VILLAGE OF
BISCAYNE PARK Florida
June 2016

VILLAGE HALL
640 NE 114th Street
Biscayne Park, FL 33161
Tel: 305 899 8000
Fax: 305 891 7241
www.biscayneparkfl.gov

VILLAGE COMMISSION
Mayor David Coviello
Commissioner Bob Anderson
Commissioner Fred Jonas
Commissioner Roxanna Ross
Commissioner Barbara Watts

ADMINISTRATION
Maria C. Camara, Interim Village Manager
Cornelius McKenna, Chief of Police
Claude Charles, Finance Manager
Shelecia Bartley, Parks & Rec Manager

Some say that I use the term "progress" too often, or speak about our accomplishments too much. Indeed, we have progressed as a Village and we have accomplished quite a bit over the past few years. We must always celebrate our accomplishments but also learn from our mistakes and move forward. There is no doubt that we have more work to do in order to elevate the Village to where it should be. I am looking forward to this next chapter of progress, particularly as we move toward selecting a new Village Manager. I look forward to a fresh, new approach to the management of the Village that he or she will bring so that our community can come together again and move forward in a positive direction.

It is clear that the leadership of the Village Manager and the work of each and every one of our valued employees are crucial to the success of the Village. However, the importance of community involvement also cannot be understated. Thankfully, we have a tremendous a group of dedicated residents that volunteer on various boards and committees. Whether they are long-time residents bringing particular expertise or institutional knowledge to the table or new residents putting forth a new perspective on issues, they all go above and beyond for the betterment of the Village. Moving forward, I look forward to a more collaborative approach between the administration and the community in identifying and accomplishing our next goals. ***"Unity is strength…when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." Mattie J.T. Stepanek.***

There is no doubt that we can achieve wonderful things. We have the foundation for greatness. Some said that we could never build a new Village Hall and restore our historic Log Cabin. With the hard work and perseverance of many, we accomplished both. What would you like to see accomplished next? Improved medians? Sidewalks? Street lighting? Dog Park? Let's continue to find creative ways to accomplish our goals, while remaining fiscally responsible. Of course, we must also continue to focus on the day-to-day operations of our government, including policing and code compliance. The safety and appearance of our community has a direct effect on property values. Our diligent police officers coupled with a well organized Crime Watch group have kept us safe. Through recent code changes and outreach to the community, code compliance has also improved. However, there is always room for improvement and we will always strive to improve.

David J. Coviello
Mayor

Thank you again for putting your trust in me to serve our community. I take great pride in serving as your Mayor and you have my word that I will continue to work hard on behalf of the Village to build upon our accomplishments and improve our community. If you would like to discuss any issues or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at dcoviello@biscayneparkfl.gov or by phone at (786) 385-8953.

PS - I am pleased to report that the County just released preliminary figures for 2016 property valuations and Biscayne Park's taxable value on real estate rose 10.6%! Over the course of the past three years, we have seen an increase of approximately 30%. That's positive growth!

Citizens Crime Watch of Biscayne Park (CCW of BP)

By Chuck Ross

I want to thank my wife Rox (Commissioner Roxanna Ross) for providing this space for Citizens Crime Watch of Biscayne Park for this newsletter.

The Village of Biscayne Park is affiliated with Citizens' Crime Watch of Miami Dade http://www.citizenscrimewatch.com/. I attend the monthly meetings held in Doral with other county and municipal Crime Watch organizations. The county organization is invaluable to our local neighborhood watch network for a number of reasons including but not limited to providing information and materials to help educate the residents how to protect themselves and their property.

One purpose of neighborhood watch in Biscayne Park (CCW of BP) is to be the "Eyes and Ears" of the Police. First and foremost, ***do not take personal risk by inserting yourself in any situation, ever!*** If you see something that looks suspicious do not hesitate call the police by dialing **911**. If you are not sure it's an emergency you can still dial **911**, and the dispatcher will make that determination and handle your call accordingly. Knowing your neighbors and the neighborhood is critical to Neighborhood watch, so if something looks out of place, dial **911**.

LOCK UP AND SECURE YOUR STUFF! The largest number of crimes committed in Biscayne Park are burglaries to unlocked vehicles! Most houses targeted are those without an alarm system. If you make it difficult for criminals they tend to move on to the next target. Don't make yourself a victim.

Another important function of CCW of BP is to learn about how our Police Department functions and making connections with the Command Staff and Officers. In order to accomplish this, periodically we have meetings with our Police. The Chief, our Detective, and other Officers are in attendance to answer your questions and provide information to the residents. Please check the calendar on our website for the next scheduled meeting and join us!

If you are going out of town, you can request a **HOUSE WATCH ORDER**. The online form can be found on our website (www.biscayneparkfl.gov) under Resident Services, or on the Police Department page under Village Departments. Simply fill out the information requested and it will automatically send your request to the Police Department.

Presently there are approximately 750 members in the Crime Watch Network in Biscayne Park, and we want to get this number to over 1,000. If you are not part of the network, please send an e-mail to chairperson@biscayneparkcitizenscrimewatch.com to be added.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY

Contacting a Biscayne Park Police Officer: If you have an **emergency**, call **911**. If you need to see a police officer for a non-emergency matter or file a police report for a prior incident, call the non-emergency number 305-4-POLICE (305 476 5423).

EMERGENCY EXAMPLES: Crime in progress, injured person, auto accident, fight in progress, property currently being damaged, property currently being stolen, someone breaking into a house or car, suspicious person, gunshots heard, screaming heard, etc. (when in doubt, call 911 – don't delay, just call 911)

NON-EMERGENCY EXAMPLES: Things that are not crimes and which are not a threat to your safety or anyone else's safety (e.g., barking dog, loud music, littering complaint, need a report for an old incident, etc.)

For everything else such as obtaining a copy of a report, leaving a message for a police officer that you want to return your call, r asking for general information, etc., call 305-893-7490/ Remember that your police officers are normally out on patrol and that no one will see your message until the next time an officer stops by the station. Do not call this number for any urgent matter! Instead call 911 or non-emergency 305-4-POLICE if you otherwise need an officer to respond to something now!!

Cornelius "Rusty" McKenna (l) and Chuck Ross attending the June 9th Crime Watch meeting

Beginning Monday, July 4th

MONDAY

TRASH (bulk) and YARD WASTE

Placed at edge of pavement in front of the property **NO EARLIER than 9:00am the day before collection and NO LATER than 7:00am the day of collection.** Containers must be **removed and placed out of sight by 9:00am the day following collection**.

TUESDAY

GARBAGE

Unless side yard services is requested, container is placed at edge of pavement in front of the property **NO EARLIER than 5:00pm the day before collection and NO LATER than 7:00am the day of collection**. Containers must be **removed and placed out of sight by 9:00am the day following collection**.

FRIDAY

GARBAGE and RECYCLING

For recycling, container is placed at edge of pavement in front of the property **NO EARLIER than 5:00pm the day before collection and NO LATER than 7:00am the day of collection**. Containers must be **removed and placed out of sight by 9:00am the day following collection**.

At the June Commission meeting, representatives from Waste Pro recommended to change the day of collection for trash and yard waste to MONDAYS, and keeping the collection of garbage on Tuesdays and Fridays, and collection of recycling on Fridays. The goal is to provide the best possible service to the Village residents. The Commission agreed to make this change for a trial period of six months. The new schedule will go into effect on Monday, July 4th.

Additional REMINDERS regarding trash and garbage collection:

- Each residential unit will have a sufficient number of containers, not to exceed 40 gallons to accommodate all garbage, leaves and grass cuttings.
- Containers are to be in good condition and kept tightly closed at all times. Must be stored behind the face of the building and screened from view except when placed out for collection.
- Garbage bags are to placed inside a container when placed out for collection.
- Leaves and grass cuttings are to be bagged or placed in containers for collection.
- The maximum size of the pile (all trash and yard debris either bagged or in a container or in a pile) placed out for collection cannot exceed 2 cubic yards (3' x 3' x 6'). Please plan ahead and call first before placing out a pile larger than what is allowed as there is a fee for any pile that exceeds the maximum allowed.

If you have any questions, please call Waste Pro at 305 651 7011, or Village Hall at 305 899 8000. Thank you!

It's All Over But the Existential Crisis

By Commissioner Fred Jonas

We have a new Village Hall, and our traditional log cabin has been renovated. I don't know what it looked like when it was constructed, but it's possible it didn't look as good as it does now.

These projects cost a lot of money. More than half of that money came from the State of Florida, and the rest came, and will continue to come, from us. We had some money in our coffers, and we borrowed a good deal. We'll pay that off in the coming years.

We did the best we could to keep the costs down. We got competitive bids for all parts of the work, and we considered strategies that would give us a bit less of a product, but would save some money. All of those strategies, interestingly enough, were argued against and voted down, sometimes by some of the same people who later complained about the costs.

The biggest complaint about the projects, the biggest argument against them, was a suggestion that it wasn't worth what it cost. Or, to put it slightly differently, it wasn't worth it. I don't know whether it was worth it. As I said, we did what we could to check the cost proposals, and to address ways to lower them. But I think that whether it was worth it is the wrong question.

The right question, the salient question, the underlying question, is whether *we're* worth it.

Biscayne Park is our home. It's nothing but our home. There's nothing here but people's homes, and a park, and a church (that very few of us attend). Maybe many of us decided to live here, because it's comparatively inexpensive. So many of us might like to keep it that way, perhaps even by not improving anything. And we don't. We have allowed the streets to deteriorate, and we don't do what we could with our trademark medians. We certainly neglected the log cabin.

At the same time, many of us speak admiringly, and perhaps enviously, about places like Miami Shores. The only difference between the Shores and us is that the Shores doesn't have a self-esteem problem. They want to look good, and function well, and they do. It's easier for them, because property values are higher-- so a similar tax *rate* produces much more income-- and they can rely on being able to tax businesses higher, and without the homestead drag, than they do residential properties. But ultimately, they're better than we are, because they choose to be.

As of now, we're somewhat better ourselves. We now have beautiful public buildings. And signs to go with them. Did we add to our expenses? Sure we did. And we added to our charm, and our sense of pride. Maybe some day, we'll address those medians, too.

Was it worth it? I think so. Are *we* worth it? Without question!

Songbird Release in Biscayne Park!

The Pelican Harbor Seabird Station contacted Biscayne Park to release songbirds that had been rehabilitated and were ready for release. They included three mockingbirds, a blue jay and a red-bellied woodpecker. They chose us because of our many trees and our designation as a bird sanctuary!

On May 25th, several residents gathered in front of the Log Cabin to witness the release of the birds, captured in these photographs taken by Village resident Harvey Bilt.

The Pelican Harbor Seabird Station is 36 years old and their staff have over thirty years of combined animal care experience and all hold advanced degrees in biology and wildlife conservation.

They look to do more "soft releases" for songbirds in the future and Biscayne Park will continue to welcome these new "feathered citizens".

For more information on the Pelican Harbor Seabird Station, or if you have a cat free yard and would be interested in hosting a soft release, please visit their website at http://pelicanharbor.org/. Or call them at 305 751 9840.

Pelican Harbor
SEABIRD STATION

Family of Cooper's Hawks Discovered in Biscayne Park

A resident shared with us that black olive tree trimmers discovered three Cooper's Hawk nests near the top of the trees. They did a wonderful job and only took photos and were surprised to see these beautiful creatures living among us. The resident never would have noticed and still can't see them from ground level.

Among the bird world's most skillful fliers, Cooper's Hawks are common woodland hawks that tear through cluttered tree canopies in high speed pursuit of their prey. Once thought averse to towns and cities, Cooper's Hawks are now fairly common urban and suburban birds. Some studies show their numbers are actually higher in towns than in their natural habitat, forests.

Males tend to be submissive to females and to listen out for reassuring call notes the females make when they're willing to be approached. Males build the nest, then provide nearly all the food to females and young over the next 90 days before the young fledge.

Village of Biscayne Park Municipal Election is November 8, 2016

On November 8th, registered voters in the Village of Biscayne Park will cast their vote and elect three (3) Commissioners. Please visit our website at www.biscayneparkfl.gov, and click on the **ELECTION 2016** link for all information related to the election such as the requirements for running in the election, qualification dates, required forms, and more. Most importantly, be sure that you are registered to vote! If not, please visit the Miami Dade County Elections Department website (www.miamidade.gov/elections) and click on the Voter Registration link.

Poll Workers Needed!

Please join the Miami Dade County Department of Elections in celebrating the Democratic Process by volunteering to become a Poll Worker in your area. There is a special need to work as a Poll Worker in the precincts in your area. Assisting your neighbors cast their ballots on Election Day is an extremely rewarding experience. This is a very easy way to give back to your community. The requirements are simple:

- Be a registered voter in Miami-Dade County
- Be "people oriented" and enjoy serving the public
- Be available to attend Poll Worker training in a location near you
- Be willing to work long hours on Election Day

Join the team and become a Poll Worker in your area. Go online at http://www.miamidade.gov/elections/pollworker.asp and complete the Poll Worker Application and you will be contacted to schedule your first training session. To learn more about training, Poll Worker compensation, and other related information, please call (305) 499 8448, or email pwpulse@miamidade.gov. The community needs your help!

Patrick Jaimez PA
Realtor Consultant
Previews Property Specialist
Top 6% of All CB Sales Associates Internationally
Hablo Español/ Falo Portugues
Mobile (786) 277-7355
Office (305) 459-5019
Email patrickjaimez@gmail.com

PATRICK JAIMEZ
REAL ESTATE

My Active Listings in Biscayne Park

11930 NE 11 CT - 2 BD 1 BA - Offered at $390,000

10929 NE 8 AVE - POOL HOME - 3 BD 2 BA - Offered at $538,000

12015 NE 11 CT - DUPLEX 3/2 & 2/1 - Offered at $538,000

Thinking of Selling?

Contact me for a complementary comprehensive analysis of your home.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD REALTOR & BISCAYNE PARK RESIDENT FOR OVER 15 YEARS

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

#1 TOP PRODUCING AGENT KELLERWILLIAMS MIAMI 2015!!

Featured Property

11820 Griffing Boulevard - Asking $685,000

Waterfront 4 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage. Free form heated pool/spa, oversized 15,500 sqft lot. Covered terrace, screened patio, eat in kitchen w/stainless appliances + granite counters. Open Florida living space with expansive water views and amazing sunsets. Your urban oasis awaits you.

~ 18 Year Biscayne Park Homeowner-Resident. ~

Laura M. Graves - Realtor-Associate

C: 786-457-8001

e: LauraGravesRealtor@gmail.com

www.lauragraves.com

kw KELLERWILLIAMS.

Feeling the sting of mosquitoes? Then it's time to drain and cover.

Drain standing water.

Drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.

DISCARD:
old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.

EMPTY AND CLEAN:
birdbaths and pets' water bowls at least once or twice a week.

PROTECT:
boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.

MAINTAIN:
the water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

Stop mosquitoes from living and multiplying around your home or business.

Village of Biscayne Park
640 NE 114th Street
Biscayne Park, FL 33161

What's Happening

ED BURKE RECREATION CENTER
11400 NE 9TH CT

For more information on these and all programs and events offered, please contact us:

Telephone:
(305) 893 3711

E-Mail:
recreation@biscayneparkfl.gov

Website: biscayneparkfl.gov (click on Village Departments – Parks & Rec)

Visit and LIKE our Facebook Page:
Village of Biscayne Park/Parks & Recreation

SEMINARS FOR SENIORS

Hosted by the North Miami Foundation for Senior Citizens' Services. Information on health issues, personal safety, and much more. Second Friday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00pm.

save the date

UPcoming EVENTS

Sunday, July 24th
BARK IN THE PARK

Saturday, August 20th
BACK TO SCHOOL Event

recreation center programs

YOGA with Drishti
Monday * Wednesday * Saturday

LEGO CLUB
Meeting on the second Saturday of each month

BOOT CAMP
In the works – stay tuned!

PICKLE BALL
First and Third Sundays at 2:00pm