



The Beautiful VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK

2009 Quarterly Newsletter, November 18, 2009



Village of Biscayne Park
640 NE 114th Street
Biscayne Park, FL 33161
305 899 8000
www.biscayneparkfl.gov

VILLAGE COMMISSION

Mayor John Hornbuckle
Vice-Mayor Robert "Bob" Anderson
Commissioner Steve Bernard
Commissioner Kelly Mallette
Commissioner Chester "Doc" Morris

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION

Ana Garcia, Village Manager
Kim Prenter, Village Clerk
John Hearn, Village Attorney
Mitch Glansberg, Chief of Police
Bernard Pratt, Director of Public Works



Ana Garcia, Village Manager

A New Manager...a New Beginning!

Biscayne Park has made a lot of strides in the past few years. We have incorporated to a new form of government (the Village Manager format), passed a **new Charter**, reduced our **speed limit to 25 mph** in most of the Village, **improved our storm water drains**, and constructed a new **pavilion at the Recreation center**, to name a few. As well, we have finally carried out some bigger projects that are sorely needed and long over-due. A new **Public Works Facility** is under construction, our **new Entry Sign** and **improvements to 6th Avenue** are underway. These are projects that will not only improve our Village infrastructure and service to our residents, but will also enhance the special charm of Biscayne Park.

We have another "improvement" to our Village, a new Village Manager, **Ms. Ana Garcia**. Welcome Ana! In a very short period of time she has already demonstrated her enthusiasm, energy and commitment to our Village by answering resident questions and **resolving concerns**, helping at the Halloween Party, **finishing the sidewalk and repairing the fence** near the tot-lot, presenting our **final budget** and **adding new trees** in our medians. All these things and more she has accomplished while still getting oriented and adjusted in her first month on a new job. Just imagine what bigger and better things are to come!

Finally, I want to encourage everyone to be sure to **vote on Tuesday, December 1st**. It has been my distinct honor and pleasure to serve as your Mayor. I will be running again and am very excited and enthused about the stimulating times and projects that lie ahead. Together, especially with our new manager, there is much more we can do to **preserve and protect the charm and uniqueness that is Biscayne Park**. I, for one, am looking forward to a new beginning and a new chapter for "The Park"!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any of your concerns or questions.

Warm Regards,
John Hornbuckle, Mayor

305-899-8000
Hornbuckle950@comcast.net





Photo Courtesy Maria Camara

*Public Works Director Bernard Pratt and
Commissioner Chester "Doc" Morris*

Random Thoughts Over the Past Four Years Commissioner "Doc" Morris

As many of you know I will not be seeking reelection. Numerous factors came into play for me to make this decision. First and foremost is that I want to spend more time with my wife of some 47 years. She has always encouraged me with whatever I got into, but it has taken me away from her many days and nights. Second is that I accomplished what I set out to do:

- I was on the Charter Committee and helped to get a new Charter and have it approved by the residents.
- I helped to select our first Village Manager and recently our second Village Manager.
- I helped to get our new residents to register to vote.
- I pushed to get our new sign and I was promised it will be finished by the time I leave office.
- I pushed to have \$1,000,000 in our reserves.
- I was able to have the North Dade Medical Foundation fund a project for our Recreation Department which ended up as the Pavilion.
- I championed us getting a new Public Works Building which is being built as I write this article.
- I pushed for a new policies and procedures manual.
- I was able to get a grant from the Rotary Club of Miami Shores for our first Summer Fest.

It really has been a great four years and I want to take this opportunity to thank all the citizens for allowing me to serve them. I also want to thank the staff and my fellow Commissioners during

this journey. The Park is such a special place for both me and my wife. I have always felt that it was probably one of the best kept secrets of Miami-Dade. Finally, I want to thank the Commission for making November 3rd Chester "Doc" Morris Day. That truly was special since it was also my wedding anniversary of 47 years. The biggest surprise was when I was presented the Key to the Village. Thanks to all for such a great sendoff. As you know December 1st is the election. Exercise your privilege and GO VOTE!

GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU AND GOD BLESS THE PARK.

First Impressions Commissioner Kelly Mallette

You don't get a second chance to make a first impression. I think we've all shared those sentiments over the past few years, particularly as it relates to our Village entry sign and our main thoroughfare, NE 6th Avenue. Compared with the medians so lushly landscaped in surrounding communities, as well as those in our Village interior, 6th Avenue seemed neglected and in no way representative of our beautiful community. Since NE 6th Avenue is a state road, I felt, as did my fellow Commissioners, that the state had a responsibility to do something.

So, sometime ago, I began meeting with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) officials regarding the matter, who agreed that, over the years (and hurricanes), that NE 6th Avenue was deserving of an upgrade. FDOT District 6 officials went out of their way to be helpful. They began surveying the road, drawing plans and looking for opportunities to fund the project, which we agreed would consist of curbing, irrigating and landscaping our medians.

With FDOT's help, we began piecing funding together from several sources. The first phase of the project, which includes the curbing and trenching for irrigation and electrical, is estimated to cost about \$86,000. Of that, \$74,000 comes from federal stimulus dollars, while the remainder will come from Village CITT funds. The Biscayne Park Commission voted unanimously to approve the project, which, as you can

see is already in progress. After the infrastructure is completed, landscaping, to include a healthy understory of groundcover and foliage, along with mature palm trees, will be planted. FDOT has agreed to cover that portion of the project, the cost of which is estimated to be about \$100,000. Hopefully, the entire project will be completed soon after the New Year and I think we will all be very pleased with the results.

With the beautification of 6th Avenue, and the completion of the new Village entry sign, I don't think we will need more than one chance to make a good first impression.



Kelly Mallette
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kellymallette@gmail.com
kmallette@biscayneparkfl.gov



Photo Courtesy Maria Camara

*Bernard Pratt, Ana Garcia, Steve Bernard,
Chester "Doc" Morris, Sally Heyman, John
Hornbuckle, Bob Anderson, Kelly Mallette*

Biscayne Park Celebrates the Start of Our New Public Works Building

On Saturday, October 31st, the Ground Breaking Ceremony took place for the much anticipated new Public Works Building.

Joining the Commissioners were residents, Village staff, elected officials from neighboring cities, and special guests including Miami-Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman.

Below is the drawing for the new building which will serve the needs of our dedicated Public Works employees and the Village.



It's That Time Again

Commissioner Steve Bernard

By now you've seen campaign signs blooming around the Village with fresh names advertising their desires to make things better. I sincerely hope that you will pay attention to the details, the history and the platforms of all candidates before you make your decision on who to support.

Just as important will be for us all to take the time to vote, either on Election Day - Tuesday, December 1st from 7 am to 7 pm at the Recreation Center, or even earlier by mail absentee ballot - http://www.miamidade.gov/elections/vote_absentee.asp

For the past several years, many residents have volunteered their time to help 'Get out the Vote' and increase registration, and this year will be the same. So when you see the 'Vote This Tuesday' signs, it's to remind you of our rights and responsibilities.

There are seven candidates, and you are allowed to vote for three... the top two vote getters will have four year terms, and the third highest will have a two year term. Our Village Charter has always had the tradition of keeping our elections separate from County, State and Federal elections so that we can focus on our local issues, so now's the time.

There are lots of projects going on right now, and I want to give credit where it is due to those who are responsible for getting them done. The Public Works building, entirely paid for with County funds, is the direct result of nine residents who served over 18 months on a Committee to determine the best use of the land, the possibility of moving the department site out of Biscayne Park, and who worked with the architect to create a building that blends in and will have minimal impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

The 6th Avenue Beautification project is mostly paid for with Federal Stimulus Transportation Grant money, and our Parks and Parkways Committee worked with FDOT over the course of many meetings to make the best use of limited funds and to approve design elements.

The recently completed Shade Pavilion was mostly the result of a County Grant, with matching funds by 'Doc' Morris's North Dade Medical Foundation and about \$15,000 of our own budgeted money.

The Entry Sign WILL be completed soon, but right now we're seeing the result of some miscommunication between the engineer and the contractor that's finally being coordinated by our new Manager, and while it has been 10 years in coming, I'm confident the end result will be enjoyed for many more years than that.

On another note, I am sorry to tell you that the Pathways Federal Stimulus Transit no-match Grant was turned down by a 3-2 vote of the Commission, which means our streets will be no safer in the coming months than they have been for the last 75 years, and it will be more difficult to expand the "livable community" concept.

In short, although a few dedicated residents got support from over 70 Villagers and tried very hard to start to enhance the safety for residents; and though a final working plan was very low impact and cost effective with traffic engineers telling us that narrowing our roads with paint stripes to a minimum standard would calm our traffic and finally set some 'rules of the road'... the negative vote means we'll just have to keep trying. No one said that change is easy, but with active resident participation and more large-scale community involvement in the future, we can succeed on the next project.

As always, contact me with questions or concerns at:
Steve@SteveBernardArchitect.com.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season, and I'll see you at the polls,

Steve Bernard



A Message from Commissioner Bob Anderson

A lot of great things - that we've waited a LONG time to see - are finally happening here in Biscayne Park. It's been a very busy and productive year

for your commissioners.

The Public Works Building has finally broken ground. I am sure we all are looking forward to its completion - a building we will all be able to be proud of - especially our hardworking Public Works staff. A long time in coming - going back to when I was Public Works commissioner under our old form of government - but it's going to be a real asset to our community when it's done.

The very popular sidewalk around the Rec Center has finally been completed and the Tot Lot Fence moved and fixed. This will make the walking experience around the Rec Center even nicer for all of us - especially now that the weather is getting more inviting for being outside.

Be sure and come out for the ribbon cutting for our much anticipated, long time coming ENTRANCE SIGN at 113th St. & 6th Ave. on Saturday, Nov. 21st at 11am.

The Sixth Avenue Beautification project began in late October and when completed will make one of the most visible entries to our Village a showcase - a real image booster for our little village.

Halloween was better than ever this year - thanks to our hardworking staff and our outstanding resident volunteers.....lots of great fun had by our children and their families. I received nothing but positive feedback for the great job done by Recreation Coordinator Issa Thornell and his staff, Public Works Director Bernard Pratt and his staff - and of course Chief Mitch Glansberg and our fine police officers. It was really impressive to see our police on the Segway and on bikes - giving them a much better opportunity to interact with all our residents who were out enjoying the festivities. That's real community policing. THANK YOU Village Manager Ana Garcia and your entire team for a job well done!

Winterfest will be Saturday, Dec. 19th. Always a great event for "kids" of all ages - something for everyone and this year promises to be better than ever.



Commissioner Bob Anderson
banderson@biscayneparkfl.gov



On Tuesday, December 1, 2009, the residents of the Village of Biscayne Park will be casting their vote for three open Commission seats. These three Commission seats are open due to end of term for Mayor John Hornbuckle, Commissioner Chester Morris, and Commissioner Kelly Mallette.

Your vote is important! This is your opportunity to have your voice heard in your community. Please mark your calendars and **VOTE** on Tuesday, December 1, 2009.

The candidates running in this election are:

<u>Ballot No.</u>	<u>Candidate Name</u>
80	Albert "Al" Penn Childress
81	Bryan Cooper
82	Ronald Coyle
83	Rose De Merle
84	John R. Hornbuckle
85	Kelly Mallette
86	Roxanna "Rox" Ross

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The Village of Biscayne Park RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Saturday, November 21, 2009

11:00am Biscayne Park Entrance Sign
113th St & 6th Avenue

12:Noon Recreation Center Pavillion
11400 NE 9th Court



*Please join
us in the
festivities!*



Village of Biscayne Park
Departments will be closed
on the following dates:

Thursday, November 26th
Friday, November 27th
Friday, December 25th
Friday, January 1st



Biscayne Park
Winter
Camp

December 21st -
January 1st

For more information,
please contact the
Recreation Department
at 305 893 3711

Trick or Treat !



A "ghostly" Issa Thornell, Recreation Coordinator



A "frightfully fun night" for all!



Many thanks to our Police Department!

Halloween Fun Night 2009 !



Mayor John Hornbuckle, his wife Elizabeth and son Owen.



Look at the camera and say "Boo!"



Village Manager Ana Garcia lends a hand with the treats!

Photos Courtesy Janey Anderson



... and before you know it, Santa will be riding through Biscayne Park!

(Just listen for the sirens!)

W i n t e r f e s t

Bring the whole family and take part in all of the planned events. You'll have a jolly good time!

Saturday, Dec. 19th - 11 am to 3 pm
Ed Burke Recreation Center - 11400 NE 9th Court

Recreation Department News

The Halloween Fun Night event, which fell on a Saturday this year, combined with a full moon resulting in a huge success. This year's event brought an unprecedented number of youngsters, which may have broken records for our Village. It's always a challenge to handle an event of this size, and each time we learn how to do it better. A big thanks to Police Chief Glansberg and his officers for directing traffic and keeping our trick-or-treaters safe. Thanks also to our Public Works personnel for teaming up with the Rec Center staff and volunteers handling production, event management and clean-up.

Next up, WinterFest! As is our tradition in the Village of Biscayne Park, Santa and his elves are invited to visit the Ed Burke Recreation Center for our fun family celebration on Saturday, December 19th between 11 am and 3 pm. Save the date for you will not want to miss it. Bring your friends and family for the opportunity to mingle with neighbors, enjoy good food, fun games,

pick-up a special gift from unique vendors at the event, and much more. And, it's time to show off your holiday colors because this year's festivities will include a **Best Holiday Dressed Home Contest** - judged by our youngsters, and a **Most Creative Holiday Hat Contest** - judges to be announced.

Miami Fitness Connection will be back with its Winter Camp session December 21st through January 1st (excluding Dec. 25 and Jan. 1), offering extended hours from 8 am to 6 pm. Please contact the Recreation Center for more details.

We are excited to announce the return of Youth Day Camp! Whenever Public School is out (teacher planning days, holidays), the Recreation Center will be offering a day camp for approximately 25-30 children. Please call in advance for sign-up availability, dates, and prices.

The Village is also in the process of negotiating a contract for after-school care with a quality curriculum --- details to be announced soon.

Meanwhile, our athletics programs continue with Flag Football through February 2010, and Coach Joe's Soccer through January 14, 2010. These will then be followed by the Recreation Department's Basketball Clinic and 3 on 3 Tournament, and Coach Joe's Spring Baseball.

Activities for adult include MDCC classes on various topics of interest, Bootcamp Personal Training, Akido, Yogafit and High Impact Fitness Dance Classes. Contact the Recreation Department for more information. We also encourage you to attend the Recreation Advisory Board's meetings, where public comment is always welcome.

Remember with the time change, the Recreation Building now closes at 6:00PM, and the park closes at sundown.

Issa Thornell
Recreation Coordinator
305.893-3711

Recreation Center Advisory Board
(Please check the website for next meeting date and join us.)

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The next edition of the Biscayne Park Newsletter is scheduled for mid-February, 2010. Plan ahead to have your business introduced to over 1,300 homes.

For more details, please contact us at
305 893 3711.

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