



# The Beautiful VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK

Biscayne Park, Florida 33161

Summer 2009 Newsletter

## Ground breaking ceremony for the Recreation Center Pavilion

From left to right: Village Manager Frank Spence, Commissioner Steve Bernard, Mayor John Hornbuckle, Miami Dade Commissioner Sally Heyman, Commissioner Kelly Mallette, Commissioner Chester "Doc" Morris, and Commissioner Bob Anderson.

Please go to page 4 to see the beautiful results.



Photo Courtesy Harvey Bitt

## Biscayne Park is Looking for a New Village Manager!

Frank Spence, our first and current manager will be moving to a job in Palm Beach County to be closer to his mother. Frank did a good job in getting us "up & running" under our new form of government and we appreciate his service. Good luck Frank!

We are currently soliciting proposals from candidates for our new manager. It may be an individual, a contract company or any entity that meets the basic requirements. Please see the Request for Proposal (RFP) on our website ([www.biscayneparkfl.gov](http://www.biscayneparkfl.gov)). As the Park is such a unique place with many unique characteristics (such as our small size, the fact that we are all residential, our many parks and medians, etc...) we will be looking for someone that understands Biscayne Park and is very enthusiastic, energetic, and creative.

We will also include participation by our residents in this process. The exact method has yet to be decided. It may be some type of a public forum or may include residents on a committee to develop a guideline of the qualifications used to choose our next manager (per our Charter, the Commission officially selects the Village Manager). Whatever form it takes, please let us know if you have ideas or are interested in helping on this task.

I am sure that working together we can select the best candidate to serve this great community and help us move forward with the things that are important to everyone in the Park!

As always, I welcome your comments, questions and suggestions.

Best Regards,  
**John Hornbuckle, Mayor**  
305-899-8000 office  
[hornbuckle950@gmail.com](mailto:hornbuckle950@gmail.com)

## From the desk of Commissioner "Doc" Morris

It's been an interesting three months since I last wrote. The pavilion is finished and really looks great, plus it is a welcome respite from the sun. Speaking of sun, the Summer Fest was a success and those attending had a great time. **Issa Thornell**, our recreational coordinator, did a great job supervising all of the activities. I must thank my Rotary Club in Miami Shores for their gracious donation, providing the climbing rock wall.

Our sign is almost there. Keep watching as it unfolds. The only delay has been the Public Works Building. Everything has been done on our end and the only delay has been the various agencies of the County. Our architect has been calling frequently checking on their progress. I know our Manager has been on top of it, since I talk to him on a daily basis about the delay. As you know, getting a new building has been one of my priorities since I was Commissioner of Public Works. The men who work for us need a more suitable place to work out of rather than a trailer that is falling apart at the seams, literally.

As of this writing we are still working on the budget. We have been able to hold to the same millage as last year. We are still trying to save in any areas where we can. We have good people working for us, and I know that they are working hard to save as much as possible. As compared to four years ago, we have adequate reserves as per our auditor from the recent audit of 2008. The concern we have now is on the revenue side of the equation for 2009 and years to come. The overall economy has decreased the amount of revenue that would be coming to the Park. This affects the present as well as future budgets.

As everyone knows, our Manager, Frank Spence, and Finance Director, Holly Hugdahl, will be leaving. They have served us well during their employment. We will soon be interviewing new prospective candidates. As you know, the final decision on who we hire will be up to the Commission. I do feel that the next Manager should be strong in finance and should have experience in governmental management.

It has been an interesting four years that I have spent on the Commission. As I have said in the past, if you need me, please call. I am always around and will be more than glad to assist you in any way possible.

"Doc"

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## A Message From Commissioner Bob Anderson

We live in a very unique and special community - one where every one of our 3,000 plus residents is IMPORTANT. That's why I would like to see more of you at our various commission, board and town hall meetings. .

I know it's hard to take time out of your very hectic schedules - family, jobs, school - but attending meetings, even if only on occasion, gives you the opportunity to see and hear first hand what is happening and the chance to speak face to face with all of us - your elected officials and board members.

Getting your information second hand can be loaded with the kind of misinformation and misstatements that just play up fears and doubts. Come out and see for yourself and share your thoughts and concerns. Together we can accomplish much.

**SAFER NEIGHBORHOOD** - An Ad-Hoc committee of Biscayne Park residents has been formed to assist us in working toward a MASTER PLAN for safe pathways and greenways throughout our Village. Our aim is to make it safer for all of us to get out and enjoy our beautiful village - walking, biking, skating, etc. Watch the website for meeting times - please attend and give your input.

**HOLIDAY EVENTS AT THE RECREATION CENTER:** It's never too early to start planning for our very popular holiday events at our Recreation Center. This year we will need more volunteer help than ever as we have had to drastically cut the special events budget. I can tell you from years of experience helping at our special events is some of the most fun you will have - getting to meet friends and neighbors, watching how much fun kids (little and big) are having is well worth our efforts. Please email me at [banderson@biscayneparkf.gov](mailto:banderson@biscayneparkf.gov) if you would like to help out.

## PROPERTY RIGHTS Don't Take them for Granted

By Commissioner  
Kelly Mallette

When I decided to buy my home in Biscayne Park, I did so for a number of reasons. I grew up in the Village, spent my summers at the recreation center and enjoyed the tranquil community setting that the Park offered. Another reason for my decision to make the park home was to be close to my parents, who still reside nearby, as does my sister and her family.

Like most people I talk to nowadays, we chose the Village because we considered it to be a middle class oasis, devoid of the pretensions of newer, more upscale developments, and, frankly, more affordable than country club communities throughout Miami-Dade and Broward counties. I must say, I have never for one minute regretted my choice.

That said, I must confess that I am a little apprehensive regarding future plans to "modernize" the Village by developing so-called recreational and social amenities - be it a walking path, bikeway or dog park.

In newly planned developments, such features are regarded as useful and desirable by those who chose to reside there; however, in older, established residential communities the environment must be adapted to make way for such attractions. By no means am I saying that this can't be done, but such community remodeling involves change, and, as we all know, not everyone is in favor of change.

In every such instance of social or recreational development there will be those who feel they are winners and others who consider themselves losers. For instance, if a walking path involves closing off a street, the affected residents of that street may be pleased that vehicular traffic will lessen, but that traffic has to go somewhere, and residents on neighboring thoroughways might be negatively impacted. Some residents may welcome a robust walk on a pathway in their neighborhood, while others may resent the loss of privacy and tranquility that comes with residents, as well as non-residents, traversing what they consider to be their neck of the woods.

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In general, no one opposes a dog park, they just, generally, don't want it across the street from where they live.

My point here is simple. No matter what your position on these issues may be, get involved and make your feelings known to the commission. Believe it or not, your opinion matters and it matters immensely to those of us who have the honor to serve you.

**Kelly Mallette**

**kmallette@biscaynepark-fl.gov** or  
**kellymallette@gmail.com**  
(305) 895-0981 or (786) 295-1199

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### **FAREWELL From the Manager's Desk Frank Spence**

As many of you know, I have submitted my resignation from my position as Village Manager effective the end of the fiscal year, September 30th. Actually, it will be Friday October 2nd as I close-out my business with the Village. On Monday, October 6th I will start my new job as a Town Manager in Palm Beach County where I live.

It was three years ago this month that I was hired by the Village Commission to handle the transition in the form of government from Commission to Commission-Village Manager, that the citizens of Biscayne Park had voted for in June 2006. It has been a challenge and a wonderful opportunity to have served this Commission and the residents of Biscayne Park. Now it is time to hand it off to the next manager to take the Village and the administration to a new level in its history.

I am proud of my accomplishments since my arrival, including projects like the new \$50,000 Pavilion at the Recreation Center, the new Entry Sign under construction, and the new \$356,000 Public Works Facility, funded from the County's General Obligation Bond Issue. Also, the Village just received its first Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Fiscal Year ended 9/30/07.

In conclusion, I've enjoyed my time in this "beautiful oasis in the midst of concrete chaos", where I once lived with my family back in 1970-1973. I wish the Village well as it enters its next phase of development. Hail and FAREWELL!



**The Village of  
Biscayne Park  
wishes  
Frank Spence  
GOOD LUCK  
and much  
success!**

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### **TAXES, PARTICIPATION AND PROGRESS**

**By Commissioner  
Steve Bernard**

Our millage rate last year was 8.903, and that will be the maximum it will be again this year. While it is among the highest in Dade County, one of the reasons is that we have such a high percentage of homesteaded properties, and only about 1/3 Non-homesteaded residential properties. This means that while almost every other city in Dade County has commercial properties providing revenues for services, we do not.

But there are some things to know about the proposed tax bill you'll soon receive in your mail – the first is that only 1/3 of your bill goes to Biscayne Park, the other 2/3 goes to Dade County and the State – schools, fire/rescue, library, county operating costs. The second is that your separate garbage bill is included in the total amount. This was done a couple of years ago to try to ensure that everyone pays their bill by forcing the collection by the county.

The third thing is that you have a say in what you pay for and get in return. You can contact both your Village AND your County Commission and let them know what your priorities are. There will be public hearings throughout September, and your voice will be heard, if only you raise it. Yes, there is always some waste in government, and there are always services that could be improved. But it's the system we have, and I believe that simply complaining without action or proposed solutions will get no results. I urge you to contact me at [Steve@SteveBernardArchitect.com](mailto:Steve@SteveBernardArchitect.com) to help participate on every level.

Now for some progress our Village has made – We've got a new shade pavilion at the Rec Center funded mostly by others, the outside Rec Center water fountain now has cold water, the Village raised about \$1,200 for shade trees at the Rec Center (and more to come... you can buy your own lovely donated 6' Oak Tree for \$20 at Village Hall, all of which will go towards more shade trees), we have a new Ecology Board that will soon begin meeting, a Safe Pathway proposal funded by the Federal Government that we'll be having public meetings to develop, a new Public Works facility funded by the County that will soon begin construction, and a new Village Entry Sign that we've been saving up for years that has finally started construction. We also will be using our Website to better use, and will use it to improve communication to residents.

Good things happen when residents get together and make them happen - please join me to make our Village even better.

**Steve Bernard**

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### **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

It's been a quiet hurricane season so far, but there's still a long way to go until the end of the season. Now is the time to trim those bushes and trees and clear any debris in your yard. This will give you and us plenty of time to pick up and dispose of it properly.

Don't forget that if you are discarding items such as furniture, appliances, or debris that is over 2 cubic yards, please CALL Public Works at 305 893 4346 for a special pick-up BEFORE placing those items out for pick up. Additional fees will be charged, as the Village must pay more to dispose of those items.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to call Bernard Pratt, Public Works Director, if you have any questions or comments.



## Protecting Your Home From Crime - Police Chief Mitch Glansberg

### Wonderful Changes for our Recreation Center

You've probably noticed several changes in and around the Ed Burke Recreation Center. For starters, we have a beautiful new open air pavilion (pictured above), funded primarily through grants from the Miami-Dade County Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond Issue and a North Dade Medical Foundation grant. Our indoor facility summer hours have been extended to 10 am thru 7 pm daily, offering indoor-playtime, shelter from the sweltering heat outdoors, plus the promise of cool drinks and yummy snacks from our concessions stand.

Miami Fitness Connection successfully conducted summer camp at very reasonable rates, which included weekly swimming and field trips. We celebrated our First Annual SummerFest Celebration in July, featuring great food, family fun and games, and culminating with a wet and wild watermelon eating contest.

Thankfully some things haven't changed. Coach Joe's softball season was well attended and, as usual, fun and educational for kids and parents alike. Later in the summer, with the cooperation of the International Handball Federation, Joe Demadet brought us the European Olympic sport of Team Field Handball, which just recently reached our shores and is not yet offered at any other recreation facility in South Florida.

It's been a most enjoyable summer, but season's change is right around the corner, and school days will be here before we know it. Here's some of what

you can expect from our Recreation Department in the coming months:

- > Miami Dade College courses offered at the Recreation Center.

- > Coach Joe's youth soccer two to three times a week depending on age. Registration starts Sept 9th.

- > Youth Flag Football League on Saturdays. Registration starts Sept 9th.

- >Yogafit most Thursdays and Saturdays.

- > Friday's burn calories with High Impact Fitness Dance Classes.

- > Craft & Flea Market scheduled for October 3rd.

- > Halloween Fun House scheduled for October 31st.

- > Miami Fitness Connection Winter Break Camp (schedule to be announced).

Come out and mingle with friends and neighbors at the Ed Burke Recreation Center.

*Please note that our indoor facility hours will be scaled back as the days grow shorter in the fall. **The park itself closes at sundown year round.***

**Sincerely,  
Issa Thornell,  
Recreation Coordinator**

**Recreation Advisory Board**

**Recreation Department & Staff**

The Village of Biscayne Park Police Department has an exceptional police force that responds to most calls for service anywhere in the Village in less than two minutes. The Village Police Department has an active Crimewatch and has one of the few Chiefs of Police in the State of Florida who is a Certified Crime Prevention Practitioner, (CCPP) as designated by the Florida Attorney Generals Office. Through this designation and service, the Village police force offers free residential security surveys. The surveys, which take less than an hour, offer an insightful process of some very basic strategies to "harden your home" should a burglar, make your home their next intended target. Utilizing security surveys along with these crime prevention guidelines will most certainly minimize your risk of becoming a victim of a home burglary.

1. Invest in solid doors and good quality locks on doors and windows. This includes on all sliding glass doors as well. Make it not only difficult but also time consuming for a burglar to gain entry.

2. Whenever you go outside, lock the door and take the key with you, even if you are just stepping next door or out mowing the back yard.

3. Don't put valuables where they can be seen from the window, especially items that can be easily carried.

4. Be sure your garage door can be secured. Do not leave it open when you area way; an empty garage broadcasts your absence.

5. When you aren't home, use a timer set to turn interior lights on and off at varying intervals as though your home was still occupied.

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6. Don't keep large amounts of cash or really valuable jewelry around the house.

7. If someone comes to your door asking to use the telephone, make the call yourself. Don't invite them in.

8. Don't hide a spare key under the door mat or under a flower pot. Thieves know all the good hiding places.

9. Plant thorny bushes under all windows. Trim back any trees or shrubs near doors and windows to eliminate hiding places for would-be thieves.

10. Invest in a good security system along with motion sensor lights installed out of reach.

11. Don't leave ladders outside. Keep any tools that could be used to break in your home safely locked away in a garage or shed.

12. Get a barking door or "beware of dog" signs. If you own a dog and go out of town, have someone come and care for your dog in your home.

13. Always double check doors at night and lock all windows.

14. Engrave all valuables such as stereos, microwaves, video cameras, etc., with your driver's license number. Videotape the contents of your home. Keep the video and the list of all valuables in a safe place, such as safely deposit box.

15. Do not list your first name in the telephone book. Instead use initials.

16. Make sure your answering machine message does not indicate that you are alone.

17. Have deadbolts installed on all doors. Keep doors and windows locked.

18. Strive to make your home look as lived-in as possible while you're away.

19. Don't broadcast your plans but do let your neighbors and local law enforcement know if you are going out of town.

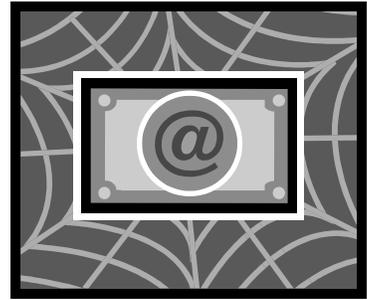
20. Give a spare key to your neighbors and give them an emergency telephone number to reach you.

Have a safe year, and please do not hesitate to contact me to schedule a free residential survey for your home.

**Chief Mitch Glansberg**

(305) 893-7490

policechief@biscayneparkfl.gov



Please be sure to check out our website at:

**[www.biscayneparkfl.gov](http://www.biscayneparkfl.gov)**

It has been recently updated to provide current, up to the minute information. You can always find a schedule of the dates and times of all upcoming meetings where everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Missed a commission meeting? Go to the "Agendas and Minutes" section and click to find the the minutes of that meeting.

Coming up in September will be the Public Hearings for the 2008 - 2009 Budget. All information related to the budget can be found on the website such as the proposed budgets for each department as well as the annual finance reports. Go to the "Finance" section to find what you need.

Be sure also to sign up for e-mail updates. Don't worry - we won't flood your inbox with a lot of messages - just reminders from the Village of special meetings and events. On the navigation bar, click on "EMail Updates" and sign up.

You can also find a section that talks about the history of our beautiful Village. Check out our roots in the section called "About Our Village".

Any telephone number or e-mail address for the Commissioners, Village Manager, Village Hall staff, Police Department, Public Works or the Recreation staff can be found on the website. Just click on the "Village Directory".

Not sure which days you can water your lawn - not to worry - it's just a click away and can be found on the home page.



## Electronic Waste Collection Event

Everyone has a closet, back room, garage shelf or box somewhere in their home with unused electronic equipment. Here is a great opportunity to simply and safely dispose of these unwanted items.

**MIAMI-DADE COMMISSIONER,  
SALLY A. HEYMAN, SPONSORS AN  
ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION EVENT**  
*Items will be disposed of properly.  
Any working items will be donated.*

**Sunday, August 30, 2009  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Haulover Park (next to marina)  
10800 Collins Avenue**

Residents **MAY** bring:  
Computers, monitors, keyboards  
Terminals, printers, modems  
Cell phones  
Batteries  
Copiers

Please **DO NOT** bring:  
Desks, furniture, stereos, speakers, pool chemicals,  
trash/debris, oil-based paints, pesticides, solvents

**QUESTIONS?**  
Please call Commissioner Heyman's office  
at (305) 787-5999.



**Charles Alan Ross, PA**  
**Certified Public Accountant**  
 12864 Biscayne Blvd. #372  
 North Miami, FL 33181  
 954-983-6330 Broward  
 305-420-5632 Miami-Dade  
 877-356-7202 Fax  
 e-mail - [carosspa@bellsouth.net](mailto:carosspa@bellsouth.net)



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 REALTOR® Associate

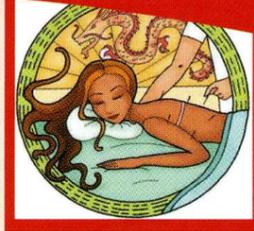


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**DONATIONS NEEDED!**

Hello, my name is Eddie Camara and I live in Biscayne Park. As I prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, I want to give back and volunteer my services to the community. With your help, I would like to collect and organize clothes and supplies for poor families. I want to create care packages for poor mothers who recently had babies and books and clothing for disadvantaged children. Can you help me by donating (new or used) baby clothes, shoes, blankets (newborn to 24 mo.); children's clothes, shoes and books (2T, 3T, 4T, 4-6x, 7-8). If you would like to make a donation, please e-mail me at

[eddiwantstohelp@gmail.com](mailto:eddiwantstohelp@gmail.com)

Provide me with your name and address and I will personally stop by to pick up your donation, or make other arrangements. The deadline for pick up is Saturday, Sept 12th. **Thank you** for your help and I look forward to hearing from you!

**HIGH IMPACT FITNESS DANCE CLASSES**

Myspace.com/bpdance | email: [bparkdance@yahoo.com](mailto:bparkdance@yahoo.com)

Facebook: Biscayne Park Dance

**LOOSE WEIGHT DANCING**

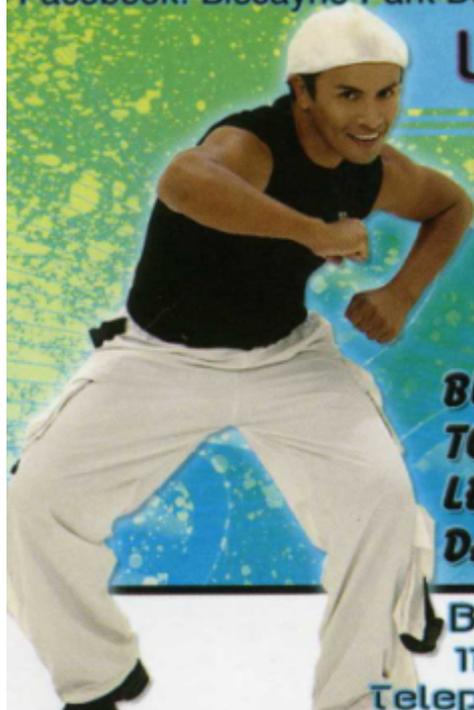
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 Telephone: 305-893-3711 and 305-895-9790



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## Feature Your Business in the Biscayne Park Newsletter

Advertise in the next edition of the Biscayne Park Newsletter. Reach over 1,300 homes at a minimal cost:

Full Page - \$250.

Half Page - \$150.

Quarter Page - \$100.

Eighth Page - \$50 (business card)

Sixteenth Page - \$30.

Contact Issa Thornell for further details at 305 893 3711.

*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. The Village of Biscayne Park does not endorse or guarantee any product, service or company represented in the displayed advertisement.*



**Laura Fernandez-Ortiz, MD**

9715 NE 2nd Avenue  
Miami Shores, FL 33138  
Tel: 305 757 8040

**Office Hours: Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri: 8:30a-5:30p**  
**Wed: 8:30a - 12:30p**  
**Sat: 10:00a - 1:00p**

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## Indoor / Outdoor Flea Market and Craft Fair

**Saturday, October 3, 2009**

Residents, clean out the closets and the garage and watch your **unwanted items** turn into someone else's **treasure!** Or put your talents on display and showcase your craft!

If you would like to reserve either an indoor or outdoor space, please contact the Recreation Department at 305 893 3711, or stop by and ask for Issa Thornell.

Donations are also welcome and appreciated from our residents. Please bring any unwanted items to the recreation center or contact Issa Thornell to arrange a pick up.