A PUBLICATION OF THE CORAL GATE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION the Summer 2009

REBUILDING THE CORAL GATE WALL

by Mary Andreu

"This is the first and only chance to obtain funds to rebuild the Coral Gate Wall," stated Commissioner Tomás Regalado to Coral Gate board members at a January meeting to utline the steps quired to initiate project that will replace our crumbling 60-year-old wall. Since then, your Coral Gate

Steering Committee, led by María Doval, has worked tirelessly with residents and city of Miami staff to "rebuild the wall."

The first step is to obtain permission from the 26 homeowners whose homes abut the existing wall. Most of the easement agreements are in and were signed with great enthusiasm and support for the project. A few neighbors are meeting with city representatives to address their concerns, and one by one, they are signing on to allow construction crews onto their property to build a wall that none of us could afford. Cost for the modular 10-foot wall is estimated at 1.3 to 2.1 million dollars.



Monies for the capital improvement project have been raised through the half-penny transportation tax and tie into 32nd Avenue improvement projects. "It is so rewarding to see our tax dollars at work in our very own backyard," comments María Doval. "We are deeply grateful to Commissioner Regalado and his staff, to Mr. David Méndez and his crew, and to Victoria Méndez, the Miami city attorney who drafted the easement agreements."

David Méndez, Assistant Director for the Department of Capital Improvements

(C.I.P.) is the lead engineer who also built the U.S. 1 wall for Natoma Manor and Bay Heights. His words of advice, "Stay involved. Be proactive. Don't be shy about asking questions." That's why he has availed himself to our residents in various meeting and visits to their homes to address their concerns.

Commissioner Regalado has placed the Coral Gate Wall on the "expedite" list. That means the project moves to the "front of the line" in each city department slated to review it. Mr. Méndez says the city is ironing out details for the design and should be ready to present to Coral Gate residents by the end of June.

Responsibility for general maintenance of the wall...(contd.)

WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER 2009 ISSUE.

The Gate features news, information, personal stories and reminiscences from your neighbors. We hope it will make your life in Coral Gate —one of Miami's best neighborhoods!— a bit easier and more enjoyable. Feel free to send us your comments or suggestions anytime at:

coralgatesec@hotmail.com

Coral Gate
Crime Watch Meeting
Be alert, be informed, be part of it.

Day: June 24th **Time**: 7:00 p.m. **Place**: Coral Gate Park

BE PART OF THE GATE.

Help us improve our historic neighborhood. We need volunteers to help us distribute newsletters or contribute ideas.

TIME TO PAY YOUR HOMEOWNER'S FEE.

Annual homeowners association fee is still only \$15... and voluntary!
Please send your check payable to:

Coral Gate Homeowners Association P. O. Box 450215, Miami, FL 33245

REBUILDING THE WALL... (CONTD.)

...and painting over graffiti will fall to the CGHA. In fact, we are planning to add climbing vines to foil any graffiti opportunists. Major repairs to the wall will be the responsibility of the city of Miami. This was a key issue with the easement agreements, as neither the CGHA nor any homeowner could afford that potential expense.

Finally, once the project is underway, it will follow what Mr. Mendez calls "Train Construction."

Beginning at one end, the old wall will be demolished and replaced by the new foundation and concrete panels. A chain-link fence with privacy screen will be added as the old wall comes down and stay up until the new panels are installed. Construction crews won't leave the site until the property is secured for the night.

Robert Valledor and former board member Gloria Xiques initiated the dialog with Commissioner Regalado to get a new Coral Gate Wall onto the city's docket. This project was launched in April 2008 with unanimous approval by the CGHA Board. Since then, we have spent the year building closer ties with neighbors and city of Miami staff as we work together to create something lasting, a new wall for Coral Gate.

and vastly improved the parking garage lighting. They have also filled in the open floor areas within the building to increase the floor size. Miracle Marketplace will contain 250,000 square feet and is being redeveloped by Talisman Cos, which specializes in redeveloping under-performing retail centers and has redeveloped more than 7 million square feet of retail space nationwide. Bally Total Fitness will soon be joined by Bed Bath and Beyond (now open), Marshalls (soon to open), Michaels, Ultra Cosmetics, Petsmart, DSW and Payless Shoe Source and best of all, Nordstrom Rack. Sweet Tomatoes was announced as one of two restaurants.

Soon we'll have a "big box" retail center we can walk to.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CGHA CHAIRPERSON...

Recently, we all received a flyer from The Solid Waste Department. I spoke to Virginia Pérez, the Coral Gate Inspector, who asked me to pass this on to all residents:

- Inspectors will soon be giving out citations for violations of the City Code for Solid Waste.
 In Coral Gate some residents are placing their Green Garbage Can before pick up. This should only be done Monday/Thursday nights.
- 3. Trash pickup is Thursdays. Trash cannot be placed in the swale until the night before.
- 4. Landscapers that are caring for your lawns must not place the waste in the swales any other day but Wednesday. They can work any day, however they must place waste in garbage bags and give it to the residents, so they can place it out on Wednesday.
- 5. Recycling Bins should be placed out in the swale on Monday evenings.

Any landscaper seen by an inspector or police officer placing the waste in the non-assigned days will be ARRESTED on the spot by MPD and given a fine as well by Solid Waste Inspectors.

Inspectors have been very flexible, but they've had too many complaints by residents and the City has ordered

Inspectors to follow the Code.

The CGHA supports the City of Miami code. We're trying so hard to beautify our neighborhood with trees and it certainly does not look good to have trash around for long periods of time by not following the rules. Please help us by following the rules.

Thanks in advance to all neighbors, Maria C. Doval, Chair, CGHA Board



MIRACLE MARKETPLACE BY BOB VALLEDOR

As everyone in Coral Gate has seen, the Miracle Marketplace (formerly Miracle Center) is almost finished with their two-year long renovation. If you haven't been by the building lately you should. What they have done is impressive. In addition to opening the building with lots of windows, installing people friendly escalators on the Coral Way side, they have replaced the "downhill ski sloop" with a very car friendly double spiral ramp

MEET YOUR BOARD:

SERGIO BARRERO



By Mary Andreu



We have lived in the Gate since 1997.

I am married and have two sons. I've been a member of the Coral Gate committee since 1998.

I enjoy running, fishing and scouting. I grew up in Miami and attended Coral Gables High, Miami-Dade Community College and FIU.

My favorite things about living in Coral Gate: my neighbor Julie Hood, living near where I grew up, my sons attending the same schools I attended and living in the heart of Miami near the Beaches, Coconut Grove and the Gables.

One of the key selling features for me when we bought into Coral Gate was its "walkability." I liked the curving streets, well-maintained sidewalks and numerous streetlights for evening strolls. In fact, I turned down other neighborhoods for being poorly illuminated at night. All this was before we began the fight for barricades to keep out excessive drive-through traffic. Now, Coral Gate is ranked as one of the most "walkable" neighborhoods in the nation.

In fact, Coral Gate achieves a national score of 85% on a web site that has compiled a list of "America's Most Walkable Neighborhoods." WalkScore's top picks are San Francisco at 86%, New York City at 83% and Boston, 79%.

What makes a neighborhood walkable? One of the requirements is "streets built for the right speed with lanes that are narrow or have traffic calming in place." Does that not spell C-

O-R-A-L G-A-T-E? Other key features are businesses and residences which are located near each other, with parks, recreation, shopping and dining nearby. Most of these are within a 1-mile radius of Coral Gate, which gives the area its topnotch score. Typing in *Coral Gate*,

Miami, Florida at Walkscore.com generates listings of local restaurants, business, schools and shopping.

While this is only a fun real estate marketing tool, it does support why so many of us are enamored with The Gate and its central location. It is also why we have fought so hard to protect our streets and our residential integrity. So, see you around The Gate walking, that is.



TIPS FOR A SAFE 4TH

Independence Day means summer, barbecues, family get-togethers, fireworks and parties. Unfortunately, July 4th also ranks as our nation's deadliest holiday. According to the most recent data from the National Safety Council, July 4, 2005 was the most lethal holiday on record. Alcohol played a big role but firework injuries were also to

blame. In 2004 alone, fireworks caused \$21 million in property damage. But it doesn't have to be that way if we all take some simple precautions and follow some simple safety tips:

- Before using any firecrackers, make sure they are legal in our city
- Never let young children handle fireworks (almost half of all injuries are to children under age 15)

- Adults must supervise older children
- Always light fireworks outdoors away from people, houses or pets
- Light only one firecracker at a time and always keep your distance
- Never light up firecrackers inside containers
- Soak any duds with plenty of water and discard

Source: National Safety Council Website: www.nsc.org

NOWYOUKNOW

Essential post-on-your-fridge Gate info.

WHAT'S R1?

Single family residential zoning code. Our homes (all 463 of them; built between 1948 and 1950) are zoned **R1**. Adherence to this code gives us low density and low traffic and makes Coral Gate one of Miami's best communities.

NEIGHBOR HELPS NEIGHBOR

Do you have skills you can share with your neighbors. Are you a handyman, plumber, carpenter or other skill. Would you be willing to volunteer your time and effort to help others? If so list your services in our next issue. Send your info to:

coralgatesec@hotmail.com

SCOOP THAT POOP

Remove all canine "gifts" promptly. No one needs the extra fertilizer, thank you.

PARKING

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

YARD SALES

You need a permit to have a yard/garage sale (*limit two per year*). Get 'em at:

CORAL WAY NET OFFICE 2299 SW 27th Avenue Miami, FL 33145 Tel:(305) 329-4750

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

They always take place at:

CORAL GATE PARK 1415 SW 32nd Ave Miami, FL 33145 305-442-0377

WHEN TO CALL NON-EMERGENCY 311

Call for questions or services like:

- Order new recycling bins
- Ask for potholes to be repaired
- Report violations like overgrown lots or junk/trash piles
- Request a stop sign or traffic signal be installed at a busy intersection

ARE YOU HURRICANE-READY?

Do you know the five rules of hurricanepreparedness? 1. Develop a family plan. 2. Create a disaster supply kit. 3. Have a safe place to go. 4. Secure your home. 5. Have a pet plan. For more detailed

16 Street CORAL GATE CRIME WATCH MAP > O < 9 0 3 3 0 c 0 ø c > 4 m 22 Street - Coral Way · Coral Gate A CHISTING PERMANENT STREET CLOSURE Neighborhood boundary PAISTING BARRICADE

and helpful information, visit: www.hurricanes.gov/prepare

CRIME IS UP

Get involved, it's the only way to keep your family and neighborhood safe. If your home is not shaded in the map above, then you are not a member of a Crime Watch team! For help getting your Crime Watch Team organized, contact Julie Hood at yababy@mindspring.com

MORE FREE TREES!

Coral Gater Mark Spanioli, who works for the City of Miami, informs us that the City's Public Works department have more free trees available for us. This time around, the city is offering bigger trees (16 feet high). They have mahogany and oaks ready for delivery and free planting. Interested residents should contact Coral Gate Tree Planting Team Leader, Matthew McDonald. See his email address below.

Remember, The Coral Gate Tree Project is an all-volunteer effort. Anyone who

wants a tree needs to help with the planting, except of course, the elderly or anyone with a physical handicap. If so, we would try to find volunteers to assist. If you can volunteer, please let us know. Your help would be appreciated.

If you're interested in participating in the next tree planting contact Matthew and include the following information: complete name, address, email address, phone numbers, and number of trees you want planted. Please let us know if you can assist us with the planting.

Matthew's email address is:

mblc@juno.com

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR NEW TREES:

- 1. Water daily 2-3 weeks after planting.
- 2. Protect your trees from our friendly "landscaper." Make sure the bottom trunks of the trees are not damaged by edgers or trimmers. Buy a plastic tree trunk protector to surround the base of the tree.

Many thanks to both Matthew and Mark for their involvement and support.