camp that celebrates diversity. This program is designed for children of all abilities and promotes social skills, teamwork, and fun activities in a supportive environment.

Don't miss out on these fantastic spring camps. Register today to secure a spot for your child.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP FOR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS,  
PLEASE VISIT [PINECREST-FL.GOV/PARKS](https://pinecrest-fl.gov/parks).**

# SENIOR HEALTH AND ACTIVITIES



Discover a new path to wellness with Chair Yoga at Pinecrest Community Center. Are you looking for a way to stay active and improve your well-being without the stress of traditional workouts? Chair Yoga is the perfect solution. This gentle form of yoga, designed for all fitness levels, lets you practice while seated or using a chair for support. It's especially popular among seniors and those with limited mobility, offering the benefits of yoga without needing to get down on the floor.

Chair Yoga goes beyond simple stretches. It helps you:

- Increase flexibility and range of motion with gentle movements tailored to your body.
- Feel calmer and less stressed through mindful breathing exercises and relaxation techniques.
- Boost your circulation and energy to keep you feeling your best throughout the day.

Join instructor Mara Fowler every Monday and Friday at 11:30 am to experience the power of Chair Yoga for yourself. It's an enjoyable and effective way to stay active, improve your flexibility, and relax your mind. Registration is required, and the monthly fee is \$69 - don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to enhance your health.

# HOLIDAY FITNESS GOALS



The holiday season is often associated with festive gatherings, indulgent feasts, and a break from routine. While it's a time for celebration and relaxation, it's also important to continue your health and fitness routine during these months. Staying active, eating healthy, and maintaining a workout routine can significantly enhance your holiday experience.

## Tips for Staying Active During the Holidays

- **Set Realistic Goals:** Aim for achievable fitness goals, whether a certain number of weekly workouts or incorporating physical activity into family gatherings.
- **Schedule Workouts:** Treat your workouts like appointments. Block out time on your calendar to ensure you prioritize fitness amidst holiday activities.
- **Get Creative:** If you can't attend the gym, try home workouts, outdoor runs, or fun group activities like ice skating or dancing.
- **Choose Healthier Options:** When at holiday parties look for healthier food options and don't hesitate to bring a nutritious dish to share.
- **Stay Hydrated:** Amidst all the holiday beverages, keep water a priority to stay hydrated and support your body's needs.

Embrace the season with a spirit of health and make this holiday season one of joy, connection, and wellness. You can even pass it on by giving a loved one a holiday gift certificate for classes, the gym, or both. Email [parks@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:parks@pinecrest-fl.gov) for more information.

Looking for other ways to stay fit? Pinecrest will host the annual FitCrest 5K on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at Evelyn Greer Park. Tickets are available now on Eventbrite. Visit [pinecrest-fl.gov/fitness](https://pinecrest-fl.gov/fitness) for more information about the Pinecrest Community Center Gym membership options, and our fitness class schedule.

# GARDEN FESTIVALS



## **NIGHTS OF LIGHTS**

During the holiday season the anticipation of visiting Pinecrest Gardens grows stronger. The air is filled with excitement as we look forward to experiencing an extraordinary holiday spectacle. The Gardens will be transformed into a mesmerizing wonderland, adorned with shimmering lights on select nights from December 6 to January 4.

You will be greeted with the delightful aroma of holiday treats and the joyful sounds of laughter. You will immediately feel immersed in the spirit of the holiday. Wander around, greet Santa, and explore a charming holiday bazaar, carefully curated to help you find the perfect holiday gifts while supporting local vendors.

The live performances at the historic Banyan Bowl stage will add to the magic of the evening, creating a truly remarkable community celebration.

Visit [pinecrestgardens.org/NOL](https://pinecrestgardens.org/NOL) to view the schedule and buy tickets. Garden members receive a discount at the gate.

## **ART & DESIGN FAIR**

Immerse yourself in a celebration of artistic expression at the annual Pinecrest Gardens Art & Design Fair on Saturday, January 25, and Sunday, January 26 from 10 am to 5 pm. This event features a carefully curated selection of talented artists, artisans, and designers and promises to delight all your senses. Explore various collective arts, nonprofit exhibitors, enjoy live music, and indulge in delicious treats.

Visit [pinecrestgardens.org/adfair](https://pinecrestgardens.org/adfair) to buy tickets. Garden enter free.

## **CALL FOR ARTISTS**

Pinecrest Gardens invites artists, artisans, and designers to participate in a juried fair with cash awards totaling \$10,000. For more information and to apply, visit [pinecrestgardens.org/adfair](https://pinecrestgardens.org/adfair) by January 10, 2025.

# GARDEN FESTIVALS



## **PINECREST GARDENS UNCORKED**

Experience the Perfect Pairing of Wine and Fantastic Music at Pinecrest Gardens UNCORKED. Explore a variety of wines from renowned regions across the globe on Saturday, February 22 from 6 to 8 pm. As you make your way through the Colonnade, enjoy a selection of wine pairings, each accompanied by savory bites to complement the tasting experience. Wine notes will be available to guide you through the journey, offering insights and stories behind each pour, making the evening both enjoyable and informative.

## **A FEAST FOR THE SENSES**

### **TASTE, LISTEN, AND FEEL THE VIBES WITH “THE PURPLE PROJECT”**

After an evening of tasting, let the music sweep you away on Saturday, February 22 at 8:30 pm. Step into the historic Banyan Bowl and settle in for an unforgettable night as “The Purple Project” takes the stage. This unique sound session celebrates the innovative spirit of Prince, reimagined through the talents of Latin Grammy-nominated pianist Martin Bejerano and Grammy-winning vocalist Nicole Yarling. Together, they’ll reinterpret the iconic music of Prince-blending jazz, soul, and Latin rhythms in a fresh and captivating way.

Whether you’re a wine enthusiast, music lover, or simply looking for a night to remember, Pinecrest Gardens UNCORKED is your destination for great wines, entertainment, and memorable experiences.

## **CHILI COOK-OFF**

**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, March 8 from noon to 5 pm

Get your boots ready to celebrate the 10th Annual Chili Cook-Off at Pinecrest Gardens with live country music, line dancing, bull riding, kids’ entertainment, a tasty food selection, chili tasting from professional and home cooks, and much more.

## **CALL FOR CHILI MASTERS AND HOME COOKS**

We are excited to welcome returning and new cooks to our International Chili Society-sanctioned event. If you are interested in participating in the ICS competition or the Home Cooks Challenge, please contact our events department at [events@pinecrestgardens.org](mailto:events@pinecrestgardens.org).

# PINECREST GARDENS HORTICULTURE



## FERNS AT PINECREST GARDENS

Pinecrest Gardens visitors can't help noticing the abundant ferns growing in the Lower Gardens, especially in the Cypress Slough area and the Tropical Hardwood Hammock. The moisture, humidity, and protection from strong sunlight and wind is ideal for these environmentally-sensitive plants. Approximately 10 species of native ferns can be seen commonly growing in small cracks and pockets in undisturbed limestone, the prominent geological feature that makes Pinecrest Gardens so special. Most were growing on-site before the Gardens were created. These native fern communities are often found on the walls of solution holes and near freshwater springs, features of South Florida's coastal landscape that have been nearly eliminated in urban areas. Consequently, many of our native ferns are currently classified locally or state-wide as threatened, endangered, or in some instances, extinct. Sea level rise and other environmental changes further threaten the existing populations, but healthy examples have been conserved and protected at Pinecrest Gardens.

We also carefully cultivate several other tropical fern species. Notable ones include Leather Fern, the largest U.S. fern, and Mules Foot Fern, a giant Australian fern species. Imposing examples of just how big Leather Fern can grow are to be seen at the edge of the parking lot in the Mangrove Forest area. A large Mules Foot Fern can be found next to the Waterfall Pond across from the Slough. Although most ferns are not considered weedy, some ornamental species can escape from horticulture and become invasive. One example is various forms and hybrids of Boston Fern, which have colonized many parks and natural areas in the county, yet are commonly sold in local garden centers and nurseries. These plants are no longer cultivated in the Gardens, and if found, the horticultural team removes them.



# PINECREST GARDENS EDUCATION



## YOUTH PROGRAMS

### Early Learning STEAM Program

STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math - is an educational discipline that aims to spark an interest and lifelong love of the arts and sciences in children from an early age. It is recognized that students who engage in STEAM lessons develop the creativity necessary to take on real-world challenges and form the skills needed to solve problems innovatively. It also helps improve students’ emotional intelligence and social skills. They learn to work with others, be expressive, and become more socially adaptable.

Pinecrest Gardens invites you to ignite your junior scientist’s adventurous spirit with our new Micromolecules Early Learning STEAM Program. Hosted by Discovery Lab, this program is designed for children ages 3 to 5 and focuses on science and art through fun, interactive activities. Your little explorer will engage in hands-on experiments, collaborative projects, and a nurturing environment, fostering confidence, curiosity, and creativity. Kids will uncover the wonders of STEAM in exciting new ways. Students will also benefit from the amenities of Pinecrest Gardens.

Winter sessions start January 13 and run Monday through Friday from 9 am to noon. Discover more and register at [pinecrestgardens.org/steam](https://pinecrestgardens.org/steam).

## ADULT PROGRAMS

Join us on select Thursdays each month for our Curious Gardener workshops designed for adults ages 21+. Upcoming themes include Botanical Jewelry Making and a Galentines Botanical Candle Making class. All materials and a complimentary beverage are included in the price. If history and the outdoors are more your thing, join our horticulture and education team on select Saturdays for a Guided Botanical Garden Tour. Upcoming tours include The History of Pinecrest Gardens which will uncover the historic and cultural significance of the Pinecrest Gardens property. For more information and to register, visit [pinecrestgardens.org/learn](https://pinecrestgardens.org/learn).

# CELIA CRUZ EXHIBITION



**CELIA CRUZ CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1925-2025**  
**EXHIBITION ON VIEW DECEMBER 8 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2**  
**PREVIEW OPENING: DECEMBER 7**

The Celia Cruz Estate and Pinecrest Gardens proudly present the Celia Cruz Centennial Celebration exhibition, the first event marking the 100th anniversary of Cruz's birth. This tribute will culminate in a two-night concert at Pinecrest Gardens, featuring Lucrecia (as Celia) with the Celia Cruz All Stars performing live in the historic Banyan Bowl.

The exhibition spotlights Celia Cruz's golden era, 1950-1965, showcasing her remarkable career through photographs, personal documents, iconic dresses, and, above all, her unforgettable music.

Special thanks to our collaborators and partners: Celia Cruz Estate, Omer Pardillo-Cid, Nestor Rodriguez, Celia Cruz Foundation, and History Miami Museum.

**This exhibition complements the two-night Tropical Nights concert, celebrating the legendary, award-winning Celia Cruz and immersing guests in her vibrant world from 1950-1965. On display are two of her iconic dresses, a signature wig, music charts, records, awards, and a rich collection of memorabilia.**

# CELIA CRUZ EXHIBITION



## **CELIA IN THE 50s. HER COLLABORATIONS AND RECORDINGS (LA SONORA MATANCERA)**

Celia in the 50s marked a turning point in her career, especially through her collaboration with the popular Cuban ensemble La Sonora Matancera. After emerging in Cuba's music scene through radio and musical theater in the 1940s, Celia Cruz made her debut with La Sonora Matancera on August 2, 1950, on Radio Progreso. This collaboration quickly solidified her status as a major artist, producing hits like "Cao Cao Maní Picao," "Burundanga," and "Me Voy a Pinar del Río," earning her first Gold Records. Her partnership with La Sonora Matancera continued into the early 1960s, yielding nearly 200 recordings and establishing her reputation internationally.

## **CELIA AT SANS SOUCI AND TROPICANA**

In the glamorous settings of Havana's iconic nightclubs, Sans Souci and Tropicana, Celia's star power continued to rise. She was the central figure in "Sun Sun Babaé" at Sans Souci in 1952, a show that transformed Cuban nightclub entertainment. At Tropicana, the famed "Paradise under the Stars," Celia became a celebrated diva, headlining shows like "Mayombe" in 1953, "Cuban Night" in 1956, and "Bongó Congo" in 1959. Her presence at Tropicana was legendary, blending Afro-Cuban music with a vibrant visual spectacle that captivated audiences. By 1958, she even reached American audiences, appearing on \*The Tonight Show\* from Havana, solidifying her international appeal.

# JAZZ AT THE GARDENS



## **JAZZ AT PINECREST GARDENS**

### **BIG CHIEF DONALD HARRISON**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 8 PM**

Jazz saxophonist and NEA Jazz Master presenting a fusion of traditional jazz and contemporary styles he pioneered.

### **KANDACE SPRINGS TRIO**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 8 PM**

Praised by Prince for having “a voice that could melt snow,” Springs and her all-female ensemble effortlessly blend soul, pop, and jazz. Series subscriptions & single tickets on sale.

Thanks to our supporters Steinway & Sons, Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs, Actualidad, Panter Panter & Sampedro PA, Celia Cruz Estate, WDNA, WLRN.



# TROPICAL NIGHTS



## **TROPICAL NIGHTS**

### **CELIA CRUZ CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1925-2025**

**JANUARY 31 AND FEBRUARY 1\*, 8 PM**

A tribute to the Queen of Salsa, featuring a special appearance by Lucrecia as Celia Cruz accompanied by the Celia Cruz All Stars.

### **GAFIEIRA RIO MIAMI & FRIENDS**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 8 PM**

Led by Latin Grammy-winning bassist Diogo Brown, the 11-piece band fuses samba, jazz, funk, soul and features special guest percussionist Tony Succar, and vocalist Isa Duarte.

Visit [pinecrestgardens.org](https://pinecrestgardens.org) for the full line-up and to reserve seats

\*Tickets sold separately. Show is not part of series.

# SOUND SESSIONS



## **SOUND SESSIONS AT PINECREST GARDENS**

Pinecrest Gardens introduces a new music pop-up series titled Sound Sessions featuring “The Purple Project” on Saturday, February 22 at 8:30 pm. The inaugural session features the Martin Bejerano Trio & Nicole Yarling in a tribute to Prince. Featuring Dave Chiverton on drums, and Dion Kerr on bass.

The music of Prince is iconic and timeless. Latin Grammy-nominated pianist and music arranger Martin Bejerano together with renowned vocalist Nicole Yarling present a modern, funky jazz-fusion that reimagines Prince’s “golden period.”

Before the concert enjoy a wine walk and tasting dubbed Uncorked from 6 to 8 pm.

Tickets go on sale December 2, 2024.

# VENUE RENTALS



## VENUE RENTALS IN PARADISE

Discover the perfect setting for your next family gathering at the Colonnade Cabanas.

Looking for a beautiful and cozy outdoor space to host your next family gathering? Look no further than our reimagined Colonnade Cabanas, nestled amidst breathtaking natural beauty. These picturesque spaces offer the ideal setting for special occasions, accommodating 10 to 20 people and provide a seamless connection with nature's beauty.

Embrace nature and create cherished memories in this idyllic outdoor space. For more information, please contact us at [events@pinecrestgardens.org](mailto:events@pinecrestgardens.org).



**PINECREST**

**Village of Pinecrest**

12645 Pinecrest Parkway

Pinecrest, FL 33156

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# PINECREST SUBMISSION OF ELECTRONIC BUILDING PLANS

Beginning January 2025, the Building and Planning Department will stop receiving paper plans and applications.

All new permit applications and plans submitted after December 31, 2024, will be reviewed in electronic format only.

Paper sets that are currently under review will continue to be processed in paper.

The Building Department can convert paper submissions to digital format for an additional service fee.

Once the plans are approved, a link will be provided to download the permit set.

For additional information, access the Pinecrest Building Department web portal by scanning the following QR code:



**PINECREST  
BUILDING+  
PLANNING**

