



Celebrating 80 Years VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK

Transparency, Integrity & Professionalism

January 2013



VILLAGE HALL

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Commissioner Barbara Watts

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Maria C. Camara, Village Clerk
Ray Atesiano, Chief of Police
Candido Sosa-Cruz, Asst. to the Mgr.
Bernard Pratt, Public Works Director
Issa Thornell, Parks & Rec Director

As we enter 2013, Biscayne Park is celebrating 80 amazing years. There are going to be numerous wonderful events, ranging from a health day, with a fun run, to special functions within our log cabin and finally by the end of the year we are planning to have some of the best movies of 1933 shown at the Ed Burke Recreation center. While we are celebrating the amazing history of our village, we're also putting together events that our current residents enjoy. We have numerous events being ably run by our wonderful Rec Center staff, and a sports program for some of our younger residents, run by coach Joe. While those programs target the kids, we also have events that welcome our residents of all ages. The annual Halloween celebration has become something that Biscayne Park is known for. We even have visitors from all over the city that come to enjoy BP's hospitality and enthusiasm on that day. While that was great, we have other annual events that our residents look forward to.

We had our signature Winterfest event in mid-December. We got Santa to come visit before he got too busy. We also had an amazing car, motorcycle and bike show that went off without a hitch. I want to personally thank the recreation advisory board for such a great event. These are the sorts of events that make Biscayne Park special.

While these events are great, the Village is special because of the wonderful people that work for, and live in our neighborhoods. As we become more and more reliant on technology in our everyday lives, somehow I fear that we are becoming a bit more isolated from the immediate world around us. As it becomes easier for me to connect with friends from childhood,

that live in other states and countries using platforms like Facebook. It has also become easier to become disengaged from those in the immediate area. Thankfully, Biscayne Park is a place where many of us go out of our way, to know our neighbor, or to bring a casserole dish to someone who just moved in. It is not unusual to see people jogging, or walking their pets, at just about any hour of the day or night here. This is not only a credit to the fact that we know most of our neighbors, but also the wonderful job the police department does in keeping our town safe.



Whether it's the special events for our 80th anniversary, the annual events so many of us look forward to, the amazing staff or the old time hospitality of the residents, I am very enthusiastic to embrace all that the future has in store for Biscayne Park.

If there is anything I can do to help, please feel free to email or call me and I will do anything I can.



All the best,
**Mayor Noah
Jacobs**

njacobs@biscayneparkfl.gov

786-385-4136





Commissioner Bob Anderson: Reinstating of commissioner columns in the newsletter has resulted in lack of space for important information for our residents. This month I am donating my space to Crime Watch.

Message from Citizens Crime Watch of Biscayne Park By Chuck Ross

Thanks to Commissioner Bob Anderson, a long-time involved and avid supporter of crime watch, for setting aside a portion of his allotted space for these messages from Citizens Crime Watch of Biscayne Park (CCW of BP).

What is CCW of BP? CCW of BP is a network of alert residents that are the eyes and ears of our neighborhood reporting suspicious activity to the police. **Remember never insert yourself in a situation. If you see something unusual call the police.**

As Chair of CCW of BP, I volunteer to attend monthly meetings in Doral chaired by Carmen Caldwell, Executive Director of CCW of MDC (for more info about CCW of MDC, please go to <http://www.citizenscrimewatch.org>). At these monthly meetings I have had the opportunity to interact with other communities in MDC, learn of trends, and exchange strategies for improving CCW. Officer Nick Wollschlager, our designated BP police department liaison to CCW attends these meetings as well. The BP police and CCW of BP hold periodic meetings with Village Residents to provide crime stat updates and informational tips to help prevent crime in BP. CCW also maintains a list-serve for email blasts to residents regarding crime events, safety information and crime prevention tips, and last but not least, lost pet notices.

Special thanks to our new department head of the police, Chief Ray Atesiano, for the excellent job he is doing and the direction he has taken the department. We continue to be a municipality with one of the lowest crime rates and highest clearance rates in MDC.

Initiatives that the Chief is looking to create include a confidential Emergency Contact List for BP residents to be

maintained with the BP PD, and a Pet Registry to reunite lost pets with their lost owners.

All BP residents not currently on the email blast list for CCW of BP are invited to please join the group or for more information. Contact me at biscaynepark_crimewatch@yahoo.com. The network is close to 400 residents strong, and my goal is to make that 600 strong by the end of 2013. With the help of CCW of BP members, many crimes have been prevented or solved by using their common sense, keeping their eyes and ears open and calling the police when they see something suspicious. (If you see something suspicious **call 911**. If it is **not an emergency call 305-476-5423**)

The more residents that are on the list, the more eyes and ears to help prevent crime in Biscayne Park

Village of Biscayne Park Police Department



By Chief Ray Atesiano

I first want to wish all of you a happy 2013. As we embark on a new year, I would like to recap some of the highlights that made 2012 the great success it was for the village. The first outstanding achievement is that our officers made over 700 arrests this

past year, which lead to a 63% overall reduction of crime from 2011. The department has also cleared 18 of the 20 reported residential burglaries. This figure gives us a clearance rate of 89% which is far above the national average and a demonstration of the tireless effort put forth by the officers. I am proud of my officers and the hard work they have put in to keeping Biscayne Park the safest it possibly can.

As great as the above listed accomplishments are, I would like to challenge all of my officers to make 2013 an even bigger success. We will continue to protect our residents by keeping up our all out proactive approach to law enforcement in attempts to catch criminals before they are able to victimize our residents. Each shift will be dedicated to specific issues; this is an approach that has worked and continues to work to lower crime as a whole.

As your Police Chief, I am dedicated to making the department the best that it can be. We are fully committed to a partnership with our residents in order to solve quality of life as well as public safety issues. We are your department and proud to serve this community. This year has shown us that with the drive and hard work from our officers and through the partnership with our residents, that we can continue to improve on our achievements and surpass any goals set forth. I look forward to 2013 and to making it an even better year than 2012.



Front row from left to right: Police Administrative Clerk Rafael DelVillar, Officer Carlos Meza, Chief Ray Atesiano, Village Manager Ana Garcia, Officer Roy Camara, Officer Guillermo Ravelo. Back row from left to right: Volunteer John Childress, Lieutenant Larry Churchman, K9 Officer Charlie Dayoub, Officer Nicholas Wollschlager, Officer Michael Marchese.

DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND COLLABORATION

by Rox Ross

"Everybody can be great . . . because any can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

WELCOME 2013: A special year in Biscayne Park history as we celebrate the Village's 80 Anniversary. Stay tuned for announcements on commemorative celebrations coming our way.

This month we honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with a federal holiday and day of service. The national observance, developed through the bipartisan efforts of Presidents Reagan, Clinton and others, brings attention to Dr. King's teachings, raises awareness for diversity, inclusion and collaborative community action.

In Biscayne Park we celebrate the MLK Day of Service with community projects and fund raising. Prior years' projects have helped fund improvements at swales, medians and the Ed Burke Rec Center. This third annual event will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2013. We again will be teaming up with neighbors in North Miami, rolling up our sleeves to provide much needed TLC to the median along **121 Street** -- this time addressing areas **between 6th and 8th Avenues**. The event serves as the backdrop for a fundraiser to support the Village tree canopy and green spaces with our donations. And, for a limited time donations can go farther with a Birthday Challenge Grant -- For every \$20 raised, I pledge \$1-150 to support future plantings and median care. Here's an opportunity to do more for our community.

No doubt Biscayne Park was a different place when it was incorporated in 1933. The undeveloped land and tomato farms are behind us, and we have grown into a multi-cultural, diverse community. Many things have changed for the better, but one true thing about Biscayne Park that remains constant is that heading north on 6 Avenue, crossing the C-8 Biscayne Canal Bridge is like crossing a much wider body of water and entering into a Bird Sanctuary, Tree City USA with wide medians and plush canopy, far from downtown.

Our trees and green spaces need your support to continue to thrive. Join us on **January 26, starting at 10 am** for a day of community service and to raise funds for our Village. Working together increases the Good exponentially. Your MLK Day of Service tax deductible donations are welcome at Village Hall or the Rec Center.

Thank you for the privilege of serving Biscayne Park. Feel free to contact me with your comments or questions. Rox

Roxanna Ross, Commissioner
Cell Phone: 305.710.0620

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."
Martin Luther King, Jr.



GLANCING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

By Commissioner Barbara Watts

First, let me wish you a Happy New Year with hope that 2013 brings you naught but love, happiness, and "every good thing."

Halloween and Winterfest were spectacular successes: the Recreation Department and the Rec. Advisory Board deserve a round of applause. If you have any suggestions for next year's events, please send them our way.

These events mark the seasons, seasons that, quite literally, are changing due to climate change. In this regard, a resolution passed by the Commission at its December meeting is relevant. It voted unanimously to participate in **Earth Hour**, an annual international event associated with the World Wildlife Fund that is intended to draw attention to climate change and to encourage proactive measures to "save the planet." In participating in **Earth Hour**, Biscayne Park will be joining over 7000 municipalities in 152 countries, and it will be the first community in Miami-Dade to do so. This year, its signature, annual event is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, at

8:30 p.m. At this time, people throughout the world will turn off their lights for one hour. Of course, this symbolic act is but the beginning; participants are encouraged to commit to "Earth Hour Beyond the Hour," which, with the help of the Ecology Board, Biscayne Park will do, so that its carbon footprint progressively shrinks from year to year.

Please consider organizing **Earth Hour** for your block or street. This event reminds us that the world is our community; it can also serve to make our own community a closer one; it offers an ideal opportunity for us to become acquainted with new neighbors and become reacquainted with old ones. How about a block party under the stars?

Please explore the website www.earthhour.org to learn more about the movement (it has great activities in the "Fun Stuff" section as well as educational materials for children). Consider joining the movement through Facebook or Twitter and come up with a Biscayne Park challenge in the "I Will if You Will" challenge. For this campaign and inspiring videos, visit You Tube and search on **Earth Hour** or **Earth Hour 2013**.

Pending Issues: The Church of the Resurrection with Ms. Sandra Busta, has made a proposal for the use of its schoolrooms, primarily for infant care. Their request for a zoning change will be considered by the Planning and Zoning Board and following that, by the Commission. Also pending is the issue of annexation, which was addressed by Commissioner Sally Heyman earlier this fall. The Village's planners are still gathering data and working on an analysis of the pros and cons. The Code Review Board soon will present the Commission with its revisions of the revised sections of the Code that deal with boats. If any these issues concern you, please check the Biscayne Park website for agenda information and workshop announcements.

Finally, let us celebrate 2013 for it marks Biscayne Park's 80th birthday!

Happy 80th Birthday



***Happy New
Year and may
2013 be a
wonderful year
for all of you!***

***Ana M. Garcia
Village Manager***

2013 marks our 80th anniversary as a Village and much is in the works in regards to planning several significant special events throughout the year. We also look forward to incorporating welcome entry features and completing plans for new signage to replace old signs on our medians. Speaking of our medians, our medians provide us a unique environment of beautiful canopy. Many of our larger medians that meander through our Village add to our existing park system as linear open green spaces. We continue to work with our Park and Parkways Advisory Board as well as our Ecology Board to promote projects and programs that enhance our canopy and our parks. Additionally we continue to work with our residents and Village commission to provide more funding for tree trimming and tree planting, maximizing our opportunities for grants. This year we will continue our tree pruning program with a goal of identifying funds to make this an ongoing yearly endeavor. In 2010 through a grant we received from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Forestry Division, we trimmed and pruned many trees. We also planted trees at our central park, the Ed Burke Recreation Center, as well as other areas throughout the Village. This past year in 2012, we were again selected to receive the Florida Urban and Community Forestry Grant. Through this grant and through the substantial appropriation made in our current budget, we will further our goal towards excellence in our urban forestry

This coming year we will continue to lift and prune our trees commencing with the medians on 119th, 118th and 117th. Last time we provided trimming to the areas of 111th, 113th, a portion of 115th, and Village Hall. Prior to the end of December through our 2012 grant, our Public Works team rented a tree pruning lift and they performed a tremendous job especially with our coconut palms at the park and throughout our medians, removing low hanging palm fronds and a multitude of coconuts providing a more aesthetic and safer environment. What is even more exciting is that we plan to have an amazing event to celebrate Earth Day 2013 with some very special planting initiatives. We plan to enhance the shade opportunities at the Ed Burke Recreation Center and team up with a certified arborist to continue the training for our staff as well as having specialized workshops to educate our residents as we strive to also enhance the tree canopy on private properties throughout our Village. Our staff has

received enhanced training this past year on proper pruning working closely with the Department of Forestry and attending local workshops sponsored by the County, and we have worked with a local agronomist to deal with the challenges we have faced with the white fly and other diseases that have attacked certain species of trees throughout South Florida.

All of us really love our tree canopy, so does the variety of beautiful bird species that call Biscayne Park home, for not only are we a Tree City USA Village, but we are also a designated bird sanctuary! Our 80th year promises to be a very special year for the Village of Biscayne Park and we will be communicating with you on all the exciting programs, projects and activities to come in the New Year. On behalf of my team, it is an honor for us to serve the Village of Biscayne Park!



Village of Biscayne Park

Parks & Recreation Department

Program Schedule

Youth Dodge Ball starts in March on Saturdays from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Coach Joe's Spring Tee-Ball & Baseball program starts in March

Golden Gates Spring Break Camp will be available in March

Save These Dates!!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Movie Night – Friday, February 15th Seating/ Food trucks start at 6:00pm. Movie start time at 7:00pm. Perfect for a “Valentine’s date night” !

Village Market / Business Expo – Saturday, March 23rd from 8:00am to 1:00pm
Registration for this event opens on February 18th.

Egg Hunt / Car & Motorcycle Show – Saturday, March 30th from 10:00am to 1:00pm

For More Information Please Contact The Parks & Recreation Department

recreation@biscayneparkfl.gov

(305) 893-3711

Visit our Facebook page and “LIKE” us to receive updates and information about upcoming events.

www.facebook.com/pages/Village-of-Biscayne-ParkParks-Recreation-Department



What is a Noise Violation?

The Village of Biscayne Park is a small and quaint historic community with a goal to ensure the balance between the daily activities of residents and visitors who live, work, and play in the Village. To that end, the Village has adopted ordinances such as a Noise Ordinance that are designed to protect the residential quality of life, while maintaining the unique characteristics of our Village.

WHAT IS A NOISE VIOLATION?

It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue or cause to be made or continued any loud, excessive, unnecessary or unusual noise. The following acts, among others, are declared to be loud, excessive, unnecessary or unusual noises in violation:

- (1) **Horns, signaling devices, etc.** The sounding of any horn or signaling device on any automobile, motorcycle, bus or other vehicle on any street or public place of the village, except as a danger warning; the creation by means of any such signaling device of any unreasonably loud or harsh sound; and the sounding of any such device for any unnecessary and unreasonable period of time.
- (2) **Radios, televisions, phonographs, etc.** The using, operating, or permitting to be played, used or operated any radio receiving set, television set, musical instrument, phonograph, or other machine or device for the producing or reproducing of sound in such manner as to disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of the neighboring inhabitants, or at any time with louder volume than is necessary for convenient hearing for the person or persons who are in the room, vehicle or chamber in which such machine or device is operated and who are voluntarily listeners thereto. The operation of any such set, instrument, phonograph, machine or device between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in such a manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of one hundred (100)

feet from the building, structure or vehicle in which it is located shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

- (3) **Animals, birds, etc.** The keeping of any animal or bird which by causing frequent or long continued noise shall disturb the comfort or repose of any person in the vicinity.
- (4) **Hawkers, peddlers.** The shouting and crying of peddlers, hawkers, and vendors which disturbs the peace and quiet of the neighborhood.
- (5) **Other noises.** Any noise between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. which disturbs the peace and quiet of the neighborhood; any continuous noise that is plainly audible at a distance of one hundred (100) feet shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

REPORTING NOISE VIOLATIONS

Noise violations can be reported by calling our Code Compliance Officer, Rita Jean-Pierre at 305-899-8000 during the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm, or via email code@biscayneparkfl.gov. During afterhours and on weekends, please call the non-emergency police number at 305-595-6263; this is the Miami-Dade County Dispatch for the Village of Biscayne Park Police Department.



Get email Updates

Please visit our website at www.biscayneparkfl.gov and sign up to receive email updates from us. Don't worry, we won't fill up your mailbox with excessive e-mails. But we will keep you updated on meetings and events, as well as special information that is important to all Village residents.

On the website, click on Email Updates on the navigation bar, then simply enter your name and e-mail address. While you're there, be sure to check out all of the other items featured on our website:

- Calendar of Events & Meetings
- Village Directory
- Information for Residents
- Agendas and Minutes
- Pet Corner
- And much, much more!

Thank you for staying informed with Village happenings!



Owl Box Update – Another Fine Feathered Neighbor!

October 2012: A few weeks ago Pelican Harbor received a juvenile screech owl that had been hit by a car. Last week they released him in a Village resident's backyard on northeast 5th Ave & 121st Street. The picture above was taken right before its release. The fine folks at Pelican Harbor were impressed with our Village's canopy.

Today an owl moved into our box! Nesting usually begins in January, so I was very surprised. However, our first owl family, years ago, also nested early. So - keep an eye on your boxes. Right before dark they usually sit in the entrance holes for awhile. Just about a month ago a mother squirrel raised three babies in the owl box! And before that the bees stayed awhile and then left. So it has been a really busy year for that box!!!

Is it a bird? Is it a Plane? No, it's Sock Man!



Can you identify Sock Man's true identity? Answer to be provided in our next newsletter.



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Mere parsimony is not economy. Expense, and great expense, may be an essential part in true economy. - Edmund Burke, statesman and writer (1729-1797)

What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult to each other? – George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans), novelist (1819 – 1880)



“Fly Old Glory”

Through a program offered by the Miami Shores Rotary, you can order your one year subscription to have an 8' American flag delivered to your home and planted in your front lawn on four holidays during the year (President's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veteran's Day). To subscribe, visit their website at www.miamishoresrotary.org and click on “Fly Old Glory” to download the subscription form. Fill it out and drop it in the mail with the \$50 fee.

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.

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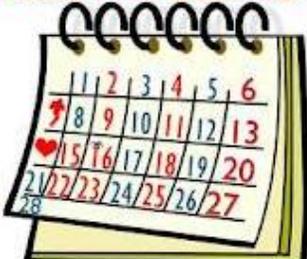
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Chuck Ross, President

Mark Your Calendar!



QUARTERLY SATURDAY TRASH PICK UP

The next scheduled village-wide Saturday trash pick up is scheduled for **Saturday, February 2nd, from noon to 5:00pm.** Please, when planning and preparing for this pick-up, remember that only yard debris and trash will be picked up – no garbage, no building materials, no appliances. Also, the size of the pile to be picked up cannot exceed 2 cubic yards (3' x 3' x 6'). As always, if you have any questions, please contact our Public Works Department at (305) 893 4346, or publicworks@biscayneparkfl.gov.