

VILLAGE OF PINECREST



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Meet Your Staff



Roger Johnson is a Maintenance Worker I in the Public Works Department and has been with the Village since October 2000.

His responsibilities include maintenance of streets and traffic signs and he performs multiple other tasks assigned to him. His co-workers describe him as a man of few words but the epitome of dependability with a

E-News

September 2009

From the desk of Mayor Lerner



New Budget - The Village Council held two budget workshops in August, and will be holding budget hearings on September 8th and 15th to adopt and vote on the budget. You can go to our [web site](#) to listen to the budget hearings if you are interested in the issues addressed and discussion held during the workshops. We had some hard truths to deal with

this year; the property tax relief legislation, the reduction in property values in the Village, which reduced our assessed values by 7%, and the drop in new construction which has further reduced our revenues. However, the Council decided the maintenance of current service levels was a priority for our residents and that we could do so without raising taxes if we took \$1 million from our general fund reserves, which still leaves us with a reserve balance of \$6,959,558.00. We are fortunate to have this reserve fund balance to draw from this year. But if the conditions do not improve in the coming year, we may have to make some harder decisions next year.

We have also determined to identify additional sources of revenue, and will be developing those goals in coming months through our strategic planning process. We invite our residents to join us in this process by attending workshops and participating in the surveys and focus groups we will convene.

We are committed to maintain the level of service for the Police Department, Parks and Recreation and Public Works. In order to maintain that level of service, we have adopted the roll back rate which assured us the same ad valorem proceeds as last year. However, even with those proceeds, we saw reductions in revenue in several other areas, and had to draw upon reserves to ultimately balance our budget. So the net effect is that the millage rate has risen from 1.9809 to the proposed rate of 2.1040. We are not undertaking any significant new capital

contagious bright smile. He enjoys coaching football, baseball and basketball. He is a fan of all of the local sports teams but, in particular, of his beloved Pittsburgh Steelers.

**Pinecrest
Business
Association**

www.pinecrestbusiness.com

**MEMBER
HIGHLIGHT**

Cold Stone Creamery

9059 South Dixie Hwy
305-740-0995

www.coldstonecreamery.com

Police Tips



**Neighborhood
Crime Watch: Worth
Everyone's Effort**

- Empowers the community
- Reduces crime potential and increases surveillance
- Gain Knowledge in indentifying and reporting suspicious activity
- Brings the neighbors closer while working towards a common goal: making their area safer for everyone

projects this coming year, and have only allocated funds to maximize new generation of revenue where we could. You should have received your TRIM notices by now, and many homeowners saw a reduction in their property taxes from Pinecrest, due to the reduced property values. The average property tax increase, if any, for the Pinecrest portion should average \$50.00. If you have any questions or concerns, the budget hearing will be September 8 and 15th at 7:00 p.m. or you can e-mail me at mayorlerner@gmail.com.

Pinecrest Gardens is About to Blossom - There is tremendous opportunity to create a world class garden and cultural arts center at the Pinecrest Gardens complex. In order for it to become all that it is capable of, we have decided to change the organizational structure, by moving the gardens out of the Parks and Recreation Department, and creating a stand alone department, and hiring an Executive Director for the gardens. All of this will take place once the budget for 2009-2010 becomes effective on October 1st. The Pinecrest Gardens Advisory Committee will continue to provide guidance, and to coordinate the horticultural, educational and cultural arts programs and events, but now there will be a position for an executive director, created specifically to implement all of those functions. We will be looking for the right combination of marketing, programming and development skills to oversee the enhancements of our crown jewel. The next meeting of the Pinecrest Gardens Advisory Committee will be October 5, 2009.

Community Center Update - Our consultant, Ken Ballard, has begun working with the manager and staff to conduct the operational audit of the center. He recently toured neighboring recreational facilities, visited all of our parks, and held several focus groups. We are finalizing a survey to be sent out soon and we will conduct one last focus group with our teens in October. You should already notice some enhancements in the new recreation and leisure guide being mailed out soon. Be on the lookout for it in your mailbox, or you can view it online at www.pinecrest-fl.gov/gardens/hibiscusherold/fallwinter09.pdf.

Going Green Advisory Council - The next meeting of the Going Green Advisory Council will be on Tuesday, September 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pinecrest Community Center. The advisory council met in June and July and subcommittee chairs have been appointed. Our Assistant Manager, Yocie Galiano-Gomez, and I met with the chairs in August in order to help develop goals for each subcommittee to accomplish this year.

Our Going Green conference is being moved from October to January 29th, so we do not conflict with a conference being held in Broward County the end of October. We also have several new partners and a co-sponsor, including the Center for Florida Local Government Excellence, Florida City and County Management Association, Miami-Dade City and County Management Association, Florida League of Cities, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), Florida Institute of Government, and the FSU Sustainable Energy & Governance Center. The conference will take a two pronged approach: sessions geared towards local government officials state-wide and sessions geared towards the general public. Topics for the local government officials will include: Barriers to

- Have direct a
partnership with the
Pinecrest Police
Department

Contact the Crime
Prevention Unit for
information on how to
get started at (305)234-
2100.

Join Our Mailing List!

Adopting and Implementing Climate Protection Initiatives; Innovation and Best Practices, Sustainability and Smart Growth; Economic Development; and Sustainability: Is there a conflict?

In addition, we will have a marketplace for vendors who want to advertise their wares. If you would like more information about the conference, or want to participate in the Going Green Advisory Council, please contact our Assistant Village Manager, Yocie Galiano-Gomez, at 305-234-2121.

Education Advisory Council - The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 1st at 9:30 a.m. at the Pinecrest Community Center. The start of a new school year is always exciting and hectic. We began this Education Advisory Council midway through the previous academic year, and were able to bring the principals of all five local public schools, PTSA members, our school board member, Dr. Larry Feldman, and our local librarian, Ellen Book, together to begin the discussion about how the Village can help to facilitate more information sharing, provide opportunities to create additional resources for our students and problem solve together. We created three sub-committees; one to address after school enrichment activities, one to determine and find resources for tutoring needs, and an advocacy committee. All three subcommittees made much progress in just a few months. I am looking forward to continuing to meet the goals identified last spring and developing new goals. Please, join us, the first Tuesday morning of the month at 9:30 a.m. at our community center. If you have issues for the agenda, please contact me at mayorlerner@gmail.com.

Youth Advisory Council - *Kick-off Event Oct 17th - Save the Date.* Our kick-off event to announce the Youth Advisory Council initiative will be on Oct 17th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Pinecrest branch library and the Pinecrest Community Center. The theme is Media Matters, with a panel of high profile newspaper, television and radio reporters to talk about the importance of being informed, and share their career paths. The Youth Advisory Council will serve to advise the Village on issues important to youth, as well as help develop new and enriching opportunities and activities for the youth in our community, and to participate in service to our community. Applications will be available at the event and online at our website. More information to follow soon.

Dog Park Update - There has been a tremendous response to my article about the need for a Dog Park in Pinecrest. The Council has approved an allocation of \$100,000 to fund the construction of the dog park in next year's budget, including fencing, water line and hook-up, benches and pooper scooper stations, as well as agility equipment. The only question now is, in which of our parks will the dog park be housed? We will soon make that determination, and then schedule the construction and improvements at one of our Pinecrest parks in the near future. We want to hear your thoughts and suggestions, so there is now an e-mail address for you to tell us your suggestions, at dogpark@pinecrest-fl.gov.

Upcoming Events -

Pinecrest Garden Club

The first club meeting of the 2009-2010 club year will be on September 8th at 11:30 a.m. at the Pinecrest Library auditorium with lunch for the membership. For information, contact Pat Kyle Lawrence at 305-665-4973.

Girl Scouts Recruitment Night on September 14th

I was a Girl Scout while at Palmetto Elementary School, and so were both of my daughters. One even achieved the Gold Award. I cannot think of a more important activity to have your daughter participate in than Girl Scouts. It teaches many new skills, builds confidence, self esteem, and a strong sense of civic responsibility. Girl Scout recruitment night will be hosted at the Pinecrest Community Center on September 14th at 7:00 p.m. They are looking for girls who are interested, as well as adults who are willing and able to take on Troop leadership. Please call Maria Santos, 305-253-4841, at the Girl Scout Council for more information.

Pet Fair on October 25th at Temple Bet Shira

Several local Pinecrest Girl Scouts are working on their Gold Award by holding a Pet Information and Education Fair at Bet Shira Congregation (7500 SW 120 Street) on Sunday, October 25, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be a dog psychic, dog masseuse, dog boutique, and veterinarians at the event. Visitors will be able to take a picture with their dogs. Dogs can also receive a free sample of an obedience class. The fair will include speakers about pet healthcare and nutrition, police K-9 demonstrations, clowns, face painters, food vendors, and dog treats.

Cindy Lerner
Mayor

Generator Safety

South Floridians had close calls with tropical storms in the last four years, but they have served as a wake-up call to all of us. After the 2005 storm season, many residents flocked to home improvement stores to purchase portable generators. Fortunately, we have not had a reason to use them this year, but that means we probably need a refresher course in portable generator safety.

Portable generators are the perfect solution when temporary electrical power is needed, but they can be hazardous. Every year, people are injured and die in incidents related to portable generator use. Most of these casualties are due to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from generators improperly used indoors or in partially enclosed spaces.

Generators can produce high levels of CO very quickly. When using a portable generator, remember that CO is a colorless and odorless gas. This is why it is known as the silent killer. Some of the signs and symptoms of CO poisoning include: headaches, difficulty breathing, nausea and vomiting, vertigo, unconsciousness and red skin. If anyone begins to exhibit some of these signs and symptoms, have them move outdoors to fresh air and contact 9-1-1.

The following are some tips to remember for safe generator usage:

Place your generator outside away from doors, windows, and vents that could allow CO to come indoors.

Keep the generator dry, and do not use in direct exposure to rain or wet conditions. To protect from moisture, operate it on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.

Never store fuel for your generator in your home. Gasoline, propane, kerosene, and other flammable liquids should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass safety containers.

DO NOT store flammable liquids near a fuel-burning appliance, such as a natural gas water heater in a garage. If the fuel is spilled or the container is not sealed properly, invisible vapors from the fuel can be ignited by the appliance's pilot light or by arcs from electrical switches in the appliance.

Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool down. Gasoline can ignite when spilled on hot engine parts.

Plug appliances directly into the generator. Or, use a heavy duty, outdoor extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads. Check that the entire cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, including a grounding pin.

If you would like to connect your generator to your house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install the appropriate equipment in accordance with local electrical codes. You can also check with the utility company to see if they can install an appropriate power transfer switch. Never try to connect your generator directly to your home electrical panel without consulting a professional.

When most people purchase a generator, they forget to pick up a carbon monoxide alarm along with it. This small addition to your purchase can mean the difference life and death in the event of a CO emergency. They can be either battery-operated or plug-in alarms with a battery back-up. They should be installed in or near your bedrooms.

Hopefully, the rest of the 2009 hurricane season will be a calm one, but if you do need to use your portable generator, remember to use it safely.

By: Cristina Armand, PIO, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

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please forward this to a Pinecrest neighbor.**

Community Calendar

[Subscribe to the Parks and Recreation Program Calendar](#)

LIBRARY

Book Discussion Group
Wednesday, September 2
7:00 p.m.

Toddler Story Time
Friday, September 4, 11, 18, 25
10:30 a.m.

Botanical Illustrations
Saturday, September 5
10:00 a.m.

Chess Club
Saturday, September 5, 12, 19, 26
10:30 a.m.

Scrabble Challenge
Saturday, September 5, 12, 26
11:00 a.m.

Astrology Study
Wednesday, September 9, 23
7:00 p.m.

PJ Library Story Time
Thursday, September 10, 24
6:30 p.m.

What's New at NASA
Monday, September 14
10:00 a.m.

Miami Poets
Thursday, September 17
6:30 p.m.

[Click for additional information and other programs](#)

Pinecrest
Branch Library - 5835 SW 111 Street
305-668-4571

VILLAGE MEETINGS

Education Advisory
September 1, 2009, 9:30 a.m.
Pinecrest Community Center - 5855 SW 111th Street

Going Green Advisory
September 1, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Community Center - 5855 SW 111th Street

Village Council Regular Meeting
September 8, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway
www.pinecrest-fl.gov/agendas.html

Village Council Special Meeting
September 15, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway
www.pinecrest-fl.gov/agendas.html

Transportation Advisory
September 23, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Pinecrest Municipal Center - 12645 Pinecrest Parkway

OTHER

Rosh Hashanah Under The Stars
September 18, 5:00 p.m.
[Information](#)

Garden Pop
November 7, 6:00 p.m.
[Information](#)

The Villagers Holiday Home Tour
December 4
[Information](#)

If you are a non-profit or civic organization holding meetings or events in Pinecrest and wish to be included in this listing, please send an e-mail to communitycalendar@pinecrest-fl.gov. Please include complete event information such as name of organization, date, time, place, and contact information.



Village of Pinecrest
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www.pinecrest-fl.gov

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