



The Beautiful VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK

April 2012



Village of Biscayne Park
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Biscayne Park, FL 33161
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VILLAGE COMMISSION

Mayor Noah Jacobs
Vice-Mayor Barbara Watts
Commissioner Bryan Cooper
Commissioner Bob Anderson
Commissioner Roxanna Ross

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION

Ana M. Garcia, Village Manager
Maria C. Camara, Village Clerk
Mitchell Glansberg, Chief of Police
Charles Smith, Finance Director
Bernard Pratt, Public Works Director
Issa Thornell, Parks & Rec Director

REHABIN' THE CABIN

We're on a mission with a vision!

The Village of Biscayne Park is considered by many as a unique oasis, but in 1921, it was unincorporated, undeveloped and for the most part, fields of tomatoes belonging to Arthur Mertlow Griffing, a landscaper and horticulturist. Continuing his love of landscaping, he subdivided the land and carefully planted the area with shrubs and trees so that Biscayne Park would resemble a huge botanical garden.

Early in January 1923, Mr. Griffing began advertising to potential buyers, particularly young families to live in his new development. The well-landscaped streets, medians and park areas laid out by Mr. Griffing set the stage for the first homes built. On December 31, 1931, by a vote of its 113 citizens, the Town of Biscayne Park was incorporated, and in 1933, a state charter was granted changing the name to the Village of Biscayne Park.

On February 1, 1933, at the height of the Depression, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) began construction on the log cabin and the Federal Emergency Relief Program provided the labor for the Dade County pine construction. To this day, this significant historic landmark serves as our Village Hall and Police Station. Mr. Griffing had a vision for our Village and in spite of the challenges he and the first residents of the Village faced, he stayed the course and accomplished his mission of building a beautiful and quaint community.

Today almost 80 years later we are faced with similar challenges, but instead of building a Cabin we find ourselves with the daunting yet necessary task of restoring it to its original glory. We're calling it "Rehabin' the Cabin". The Cabin, the prized symbol of our Village, is a large part of our identity where we serve our residents, yet the Cabin is also a significant part of Florida history as well as our American history. The Cabin represents ingenuity, creativity and perseverance, a pioneering spirit where character is developed in the middle of difficulty because there is a belief that opportunity is just around the corner!

The Cabin has greatly deteriorated over the past 80 years creating a health and safety concern. Accessibility is a major problem as necessary documents are stored in every available inch of space, further creating a habitat for rodents. The deterioration exists in the exterior (roof, logs, windows and doors) to the interior (flooring, ceiling tiles, electrical, and plumbing), and we are seriously concerned as we head into another hurricane season.

The time has come to seek support for the restoration of the Cabin and our mission started this past February in Tallahassee as we worked very closely with the Caserta Group. James Wyatt developed as a key lobbyist for our Village this year along with our newly elected State Representative Daphne Campbell, who carried our torch with passion and commitment throughout the entire legislative session. Commissioner Roxanna Ross and I spent one day in our State Capital where in addition to Representative Campbell, we met with Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll, House Speaker Dean Cannon, Senator

Oscar Braynon, Senator Miguel Diaz de la Portilla, and State Representatives Jose Diaz and Michael Billeca. As advocates for a \$500,000 appropriation request for the preservation of our historic Cabin, we were on a mission to inform our captive audience with a detailed narrative and photographs that caught everyone's attention reinforcing the dire need for funding.



Manager Ana M. Garcia, Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll, Representative Daphne Campbell, and Commissioner Roxanna Ross (Feb. 6, 2012 visit to Tallahassee)

At the close of the legislative session, Biscayne Park was listed on the State's budget for a \$150,000 appropriation, and as I write this story, Governor Scott had not yet signed the budget. But we have been in contact with his office and Representative Campbell continues to wave the Village flag to insure we remain in the budget for the significance of our Village receiving this funding is paramount to fulfilling our mission. A \$150,000 appropriation from the State can turn into additional funding through matching grants and the mission continues as we explore fund raising opportunities and reach out to our residents, friends, and businesses.

Mayor Noah Jacobs took our message to the federal level during his recent visit to Washington D.C. where he attended the National League of Cities Conference.

Rehabin' the Cabin

(continued from page 1)

Mayor Jacobs made the time to meet with Senator Marco Rubio and Senator Bill Nelson, as well as with key staffers for various members of Congress.

In this year's budget we appropriated dollars for Planning and we took the necessary first step as we identified a need that had to be addressed. I am grateful to our Commission for passing the 2011-2012 budget, for that was a seed that was planted supporting our efforts of *Rehabin' the Cabin*. In Tallahassee we watered the seed and that seed has taken root. In our letter to Governor Scott we thanked him for his support and we invited him to a December 2013 ribbon cutting event as we look towards making the restoration of our historic Cabin the highlight of the 80th anniversary of our Village.

Mr. Griffing had a vision for the Village of Biscayne Park and he was on a mission to insure that vision became a reality. Today we will follow his lead and with much enthusiasm and dedication, we will work together on this most worthy endeavor -- *Rehabin' the Cabin*.

WANTED

We are looking to put together a group of volunteers to go through all of the Village's historical pictures and documents in order to properly index and store them. We hope to be able to create a showcase for these treasured mementoes to share with the community, and with the local schools. This would be a great opportunity for history buffs or scrapbook enthusiasts to lend your talents to a worthy project.

We are also looking for residents to share pictures of their homes and of events in the Village from the "early years". Perhaps you have a picture from the fifties and sixties, or maybe even from the thirties or forties! We would love to be able to scan them and add them to our collection.

If you are interested, please send an e-mail to villagehall@biscayneparkfl.gov and write "Village History" in the subject line. Give us your name and contact information and we will get back to you.



December 2011 Election



Following the December 6, 2011, general election of the Village of Biscayne Park, the official swearing in took place at the December regular commission meeting on December 13, 2011.



Mayor Noah Jacobs with wife Elizabeth, daughter Cassie, and Joe & Jeanne Farcus



Commissioner Bob Anderson with wife Janey, and Circuit Court Judge Victoria Sigler



Vice Mayor Barbara Watts with Lesley Northrup, Dean, The Honors College at FIU

Right: Lobbyist James Wyatt, Manager Ana Garcia, Finance Director Charles Smith, Vice Mayor Barbara Watts, Representative Daphne Campbell, Mayor Daisy Black of El Portal, Commissioner Roxanna Ross, and Commissioner Bob Anderson



Far left: A view of the cabin's original interior including the fireplace made of coral rock.

Left: An outside view of the Cabin facing north, surrounded by native pine trees. The Cabin originally had a wrap around screened porch which can be seen here in this picture. Both pictures are circa 1940.

Mark your calendars! Saturday, April 14th is the next Yard Debris & Trash Sweep for the entire Village, from 12:00pm to 5:00pm.



Our Public Works Department is "sweeping" the Village for the start of Spring! So get your rakes and clippers out and spruce up your yard on Saturday morning and place your pile out by 12:00pm.

The size of the pile is limited to 2 cubic yards (3 ft x 3 ft x 6 ft).

Please – yard debris ONLY. No building material or appliances.

For more information, please call Public Works at (305) 893 4346 (Mon-Fri 9:00am to 4:00pm) or e-mail publicworks@biscayneparkfl.gov.



Our dedicated Public Works staff is ready to service your property on this day and everyday! Please do not hesitate to contact us to assist you.

Be sure to mark your calendars that the next quarterly sweep is scheduled for June 9th – just in time for the start of hurricane season.



Village of Biscayne Park Police Department

By Sgt. Ray Atesiano

As we start another year in the beautiful Village of Biscayne Park, we must look backwards in order to make the future even better. What this means is that last year 2011 taught us many things which can be used to make 2012 an even safer year. The following list contains recommendations for securing your property and preventing criminal activity.

Vehicle security: Never leave your car doors unlocked; do not leave any valuables visible like your cell phone, ipod, GPS, purse, or loose change or cash.

Home security: Always lock your doors and windows and if you have an alarm, make sure that it is properly set. Never cancel police response to an alarm at your home unless you or someone you designate is at the location and has verified all is in order. Let Police know if you will be going out of town and request a house watch on your home. This includes when your house is being tented. Make sure that you have proper lighting around your home, and remove all trees or shrubs that block the view of your front door or windows from the street. If your rear yard leads to an alley, remember to lock your gate. Obtain a secure locking mailbox to eliminate the chance of mail being stolen to avoid the possibility of identify theft.

What to be on the lookout for:

- Suspicious people or vehicles walking or driving slowly through the area.
- Unmarked vans or pick up trucks either driving by or parked in front of a neighbor's home.
- Juveniles walking through the area during school hours.
- Report anyone walking on the railroad tracks or walking through private property to walk into Biscayne Park.

Always remember, the Police Department, is here to serve our residents and keep the Village as safe as possible. It is better that you call and it is nothing, than you not call and it later turns out to be something that could have been prevented. **Remember – the Non-Emergency Dispatch number is 305-595-6263.**

We are proud to report more than a 50 % reduction in crime from 2010 to 2011, while surrounding areas are experiencing a rise in crime rates. This is a testament to the dedicated work of the Biscayne Park Police Department fostered by its close ties to its citizens.

Let's work together to make 2012 the safest year in the history of the Village of Biscayne Park.



The Police Department is happy to announce the hiring of four new reserve officers. Pictured above are from left to right, Officers Guillermo Revelo, Alejandro Montes de Oca, Carmelo Garcia, and Jason Santiago. This brings the total of officers in our force to 11 regular full time and 10 reserves. We welcome these officers and thank them for their service to the residents of Biscayne Park.



At the March regular commission meeting, Police Chief Glsnberg recognized the following police officers (from left to right):

Sgt. Ray Atesiano – 2011 Officer of the Year: Officer Atesiano ended the year with 305 total arrests (42 felony arrests and 263 misdemeanor and traffic arrests), and 2,236 traffic citations, all while handling calls for service, supervisory duties, and performing investigations. Officer Atesiano continues to perform above and beyond expectations and is leading the department to an exceptional level of success.

Reserve Officer Roy Camara – 2011 Reserve Officer of the Year: Officer Camara throughout his 14 year career as a reserve officer has dedicated himself to the service of the Village, usually working beyond 30-50 hours a month. A lead trainer for Miami Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department, he is also the lead firearms and CPR training instructor for our police department, providing this service on his own time with professionalism, distinction and with safety of the community and officers in mind.

Reserve Officer Brad Kern – 2011 Reserve Officer of the Year: Officer Kern distinguished himself in the performance of his volunteer hours by handling the pre-employment background investigation duties above and beyond his patrol duties, often putting in an additional 30-50 hours a month of his own time to get this completed. His efforts have led the department to expand the Reserve force and to continue to recruit and hire the best and most qualified police officers for the Village.

**Village of Biscayne Park
welcomes
C.A.P. Government, Inc.
Code Compliance Services**



The Village of Biscayne Park is pleased to introduce C.A.P. Government, Inc. (CAP)

as the Village's new Code Compliance services team. CAP is the premier provider of Building and Code Compliance outsourcing services in Miami-Dade and Broward counties and offers an unmatched level of experience.

The Village and CAP developed this public/private approach to ensure compliance with the Village's laws and regulations for land use, zoning, building, housing, and environmental health. Managed by CAP, the new Code Compliance program promises to maintain the Village's high priority of accomplishing adopted community goals, such as preserving the quality of neighborhoods, avoiding nuisances, and protecting the environment.

CAP's team delivers more than two decades of supervisory and management experience. Candido Sosa-Cruz will serve as Lead Code Compliance Officer. He is a decorated war veteran with many years of experience in the application and enforcement of code and regulatory processes. Patrick Fleurestant will also join the Biscayne Park team as a Code Compliance Officer. Mr. Fleurestant is a former Marine with extensive code compliance experience.

CAP's experienced, multilingual team (Candido speaks fluent Spanish, while Patrick speaks French, Creole, and some Japanese) will provide a much desired structure to the Village's Code Compliance process with the mindset that compliance is the ultimate goal.

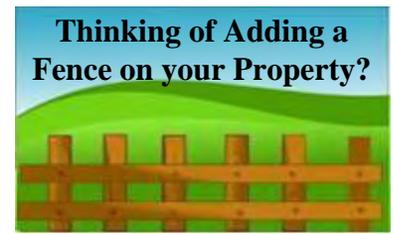


**BEFORE you
start those home
remodeling
projects....**

Our Building Department would like to remind our residents of the following:

- Apply for permits for all exterior AND interior work you are considering for your home.
- While work is being performed, display your permit where it is clearly visible.
- If you have an existing permit, remember to call for a final inspection. This is the last step of the permitting process. It not only closes out the permit, but the inspection insures that the work was done correctly.
- Don't be a victim! If a door to door contractor or handyman is offering you to do work at an incredible low price and tells you that the work does not require a permit, it is probably not a legitimate company, and you will probably wind up with work that is inferior and below Building Code standards.
- Contractors must have a clearly marked truck or van when working on your home. This is a safety concern and the contractor will be advised when the permit is issued.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Building Department and we will be happy to assist you. We are open Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 5:00PM. You can reach us by phone at 305 899 8000, or e-mail us at bdclerk@biscayneparkfl.gov.



At the February regular commission meeting, the commission passed Ordinance 2011-02, which made changes to our code in regards to allowances for fences, walls and hedges. If you are considering adding any type of fence to your property, please make sure you are updated on these changes. Here is a basic overview of the changes:

- Corner properties are now allowed to add a fence to their side corner yard.
- Hedge height limits were removed.
- Fencing materials allowed have been broadened.

The complete ordinance is available on our website, or you can stop by Village Hall for a printed copy and you can take the opportunity to ask questions of our Building Clerk, Jeanie Bridges.



Putting Grant Dollars to Work for our Village

Village administration has worked hard to make sure that the State appropriation of funding for storm water drainage and road improvements is maximized and used to the very last penny. Major improvements were completed last year along northeast 9th Court, and starting this month, additional projects will be starting next to our central park on 113th Street, as well as several streets along 6th Avenue and in other areas on 10th Avenue and 11th Place.

We ARE the "little Village that could" !



The medians throughout our Village are a treasured part of our history as explained on the cover of this newsletter, giving our Village the feel we are in a park and garden-like setting. With that being said, the Village will do all we can to maintain and preserve these medians, including stepped-up enforcement of the laws that prohibit parking on or cutting through the medians:

- Crossing/driving on a median strip is a moving violation with 3 points penalty on the license and a fine of \$195.00
- Improper stopping/standing/parking on a median strip is a non-moving violation with no points of penalty on the license, but with a fine of \$145.00.

Egg-citement is in the air!



Round up the kids (of all ages), put on your favorite Easter bonnet and bring a basket to our annual Egg Hunt!

Saturday, April 7th at 10:30am

Ed Burke Recreation Center



Get ready, get set, GO!

Brought to you by the Village of Biscayne Park Parks & Recreation Department



Great food



Funky tunes



Picture perfect park



Another evening of FOOD & TUNES brought to you by the Biscayne Park Foundation. Please join us on Friday, April 13th at 6:30pm.

Ed Burke Recreation Center – 11400 NE 9th Court

Are you interested in advertising in our newsletter? Please submit your inquiries to info@biscayneparkfl.gov. Our newsletter reaches 1,300+ homes in the Village of Biscayne Park. The Village of Biscayne Park reserves the right to reject an offer to place an ad in the newsletter on a case by case basis and does not endorse or guarantee any product, service or company represented in the displayed advertisement.



OWL Family Update

Feb. 2, 2012: The last of the baby owls left their box this evening. This has been the fourth family this year using our "owl box" !

Biscayne Park resident

Charles Alan Ross, PA

Certified Public Accountant

11166 Griffing Blvd

Biscayne Park, FL 33161

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(954) 983 6330 Broward

(877) 356 7202 Fax

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DENIS MURPHY

 Cut and keep on hand for quick referral.

POLICE EMERGENCY – Dial 911

Police NON-Emergency Dispatch
(305) 595 6263

Village Hall (Log Cabin) M-F 9am-5pm
(305) 899 8000

Building Dept (Log Cabin) M-F 10am-5pm
(305) 899 8000

Code Compliance (M-F 9am-5pm)
(305) 899 8000

Public Works (M-F 9am-4pm)
(305) 893 4346

Ed Burke Recreation Center
Park and grounds open from sunrise to sunset. Facility hours:
M-F 1pm-7pm
Sat – Sun 11am-7pm
(305) 893 3711

Village Manager Ana M. Garcia
agarcia@biscayneparkfl.gov

Village Clerk Maria C. Camara
villageclerk@biscayneparkfl.gov

Police Chief Mitchell Glansberg
mglansberg@biscayneparkfl.gov

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Visit us on the web at
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Featured Property **SOLD!**

11270 NE 9th Ave. Biscayne Park



Charming 2 Bedroom 1 Bath Cottage-Style Home

Offered at* **\$259,000**

Under contract in 4 days! *Imburgia Realty brought the buyer.

*Buying or Selling? We Take Pride in Our Reputation
for Hard Work, Customer Service & Satisfaction!*

Just Sold!



1035 NE 134th Street, North Miami

Offered at **\$275,000**
Under contract in 17 days

Just Sold!



101 NE 107th Street, Miami Shores

Offered at **\$299,000**
Under contract in 5 days



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"Their home away from home"

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- C.P.R. Certified
- FIRST AID Certified
- License #F11MD0968

My Service:

- Monday – Friday
- 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Ages 1-4 welcome

A Day of Daycare:

- Educating "The Creative Curriculum"
 - **Social Development**
 - **Emotional Development**
 - **Cognitive/Mental Development**
 - **Physical Development**
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- Learning Areas
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