



*Celebrating 80 Years  
1933-2013*

# VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK

*Transparency, Integrity & Professionalism*

*October 2013*



### VILLAGE HALL

640 NE 114<sup>th</sup> Street  
Biscayne Park, FL 33161  
Tel: 305 899 8000  
Fax: 305 891 7241  
www.biscayneparkfl.gov

### COMMISSION

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

### ADMINISTRATION

Maria C. Camara, Interim Mgr/Village Clerk  
Ray Atesiano, Chief of Police  
Candido Sosa-Cruz, Public Services Director  
Issa Thornell, Parks & Rec Director  
Jeanie Bridges, Building Manager



## First Annual FUN RUN/WALK Health & Fitness Expo - a HUGE success!



*No matter how young, how old, how fit, how tired, or how hot – everyone that participated in the Village’s first ever “Fun Run/Walk” was a **WINNER!** What a great way to enjoy the company of friends and neighbors and to get in shape with an energizing workout!*

On Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, more than 75 residents and friends participated in the Village’s First Annual FUN RUN/WALK and Health & Fitness Expo. Everyone met at Village Hall to receive their official race number, and just prior to the beginning of the race, participants got ready by doing stretches and warm ups with the help of Fitness 101. At 8:00am, Parks & Recreation Director Issa Thornell blew the whistle, sending runners and walkers (some with strollers and pets in tow) through a one-mile route through the Village, ending at the Ed Burke Recreation Center. Runners and walkers were kept safe under the watchful eye of our Police Department who were on hand to direct traffic. At the finish line, participants were greeted with cheers and a medal to commemorate the event!

Made possible through generous contributions, there was water, fruit and healthy snacks to re-energize everyone. Good thing because vendors and exhibitors were set up at the Recreation Center waiting to provide a Zumba exercise session, exercise for children, and there was even a football being tossed around! To wrap it all up, massage therapists were also on hand to provide much needed back rubs and muscle massages after all those workouts! Director Thornell and his staff are to be commended for putting on this great event that started by contacting vendors and sponsors, and then putting it all together for everyone’s enjoyment. There will definitely be another one scheduled and many were heard saying, *“next time let’s make it 2 or 3 miles!”*



# Village of Biscayne Park Municipal Election

## Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

On Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, registered voters in the Village of Biscayne Park will go to the polls and cast their votes for three commission seats. The elections are administered by Miami-Dade County Elections Department, in partnership with the Office of the Village Clerk.

The top two vote getters will receive a 4-year plus 11 month term\*, and the third will receive a 2-year plus 11 month term\*. At the first commission meeting following the election, scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup>, the newly elected commission will select a Mayor.

Provided here are important dates and information for both VOTERS and prospective CANDIDATES.

Those interested in becoming a **CANDIDATE**:

- Only electors of the Village who have resided continuously in the Village for at least one year is eligible to hold the office of Commissioner.
- Candidate packets with all required forms, applications and information is available at Village Hall.
- The qualifying period ends October 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. All required forms must be turned in by this date and time to qualify.
- Those elected and/or re-elected will be required to take an Ethics Course within 90 days of being sworn in.

Important information for **VOTERS**:

- To vote you must be a registered voter in Biscayne Park.
- Registration deadline for this election is November 4<sup>th</sup>. Information on how to register to vote can be found on our website at [www.biscayneparkfl.gov](http://www.biscayneparkfl.gov) (click on **Election 2013**); or directly through Miami Dade County's website at [www.miamidade.gov/elections](http://www.miamidade.gov/elections).
- Absentee voting is also available and your request can be made online at [www.miamidade.gov/elections](http://www.miamidade.gov/elections).



*\* A general election was held on November 6, 2012, which included a ballot question specific to the Village of Biscayne Park for the purpose of determining if voters were in favor of amending the Charter to hold the Village's general municipal election in even-numbered years commencing in November 2016, in conjunction with Miami Dade County's elections. The voters voted in favor of the change, therefore the next election is scheduled in November 2016. The three winning candidates from this year's election will have 11 months added to their four-year (top two vote getters) or two-year term.*



**A message from  
Commissioner  
Robert "Bob"  
Anderson**

*In order to get more Village information out to you - our residents - I am donating my space in this newsletter to Fred Jonas, President of the Biscayne Park Foundation - our fundraisers.*

### From Your Foundation

Yup, we're still in business. Your Foundation Trustees are Supreme Dorvil, Joe Chao, Marie Smith, and me. Hey, shouldn't there be five Trustees? There sure should. So we're looking for you. If you take a special interest in the neighborhood, like fund-raising, like projects, and have about an hour and a half a month to come to a meeting, please join us. Let the Commissioners know of your interest, and one of them will appoint you.

We just had our signature event, "Food and Tunes," on September 20. The turnout was good, the band ("The Crossroads") entertaining, and the food trucks busy. We got a slight sprinkle, but nothing to interfere with a pleasant evening for all. Our next event is scheduled for Friday, November 22, at 6:30. We haven't chosen a band yet, but they've all been good so far. The signature happening at our signature event is the 50/50 raffle.



As always, we're looking for effective ways to raise money, and we're eager for ideas as to what special projects in the Village we can fund. Whether you want to be a Trustee or not, we'd love to hear

your ideas. One of our newest fund-raising concepts, suggested by our Joe Chao, is rotating house parties. We'll supply the wine and you bring yourself. And that donation. We'll let you know as soon as we schedule our first, and we'll get you an invitation.

So remember, \$20 per household per year donated to your Foundation, and your best ideas. We'll look for you.



*Left to right: Foundation Board Members Joe Chao, Marie Smith, Fred Jonas and Supreme Dorvil. To contact the Board, please e-mail them at [foundation@biscayneparkfl.gov](mailto:foundation@biscayneparkfl.gov)*



**Commissioner  
Bryan Cooper,  
VOBP**

### “Free People Read Freely”

I again express appreciation to Mayor Noah Jacobs, who has excelled at greater government transparency. He has continued to support commissioner columns through our Village Newsletter, and has defended civic values. His support of free speech stands in contrast to attempts by Chuck Ross and his friend Fred Jonas to ban a newspaper from our Village, following articles highly critical of Commissioner Ross. (See Biscayne Times, Vol. 10, Issue 3, “Shut My Mouth” available at the following URL: [www.biscaynetimes.com/images/stories/art\\_0512/bt\\_0512.pdf](http://www.biscaynetimes.com/images/stories/art_0512/bt_0512.pdf). The result was the possibility of lawsuit by the paper managed by a former editor of the Miami Herald. Luckily, Commissioner Ross backed away from an ordinance supporting the ban – and you are still allowed to read diverse views. Let’s never forget: “Free People Read Freely.”

### Thumbs Up:

☛ Continued thanks to Police Chief Atesiano. Under his effective leadership, we have restored what our Village was once known for – safety – with the added professionalism of actual crime solving when needed.

☛ Commission voted 3-2 (Ross and Anderson against; Jacobs, Cooper and Watts for) on a Resolution directed at Miami-Dade County, in support of residents like ourselves living near Greynold’s Park, and their fight to keep 10 to 15 story buildings away from their park environment, their single-family homes and low-rise dwellings.

☛ The Commission accepted my concern to cut costs by asking our Village Attorney to not attend meetings where his presence was not necessary.

☛ There was support for a small amount of funds for public art, allowing residents a say in art to be installed here in our Village, instead of a select few, as recently occurred.

☛ The Commission voted 3-2 (Ross against) to continue to allow political signage and expression in swale areas in front of your home, during our short and infrequent election periods.

Time for a change? Want reform? December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the next election.

### Thumbs Down:

☛ While a large number of tax-paying residents and seniors are still struggling, the majority voted to raise taxes during budget meetings in September. (I voted against the increase.)

☛ Over 50 families were negatively impacted when the Commission voted 3-2 to restrict family outdoor values and the right of Biscayne Park homeowners – held since 1933 – to keep boats and recreational vehicles in their drive-way.

☛ Following a related ongoing Village lawsuit, we are under threat of another lawsuit for allegedly illegal use of State databases, and improperly prying into citizen’s personal information (for possibly political and/or other questionable purposes).

☛ Commissioners Ross and Anderson still support annexing areas to the east of us, after over a year of not gathering enough information on how it might negatively impact us. Their proposed area will likely include blighted areas.

☛ We fail to make needed budget cuts, or reach out to Miami Shores to see if we might join them, with the benefit of giving families and our children preferential treatment to attend their Charter School, allowing us to keep Biscayne Park family-friendly and elevate our property values.

### A message from Chief Ray Atesiano, Biscayne Park Police Department



It is our goal to restore Biscayne Park’s reputation as one of the safest cities in the United States. We are committed to the achievement of this goal by working closely with our civic leaders, our residents, and anyone with a vested interest in our community. It is truly an honor to protect and serve this community.



**Commissioner  
Roxanna Ross**

### Still A Better Place to Be

Research shows, and perhaps you’ve experienced it firsthand that -- thankful expressions have a positive impact on health, making for better sleep, less anxiety, more satisfaction and kinder behavior. This Fall, a season known for giving traditions, I would like to share with you some things I am thankful for in Biscayne Park – A Better Place to Be.

Our Village charm is rooted in an eclectic mix of greenspaces, variously designed improvements and human diversity – the people who live, work, and enjoy giving of themselves and sharing with our community. I am thankful for all of them.

New Times -- Best of Miami (2008) awarded the Village, “Best Hidden Neighborhood,” celebrating our beautiful vegetation and park-like environment. I am happy to report that we have considerably enhanced our award-winning Village through public, private and volunteer collaborations: shade structures and trees added at Ed Burke Recreation Center protect children at play; a variety of trees planted throughout the Village replaced those in decline, infusing Griffing Boulevard and other medians with promise for the next generation. We’ve focused on existing tree stock to protect against infestation and storm damage. We’ve celebrated three years of Martin Luther King Day of Service with beautification projects, engaging our NoMi neighbors with clean-ups, fundraising and landscaping. Notably landscaping along NE 6 Avenue north of the entrance sign was designed by Park & Parkways Board members, who also helped achieve Tree City USA recognition for tree care policies and Arbor Day celebrations. I am thankful for all of these cooperative efforts.

The Village secured the name “Biscayne Park Way” for NE 6 Avenue and brought the Florida Legislature’s attention to our charming little city. Over the last four

I joined efforts in Tallahassee to benefit the Village through state flood mitigation street repairs, urban forestry and historic preservation grants, safety equipment and training sponsorships. I am thankful for all of these, as well as for Village cultural features developed by generous residents who gifted our first public art sculpture, and by members of The Biscayne Park Foundation who added sounds and flavors in the community via “Food & Tunes.”

In public safety, celebrated in statewide challenges, our police bring home awards, recognition, and prized equipment. I am thankful for Chief Ray Atesiano’s leadership and for Officers, who consistently post high marks for crime deterrence, investigation and closure. And, please indulge me in thanking CrimeWatch Chair, Chuck Ross, who works closely with hundreds of CrimeWatchers supporting our safe neighborhood.

[BiscaynePark\\_Crimewatch@yahoo.com](mailto:BiscaynePark_Crimewatch@yahoo.com)

Personally, I was honored to attend the Good Government Initiative Cultivating Leaders of Excellence inaugural class -- “bootcamp” for elected officials to facilitate learning and opening doors for collaborations, annexations, regional initiatives, like the Green Corridor presently being developed, all improving good stewardship of the Village. Serving as your Mayor and Commissioner for nearly four years now, I am thankful for these opportunities, and I am resolved to continue to make the Village of Biscayne Park a Better Place to Be.



**Commissioner  
Barbara Watts**



***Falling and Windswept Leaves***

***Levity and Gravity co-mingled:  
Halloween and Children’s Safety Day***

With Fall officially upon us, we can welcome cooler weather and anticipate some leaves changing color, falling and wafting in the wind. We can also anticipate two of Biscayne Park’s popular seasonal festivals, Halloween and Winter Fest. This year, the Halloween Funhouse

(10/26, 3:00-5:00) will have an added component: it will be held in conjunction with the second annual “Children’s Safety Day” (CSF), organized by the Recreation Center Advisory Board, Dan Samaria (chair), Elliana Gibson, Michael Huber, Patrick McGeehan, and Caitlin Spurr. Last year’s inaugural CSF was a resounding success and this year’s promises to be more so, with vendors and not-for-profit organizations offering products, services, and literature that promote children’s safety. The Board is sponsoring a raffle, proceeds going to its Rec. Center Improvement Fund. Raffle items include alarm-activated iSafe waist packs and backpacks, some of which are designed to accommodate laptops, and a special “Secret Halloween Box.” Please come with some dollars in your pockets!

***More Levity: 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Festival and Art Exhibition; Call to Artists and Crafts Persons***

This Fall, the Village offers yet another fest, its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Festival, Friday Nov. 22, 6:30-10:00 p.m. Mark your calendars! Friday evening’s events include a lecture by acclaimed historian Dr. Paul George, who will set the story of Biscayne Park’s founding and development within the larger historic and cultural context of 1930s Miami-Dade. The North Miami Community Concert Band will follow with a performance that mirrors a 1933 concert, including marches, polkas, ragtime, and tunes written by George Gershwin and Cole Porter. Afterwards, attendees will be able to enjoy the art exhibition/sale of works by Miami-Dade artists, which will continue through Saturday afternoon.

**Artists and crafts persons: stay tuned to the BP website for registration details for the first (perhaps annual) Biscayne Park Arts and Crafts Exhibition and Sale!** These 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events are offered *with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.*

We are grateful to Miami-Dade’s elected officials and the Department and Council of Cultural Affairs Council for enabling us to make the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration a special one.



***Gravity: Our Dwindling Bee Population***

As you may know, our bee population (and thus the food supply chain) is imperiled. Should you have a swarm of bees in your yard, please do not have them killed as your first resort. Instead, call Ray Chasser, owner of Earth-N-Us Farm (786-202-1433), who offers a free “no kill bee removal” service for swarms that dwell in accessible places.

***Gravity: Felled Trees***

Recently, two Australian Pines were felled, and their trunks, lamentably, were sent to the shredder. Please contact me if you have ideas as to how to use these magnificent, unique trunks so that in the future, Aussies that have died might be given a new life, purpose and presence in the Village.



**Shiloh’s  
Story**

My very cute but dumb dog managed to get herself

stuck under my backyard deck. I tried luring her out, but she was panicked. Then I quickly became panicked! So I called the Village and talked to the Police Department. I asked if they thought Public Works could help me and was given Cesar’s name and number and I called. Cesar said all the guys were gone but that he would follow me to my house. He found John who joined in the mission.

Once to my house, they were surprised to see where she had managed to crawl. I said that she was more important than the deck and to do what they needed to do. However, upon closer inspection they saw that they could dig under the side of the deck. They worked so hard, digging and removing big chunks of concrete. It was really backbreaking work. They kept going and kept me calm and finally pulled her to safety. Cesar and John were amazing! I was really shaken and John gave me a big hug and calmed me down. These men deserve special recognition for coming to my aid and the aid of Shiloh the Not so Smart Dog!

***This resident found out what we already knew about Cesar Hernandez and John Jenkins—our true public servants. Great job Cesar and John!!***

# Village of Biscayne Park PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

11400 NE 9<sup>th</sup> Court – Biscayne Park, FL



MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
AND SAVE THE DATE FOR  
THESE FUN-FILLED FAMILY  
EVENTS!



## Halloween Fun House

Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>  
from 3:00pm to 5:00pm  
Residents – FREE  
Non-Residents - \$2.00  
(Proof of residency required)



Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>  
from 2:30pm to 5:00pm



Village of Biscayne Park  
80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
6:30pm to 10:00pm

....and before you know it, guess  
who's coming to town!

Winterfest 2013  
Saturday, December 21st  
10:00am – 1:00pm



## FALL SPORTS

OCTOBER 2013

to

JANUARY 2014



### Youth Flag Football

Boys & Girls ages 6-12  
Saturdays from 10:00am to  
12:00pm



### Coach Joe's Soccer

Boys & Girls ages 7-12  
Mondays & Wednesdays  
4:00pm to 5:30pm

Boys & Girls ages 4-6  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
4:00pm to 5:00pm



## CLASSES & PROGRAMS

### Golden Gates After School Program

Monday – Friday  
2:00pm to 6:00pm



Yoga with Drishti  
Saturdays at 8:30am



### Starcise Kids Fitness Class

For Boys & Girls ages 3-5  
Fridays at 9:00am and 9:30am

For more information, please call us at 305  
893 3711 or e-mail us at  
[recreation@biscayneparkfl.gov](mailto:recreation@biscayneparkfl.gov)

Visit our Facebook page for updates and up-  
to-date event information!

[www.facebook.com/pages/Village of  
Biscayne Park / Parks & Recreation  
Department](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Village_of_Biscayne_Park_Parks_and_Recreation_Department)



Issa Thomell,  
Parks & Recreation Director

## TOGETHER WE MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

By *Candido Sosa-Cruz*,  
Public Services Director

Have you ever wondered why native plants are important? Native plants are those that occur naturally in an area. Native species have evolved over time with the biological and physical factors specific to their region such as soil, climate, and rainfall. Native plants provide food and shelter for native wildlife. They are the best species adapted to local conditions that thrive with the least care and create a sense of place.

*(The Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences and University of Florida).*

In the spirit of working together, the Parks and Parkways Advisory Board raised money for native landscaping by selling donated live oaks and designed a Florida Native Plant Landscape for the front entrance of the Ed Burke Recreation Center. The native plants were installed by the Parks & Parkways Advisory Board, volunteers, and the Public Works Department. Additionally, the Parks & Parkways Advisory Board and the Biscayne Park Foundation fundraised with the support of our generous residents and purchased 38 plant markers. All of the money fundraised went towards purchasing the markers for the Ed Burke Recreation Center located at 11400 NE 9<sup>th</sup> Court and the Butterfly Park located at 109<sup>th</sup> Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Village of Biscayne Park resident Dan Keys, Barbara and Gary Kuhl, and Robert Silverman representing the Parks & Parkways Advisory Board, along with Derrick Murray from the Parks & Recreation Department and Cesar Hernandez from the Public Works Department, worked together on the installation of the native plant identification markers. Native plants have each been identified by its common and botanical name on a marker for everyone to learn about and enjoy. This native plant garden is a great educational garden and resource for residents, as well as an exhibit on how to landscape your property and community with native plants. We encourage you to visit both locations.



L-R: *Derrick Murray, Cesar Hernandez, Parks & Parkway members Barbara Kuhl, Robert Silverman & Dan Keys*



*Barbara Kuhl and Derrick Murray installing the plant markers.*



*Botanicainame: Zamiafloridana  
Common: Coontie, Florida Arrowroot*



*Butterfly Park located at 109<sup>th</sup> St & 10<sup>th</sup> Ave*

Now that you are ready to design your native landscape garden, you are going to want to clean up your yard and get it ready for your new plantings. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**, when our Public Works Department will have a Village-wide **SPECIAL SATURDAY PICK-UP**. This is a great opportunity to work on your yard in the morning, and place your pile out on the curb for pick up by no later than 10:00am. Pick-up will be from 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM. Please remember this is for YARD TRASH only and the **MAXIMUM** size of the pile that you are allowed to put out is 2 cubic yards, or 3ft x 3ft x 6ft. No household garbage, furniture or appliances will be picked up.



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## DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 of every 8 married couples in the US last year met online.
- The average computer user blinks 7 times a minute, less than half the normal rate of 20.
- The average 21 year old spent 5,000 hours playing video games, has exchanged 250,000 e-mails, instant and text messages, and has spent 10,000 hours on the mobile phone.

***Stickball anyone!?!??***



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