

the

GATE

Winter
2008

Small Project. Big impact.

By María C. Doval, Chair
CGHA Board

I'm sure by now, you have noticed the new traffic pillars installed on 36th avenue, between Walgreens and Sears. Now that the south entrance to Sears has been blocked to prevent cars from entering into the parking lot, backing up of traffic on Coral Gate Drive and Coral Way will improve. This will also help make the intersection safer.

Commissioner Regalado, Representative Robaina, and other City of Miami and State Officials worked very close with the board members of your Coral Gate Homeowners Association. We won a small victory with the support of all involved, and more importantly, the work was done quickly.

And it all started with that famed "Meeting of the Umbrellas" we told you about a couple of months ago. In addition to the pillars, the Boston Market parking meters have been removed. These new measures should help alleviate traffic into and out of Coral Gate Drive.

Next time you bump into any of your Board Members or City and State Officials join me in thanking them for their great work. We are part of a very lucky few in the City of Miami and should be very appreciative of everyone's efforts.



Neighborhood Meeting: Dec. 3

Coral Gate Park, 7:00 p.m.

The Coral Gate Homeowners Association invites all residents to a Neighborhood General Meeting on December 3rd at Coral Gate Park.

Members of the board will talk about the Miami Police Department's crime statistics, the new Sears traffic pillars and other important projects. Commissioner Tomás Regalado and other city officials will once again be in attendance.

Come let your voice be heard. 'Cause you live here too.

Welcome to our 2008 Winter issue.

Happy Holidays! 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: thecoralgatesec@hotmail.com

A GREENER GATE

The Green Gate project continues! Led by Coral Gate resident Matthew McDonald, the free tree plantings continue to take place throughout our neighborhood.

Many people are involved and we'd like to acknowledge them. We would like to thank our wonderful Coral Gate Neighborhood Association, Rotaractors from Rotary District 6990, Coral Gables Rotarians, Rotarians from District 6990, Members of the

Citizens for a Better South Florida Young

Professionals Branching Out Board, friends, family members, CFABSF Board Members, Liza Walton of the Coral Way Net Office, City of Miami Public Works, Sayed Hassil and everyone who participated in the tree planting on Sunday, October 12th in Coral Gate.

You all worked so hard and we are proud of you. We even had 20-month old Pol Galigarcia helping to water his tree and Alex, the McDonald's family dog, was there too! We would like to recognize Citizen Forester Team Leader Matthew McDonald and members of the Citizen Forester Team for their help with this event and thank you to Eric Manzenberger for allowing us the honor of having the ceremonial tree planting at his home.

This event would not have been possible without our sponsors: The Home Depot Foundation, HSBC Bank USA, The Alliance for Community Trees, Hassil Photography and Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources & the City of Miami.

Thanks to everyone 47 trees were planted!

You can check out pictures from the event here:

<http://www.hassilphotography.com/gallery/Actrees/Actrees.html>

THIS JUST IN! NEW WALL ANNOUNCED.

Here's yet another example of your Coral Gate Homeowners Association hard at work for you!

After months of negotiations with city officials, we have received approval from the city of Miami for the construction of a new 10-foot wall. The wall will replace the existing, badly deteriorated original wall running from 16th street to 32nd ave. It will stretch from Coral Gate Drive and 16th Street to 32nd avenue and 18th street. The wall will help alleviate traffic noise and potential intruders and will be landscaped by the city.

More details will be coming soon but if you have any immediate questions concerning the new perimeter wall, please make sure you attend our December 3rd neighborhood meeting. The issue will be discussed in full by Commissioner Tomás Regalado.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS by Mary Andreu

Christmas music plays on radio stations long before we've sat down for our Thanksgiving turkey. Even as we pack away our Halloween costumes, we've start to lay-a-way our gifts at a K-mart. This is a sign of economic times; we must save our money, spend wisely and pay for things little by little. With that in mind, this just might be a good year to fall back on homemade gifts.

My husband and I bought into our Coral Gate home in November, 1990. Of course, it was our biggest investment ever, so Christmas was very lean that year. Children received toys, but older family members had to settle for tropical mango bread, Grandma's recipe for banana Bundt cake and holiday cookies that included chocolate Spritz cookies, almond crescents, and Polish Kalotchkis with apricot jam. Would you believe, that year I received the most genuine thanks for my humble gifts.

We rush around like crazy getting our home ready for Christmas and Hannukah, that we might miss some valuable family time. This year, make time for family. Bring in the grandkids and share a favorite recipe. Show your nephew how to build a birdhouse. Get together with friends each week to start making craft gifts as this year's presents. Cash in those coins at the grocery store and find a way to donate that money to a cause that's important to you.

I was fortunate that my grandmother lived with us for 12 years while I was growing up. She taught me how to make a delicious German yeast-bread filled with candied fruit and nuts. We'd start early in the morning, prepare the yeast mixture, add the flour and other dry ingredients and let it rise. We then would knead it twice before rolling it out flat, sprinkling on the ingredients and rolling this up, pat it with melted butter and pinch it shut. It would rise one more time assembled before "Gaga" said it was time to bake the "Vikelkuchen."

My involvement in "The Gate" started soon after I moved in. I was fascinated with the mix of people who lived here and were represented on the board. I was then one of the "younger" generation, starting my family and learning from the more experienced citizen activists. We worked together to obtain street closures, tree plantings and building the lighted entrance at Musial Circle which opens to Coral Gables. The laborers in this "vineyard" included gray-haired retirees, recent empty nesters and young couples who cherished time spent sitting in lawn chairs watching their youngsters ride bikes and play ball with friends in the front yard. We laborers are still diverse.

It is this diversity that attracted me to Coral Gate and it is this diversity that makes me stay. My neighbors wish me a Merry Christmas and I warmly wish them a wonderful Hannukah shared with family and close friends. I've never been one to use the term "Happy Holidays" because it overlooks the waters down the rich traditions we each cherish. Get to know your neighbors well enough to know their traditions and let them get to know you. Reach out and share some of what you can offer, even if it is a mere piece of pecan pie or homemade brownies. Mmmm.

OUR FRIEND GEORGE

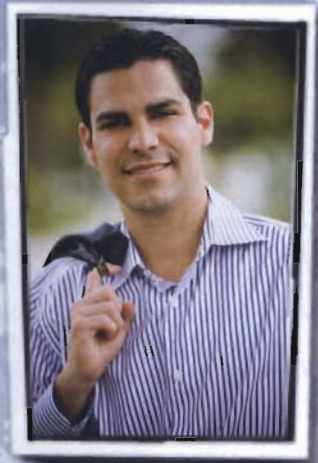
Our friend and neighbor George Dick passed away in October. George and his wife Wilma were one of the first Coral Gaters to befriend us when we moved here almost 10 years ago. When George wasn't trimming, weeding or mowing, he'd stop by our house and drop off some of those sweet bananas he grew

in his backyard. We would gladly swap our avocados and mangos for those bananas.

George and Wilma worked hard to make Coral Gate what it is today. Since 1961 in fact, when they first moved here. On more than one occasion, George and Wilma single-handedly took care of preparing and delivering our newsletter to all residents. George loved boating, fishing

and golf and at age 83, still walked all 18 holes. He was cheerful, positive and optimistic; a hard-working man who always had a good word to say. George loved Coral Gate, it was his neighborhood, his place. He worked hard to improve everything about it. We're going to miss him.

— Marcos Moure, editor



MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS:

FRANCIS SUAREZ

Francis Suárez has been a resident of our community for almost two years. Since that time Francis has become an active member of the Coral Gate Homeowners Association. Soon after becoming a member, Francis was elected to serve on the board of directors and has since been the pro bono legal counsel for the group.

Francis has been instrumental in helping the association deal with the issues surrounding new projects for our neighborhood and was an integral part of the now legendary "umbrella meeting" which produced the new Sears traffic pillars on 36th avenue.

He also has negotiated on behalf of the association with neighboring developers and the City of Miami to ensure that Coral Gate's priorities were protected.

NowYouKnow

Essential, clip-and-post-on-your-fridge neighborhood 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.

TRASH PICKUP

The city picks up household garbage on Tuesdays and Fridays. Yard trash is picked up on Thursdays. Don't put out your garbage before the scheduled day. You could be fined \$75.00! Trash and garbage must be placed outside no sooner than the night prior to pickup. Always place trash on the swale in front of your property. The nearest solid waste dump site is: *1290 NW 20 St.* (305) 575-5107.

SCOOP THAT POOP

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

PET LAWS UPDATE

On May 12, 2008, the City of Miami revised all laws pertaining to pets. Here are a few key points:

- *Vaccinate* dogs, cats and ferrets 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 less than one acre, 6 dogs on 1 to 2 acres, and 8 dogs on 2 acres or more. Keeping more than those numbers requires a license.
- *Always leash* your dog when off your private property. Never let them roam freely.
- *You can't buy/sell/own pit-bulls* in Miami-Dade County
- *It is 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 or on the street.

YARD SALES

You need a permit from the city to have a yard/garage sale (*you can have up to 2 a year*). Get 'em at:

CORAL WAY NET OFFICE

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

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Neighborhood meetings 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 over-grown lots or junk/trash piles
- Request a stop sign or traffic signal be installed at a busy intersection

STREET LIGHTS OUT?

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

WHAT'S UP WITH MIAMI 21?

By Grace Garrido

Miami 21 is the name of the proposed new zoning code for the entire City of Miami. It has been in the planning stages for at least three years. There have been many revisions and strategic changes in that time. We have been representing the interests of Coral Gate at both Planning Department sponsored meetings and at meetings of Miami Neighborhoods United, an umbrella group of homeowners' associations throughout the city. At present, we are awaiting the latest changes to be posted. We may be seeing approval at the City Commission by December.

General philosophy and intent of Miami 21 from the City's website:

Miami 21 entails a holistic approach to land use and urban planning. It that will be supported by specific guidelines and regulations. Six elements serve as the lynchpins in the development of the blueprint of Miami : Zoning (Miami 21 Zoning Code), Economic Development, Historic Preservation, Parks and Open Spaces, Arts and Culture, and Transportation.

The Miami 21 Zoning Code is a form-based code guided by tenets of New Urbanism and Smart Growth principles.

How it pertains to Coral Gate: at present, Miami 21 will maintain Coral Gate homes as they are while changing the nomenclature from R1 to T3R. The commercial properties that abut Coral Gate on the north side of Coral Way will become T 6 - 8 O and will have a height limitation of 8 stories. New buildings are required to be pedestrian friendly so most buildings will have store-fronts on the bottom floor with other uses above. We believe that these will be good for Coral Gate.

Make this Christmas Truly Green: Recycle your Christmas Trees.

Here are some Tree Drop-off locations for your convenience. Remove all ornaments and tinsel prior to drop-off.

Golden Glades - 140 NW 160 Street, Miami, FL 33161. Tel: 305-594-1500.

North Dade - 21500 NW 47 Avenue, Miami, FL 33181. Tel: 305-594-1500.

Sunset Kendall - 8000 SW 107 Ave., Miami, FL 33156. Tel: 305-594-1500.

Police Tips: Safe Holiday Shopping

- Lock your vehicle(s) at all times.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- At night, park in well-lit areas.
- Store all valuables and property out of plain sight, locked in your trunk.
- After shopping, if alone, walk out with a group or ask for a security escort.
- Approach your vehicle with your keys in your hand.

**Happy Holidays
and a prosperous,
peaceful 2009 to
all our friends
and neighbors.**

