

THE GATE

WINTER
2010

Dear Friends,



My wife Gloria and I would like to send our greetings and best wishes for this holiday season to all the residents of District 4 and the City of Miami.

As families and friends gather to celebrate the holidays, we are reminded of the meaning behind these joyous days.

Thanksgiving reminds us that friends and family are worth more than material possessions and titles, that giving is better than receiving. As I write these words, I am reminded of a quote I came across recently, in which President Kennedy said: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." The holiday season is an excellent time for us to reflect and redirect our energies to helping those in need. Though words can be a source of great inspiration, it is our actions that make all the difference.

For many, the holidays are a time for spiritual reflection, but the holidays are also a time to celebrate the many blessings that fill our lives. Despite the tough challenges that we have all faced throughout this year, our lives are filled with blessings. This holiday season, let us give thanks and focus on what we've gained and not what we've lost.

Before we sit down to enjoy our holiday feasts, let us not forget those who are far from home during this holiday season, especially our men and women in uniform. May the grace of God keep them safe always. And may your homes be filled with peace and prosperity.

Once again, thank you for the incredible privilege to serve as your Commissioner. My staff and I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy Kwanza.

Sincerely,

Francis Suarez
City of Miami Commissioner

News Highlights

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CRIME WATCH MEETING

Association meeting with Commissioner Francis Suarez, Net Administrator, Ana Rodriguez, residents and Board Members



Maria Doval (Chair of CGHA Board), Commander Ethyl Jones, Officer Wilfredo Perez and Sergeant Freddy Cruz



Officer Triana and Officer Cruz



Commissioner Suarez and Manny Mejido, CIP

Coral Gate Homeowners' Association board and members all gathered late Tuesday night November 16, 2010 to go over several crime statistics with the City of Miami officers. After the implementation of the Coral Gate wall and massive police enforcements brought forth by the City of Miami police force, crime stats have dropped. The officers shared their crime reports which had significantly dropped by an overwhelming 8% for the last quarter! It was very nice to hear Coral Gate being referred to by the City of Miami officers as "a Model community" or a community with gold standards as stated by Sergeant Cruz.

Further efforts to continue the momentum on safety included new crime deterrents that are currently in the works. The proposition of implementing splitters also known as diverters to slow down potential criminals and slow down traffic while making Coral Gate much safer is currently now an initiative. As stated by Commissioner Suarez Tuesday night the budget for this project would be allocated from the 1/2 penny sales tax monies. This project has already been approved by the Miami City Commission. The Capital Improvement Project Department is now working with Miami Dade County to be able to start the construction of such Traffic Calming Devices.

CORAL GATE: NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT NUMBER ONE *by Grace Garrido*

Coral Gate has the distinction of being the City of Miami's first Neighborhood Conservation District. The City of Miami provided the mechanism for neighborhoods to restrict and define themselves through the use of a special zoning district in 2002. At that time, the Coral Gate Homeowners' Association expressed its support of the proposed legislation. In a letter to the Zoning Department, we stated:

While it is true that SD's exist, the reality is that such districts are beyond the scope of those of us who are less affluent, yet it is the middle-class neighborhoods that are under siege by those who care only about their bottom line.

In Coral Gate, we have struggled since the 1980's to prevent the demolition and/or change of use of homes in our subdivision.

Coral Gate is the City of Miami's first Planned Unit Development. Built between 1948 and 1950, the 400+ homes that are within the Coral Gate Subdivision Plats were built according to five different models of 2 and 3 bedroom homes. All had an attached one-car garage and originally sold for between 9,000 and 13,000 dollars.

Most of the streets of Coral Gate are winding roads with generous swales planted with shade trees. This neighborhood had traffic-calming ideas included in its development before these ideas had that name. And yet the traffic came. In our efforts to protect the family friendly atmosphere of Coral Gate, we rerouted most cut-through traffic with cul de sacs.

However, we had to do more to preserve this unique neighborhood. While most people buy homes in the neighborhood with the idea of living in them, we have had some who wished to change the use. At our Board Meeting of Dec. 17, 2001, we unanimously voted to request a NCD designation when they became available. At our General Membership meeting of May 21, 2002, the entire membership present voted for the same thing.

In July of 2002, when the NCD became available, we were ready; and we were the first to apply.

This is how we became NCD 1.

BOARD CORNER

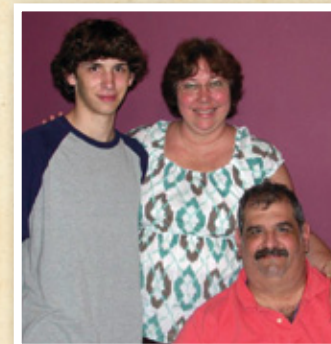
CORAL GATE SERVICE

Juan and I bought into The Gate in November of 1990. It was the best of Thanksgivings that year! Houses were selling in a week's time in those days so we did not hesitate when we saw a little gem with a For Sale by Owner sign posted at the front door. It was a Sunday and banks were closed, but that did not stop us. We wrote out a check as our "earnest money" and handed it over then and there. The rest of the process was ironed out that week with real estate lawyers, and we were soon the proud owners of a pristine Coral Gate home with a new roof and recently refurbished hardwood floors. What a beauty!

A few years later our son, Michael, was born. It wasn't long before my walks changed from pushing a baby stroller, to chasing a tricycle. Now, Mike is learning to drive on our winding streets. Over the years I have enjoyed getting to know my neighbors. The last time we had a general power outage after a storm, Mike and I walked to the grocery store. We took the long way, stopping in for tea with one friend, and a jump on the trampoline at another's home. That's why The Gate is so great!

We live in a community that city planners and urban architects look to as an example of good urban design in which residents are within walking distance of supermarkets, shops and restaurants. No one needs to re-design Coral Gate. In fact, we got it right the first time in 1948.

Mary Karrer Andreu



Mary Andreu with husband Juan and son Michael

Mary Andreu served as president of the Coral Gate Homeowners Association for three years, from 2000-2003. She returned to "active duty" in 2008 as a member of the Steering Committee of the CGHA.



HIS HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOME

We would like first of all to Thank You for allowing us and providing us this opportunity to share this message during the upcoming Holiday seasons and you can make the difference in a child's life. "His House Children's Home" supports and nourishes children that have been abandoned, abused and neglected by their parents and or families. His House is a place of love, safety and support for many of this children. Their primary mission is to get these children adopted and given the opportunity to be part of a family; it could be your family.

You can make the difference by Volunteering, supporting and giving to those who cannot or are not able to take care of themselves. The following are some of these opportunities:

1. Children's Clothing (must be usable and not torn): From birth to 17 years old, Boys or Girls, there are more boys in the facility at this time.
2. New shoes
3. Food
4. Provide them with gift cards to purchase food or clothing: Walmart, Target, etc.
5. Financial support, these are 100% deductible.

You can visit their website: <http://www.hhch.org>

From our family to yours, THANK YOU.

The McDonald Family

NEW DESIGN PARTNER OF CORAL GATE!

DESIGNHOUSE is a full service boutique web design and digital advertising agency specializing in innovative, award-winning web design, graphic design and business identity development.

Stay tuned for:

- New Coral Gate Logo
- New Web design & development



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NOW YOU KNOW (ESSENTIAL – CLIP AND POST ON YOUR FRIDGE)

TRASH PICKUP

Household garbage is picked up on Tuesday & Fridays; yard trash on Thursdays. Don't put out your garbage before the scheduled day. You could be fined \$75.00! Always, place trash on the swale in front of your property. The nearest solid waste dump site previously located at 1290 NW 20 Street has been closed due to budget cuts.

PET LAWS UPDATE

The City of Miami has revised pet laws:

- Vaccinate pets against rabies beginning at 4 months of age. Revaccinate every 1 to 3 years.
- License your dogs annually
- Keep their tags on at all times
- You're allowed 4 dogs on residential property that's one acre or less, 6 dogs on 1-2 acres and 8 dogs on 2 acres or more.
- You can't buy/sell/own pit-bulls
- It's illegal to allow a dog to defecate/urinate on sidewalks of public streets or public buildings.

PARKING

Vehicles can only park on driveways or swale areas to avoid fines. Never park on sidewalks, lawns or on the street.

YARD SALES

Call or visit a NET Service Center for personal assistance with the following:

Concerns Street Maintenance Street Lights Litter Graffiti Shopping Carts	Permits Class I and II Special Permits Garage Sale Parking Meters (Bagging meters for events) Tree Removal Special Event Permits "No Trespassing" Affidavits Noise Waiver
Licenses Certificate of Use Business Tax Receipt	Payment City Fees and Fines

Ana M. Rodriguez | NET Administrator
5135 NW 7St • Miami, Fl. 33126
305-960-2891 • Fax: 305-960-2899
arodriguez@miamigov.com



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Neighborhood meetings take place at:
CORAL GATE PARK, 1415 SW 32nd AVE or
ST. RAYMOND CATHOLIC CHURCH

WHEN TO CALL NON-EMERGENCY:

For junk/trash piles at a busy intersection, call #311.

For suspicious activities or suspicious persons, call
Non-Emergency Police Dept. (305) 579-6111

STREET LIGHTS OUT?

Call FP&L at 1-800-468-8243

THANK YOU

Mayor Tomas Regalado

for all the years of service to our community.

Commissioner Francis Suarez

for continuing the tradition of watching over Coral Gate.

Carlos Lago

Senior Aide to the Commissioner Francis Suarez

Sergio Barrero and the Boy Scouts

for weeding the flower beds along the perimeter walls.

Ana Rodriguez

(our NET administrator) for always being there for us.

Manny Gonzalez for our first website.

Marcos Moure

for being the editor of our newsletter for four years.

Major Steven Caceres and Commander Ethyl Jones and their officers.

2010 Coral Gate Homeowners Association, P.O. Box 450215, Miami, Fl 33245. All information presented here is intended for non-commercial use by residents of Coral Gate. Commercial use is expressly prohibited and is in direct violation of applicable copyright laws. Established in 1986 the Coral Gate Homeowners Association (CGHA) serves the residents of Coral gate by actively seeking to maintain the unique character of our single-family homes and residential neighborhood.