

the GATE

winter 2009

Live every day like it's a holiday gift, being thankful, spending time with family, and looking with hope to the future.

Coming Up: The Wall.

by Mary Andreu

The dream of a new wall for Coral Gate became reality with a groundbreaking ceremony held on Saturday, October 10th. Then Commissioner Tomás Regalado officiated, just weeks before his election as Mayor of Miami. Mr. Regalado remarked to the gathering of neighbors that this project is an excellent example of how the political process works hand-in-hand with community activism.

The Wall represents the efforts of many volunteers from the Coral Gate Homeowners Association in a process that took less than two years to achieve. Maria Doval, the Coral Gate Board Chair, along with members of the Steering Committee, met with neighbors in group meetings and individually in the company of city employees and members of the CIP (Capital Improvements Program) to notarize the easement agreements which allow contractors access to the properties adjacent to the original wall. This persistence



finally yielded results with construction on the wall commencing on November 30th, 2009. The project manager for the CIP office is Mr. Manny Mejido, who has worked closely with

neighbors and the CGHA Board to get the Coral Gate Wall and Road Improvements underway.

We can thank our newly elected Commissioner, Francis Suarez, who is a resident of Coral Gate and a member of the CGHA Board, for his *pro bono* legal expertise in drafting the easement document to comply with city of Miami and Capital Improvement requirements.

Coconut Grove commissioner Mark Sarnoff, who attended the groundbreaking, lauded Mr. Suarez's contribution stating that if he had received similar legal advice when building the "Pink Wall" on US 1, the entire project would be completed by now. He is only now getting the second phase of the wall underway.

(continued inside)

CONGRATULATIONS MR. SUAREZ! The newly elected city of Miami Commissioner is our very own Francis Suarez. Francis and his lovely wife Gloria have been residents of Coral Gate for 4 years. Not bad having a city commissioner as a friend and neighbor!

BE PART OF THE GATE. Annual homeowners association fee is only \$15 and voluntary! Send your \$15 check payable to:

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



THE WALL (contd.)

Recently, Mrs. Doval, and board members Robert Valledor and Grace Garrido met with city officials and Fire Marshall Juan L. Meizoso to request the closure of two barricades that fall within the span of the wall. A resolution was brought to a vote before the CGHA Board and formally submitted to the city. We are pleased to announce that the Coral Gate Wall will continue without gaps across the intersections of Coral Gate Drive and 16th Street, and 18th Street and 32nd Avenue.

As residents, we will all benefit from the New Coral Gate Wall. It will no longer be a crumbling relic, but will reflect the city of Miami's pride in the oldest planned community and its first Neighborhood Conservation District. It will also provide a much needed sound barrier to the traffic on the major streets around us. The 10-foot-tall wall will definitely provide much more privacy and security and the surface is

designed to repel graffiti. With landscaping plans to grow climbing vines up its surface, the wall should prove to be low maintenance. Special thanks to Gloria Xiques for her initial efforts in this great project.



Please remember that this trees take many, many years to grow. They are slow to grow but do remarkable well in our environment.

Make sure you water your trees daily for about 4-6 weeks.

I would like to personally thank Mark Spanioli our Coral Gate neighbor (1720 Coral Gate Drive) who was instrumental in our last tree planting project in Coral Gate.

He was able to obtain the entire process for all of the residents that selected to have a tree planted, from the permit process, tree selection and all the way up to the actual tree planting. Mark is married to Laura and has one son Justin. They have been residents of Coral Gate since 2006.

If you see Mark please thank him for his dedication to our neighborhood and making Coral Gate a better place for everyone to live. By planting this trees it helps our environment and helps recover some of our lost tree canopy in Miami-Dade. Thanks Mark!

OUR THIRD TREE PLANTING

by Matthew McDonald

We had our third successful tree planting project in October/November. Those of you who selected to have a tree planted should at this writing have a beautiful (large) Oak tree planted in the swale area.





MEET YOUR BOARD:
MARCOS MOURE

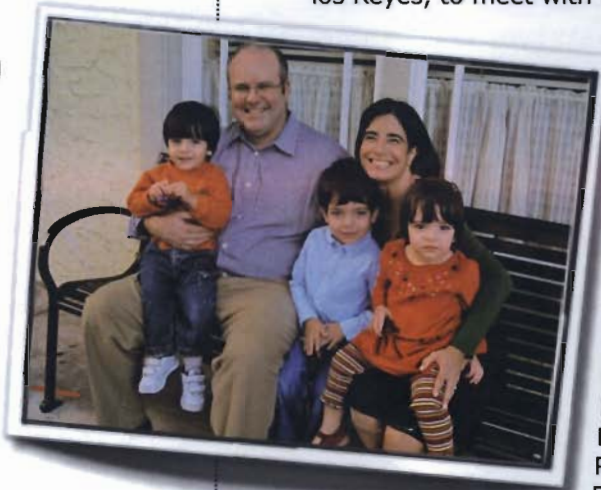
Marcos is the Editor-in-Chief of our neighborhood newsletter.

A Coral Gate resident since 1999, Marcos is a writer and currently works in the advertising industry.

When he and his lovely wife Lourdes are not busy raising their 4-year old boy and 2-year old twins, they're busy raising their 4-year old boy and 2-year old twins.

The family loves the proximity of Coral Gate to schools, work and families and are really looking forward to the building of the Coral Gate wall.

Because life isn't complicated enough, they also have a fish named Paco, a cat named Max and a dog named Ernie. No more kids or pets are expected in the near future.



THE DIVINE MERCY PROJECT

by Maria Doval

Coral Gate Homeowner Association board members were present at a Zoning Board meeting on October 21 to ask for a deferent of an application for a Place of Worship at 3000-02 S.W. 17th Street. The Board granted our request and asked the applicant, Deacon Rafael de los Reyes, to meet with neighbors before the next Zoning Board Meeting.

We notified all nearby residents and invited them to meet at St. Raymond's Hall on November 2, 2009. Deacon de los Reyes explained his plans and the neighbors put themselves to work. Gemma Perez went around door to door and notified Coral Gate Residents that a Zoning Hearing would take place on November 9th., 2009 at Miami City Hall and urged them to attend. We had a an excellent turnout that included members of the Board, residents of Coral Gate and Citrus Farm and State Representative Julio Robaina. Residents as well as Representative Robaina voiced their concerns about traffic intrusion, future

impact and the potential for loss of property value to the homes that about the proposed site. Deacon de los Reyes withdrew his petition in the middle of the hearing and the Zoning Board Members after consulting with the City Attorney voted unanimously to accept the withdrawal. **This is teamwork!** Many thanks to Gema and all who voiced their opinion.

SIMPLIFY THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays get more complicated and stressful every year. Not too mention over commercialized. Street decorations and store merchandise now pop up in October. That's crazy. But you don't have to be. Think about the kind of holiday you really want. More play time with the kids? Less time in malls? More time for charitable causes and/or strengthening your spiritual beliefs? Here are some tips.

Make a list. Make a list of your past Holiday tasks like open house parties and all the work they entail, cards, shopping, decorating etc.

No gifts this year! Take a trip with the family instead. Imagine all the stress you'll save by not shopping, not cooking, not cleaning!

Involve the kids. Ask them to help decorate the tree, put up lights with assistance, bake cookies, write and label holiday cards, call relatives. Don't aim for perfection.

Stay on budget. It's way too easy to overspend during the holidays.

Make homemade presents like gift baskets, cookie tins, and photo frames. They save you money and people really appreciate the handcrafted thought.

Simplify, simplify, simplify. Take a look at everything you do and find ways to rethink and simplify.

Above all, love what you have and have what you love!



NowYouKnow

Essential "clip-and-post-on-your-fridge" neighborhood info.

WHAT'S R1?

Single family residential zoning code. Our 463 homes (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

Household garbage is picked up on Tuesdays and 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 is:

1290 NW 20 St.
(305) 575-5107.

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 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 to have garage/yard sales (max. 2 a year). Get 'em at:

CORAL WAY NET OFFICE

55 SW 17th Road
Tel:(305) 329-4750

Neighborhood Meetings

Neighborhood meetings take place at:

CORAL GATE PARK

1415 SW 32nd Ave
305-442-0377

WHEN TO CALL NON-EMERGENCY 311:

- 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

STREET LIGHTS OUT?

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

MIAMI 21 by Grace Garrido

After many meetings, discussions and studies, Miami 21 has been passed by the City of Miami Commission. Miami 21 is a new zoning code for the entire City of Miami. It had been in the planning stages for years. There have been many revisions and strategic changes in that time. We represented the interests of Coral Gate at both Planning Department sponsored meetings and at meetings of Miami Neighborhoods United, an umbrella group of homeowners' associations.

Miami 21 is a holistic approach to land use and urban planning. There are six key elements in the development of the blueprint of Miami 21 Zoning: Economic Development, Historic Preservation, Parks and Open Spaces, Arts and Culture, and Transportation. Miami 21 is a Form-Based Zoning Code guided by tenets of New Urbanism and Smart Growth principles.

How it pertains to Coral Gate:

1. Miami 21 will maintain Coral Gate homes as they are while changing the nomenclature from R1 to T3R.
2. Commercial properties that abut Coral Gate north of Coral Way will become T6 - 80 and will have a height limitation of 8 stories. New buildings are required to be pedestrian friendly. When compared to the present code, Miami 21 further protects us on Coral Way by adding to the setbacks that any new building abutting us on Coral Way would need to have. The final reading and passage of the new code took place on October 22, 2009. It goes into effect 120 days from that date.