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LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: April 22nd, 2008

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation News – March and April 2008

Humana Wellness – On March 4th, 2008, representatives from Humana Inc. conducted a presentation to a group of 75 seniors at North Shore Youth Center in order to give them information on Medicare and Medicaid and how Humana can help them navigate through the various choices available. Breakfast was served before the presentation as the seniors discussed with one another the importance of insurance coverage.

Movie In the Park- On Friday, March 7th, 2008, hundreds gathered at Flamingo Park to watch SpongeBob Square Pants and Patrick Star save Mr. Crab and Bikini Bottom from the evil Plankton in "SpongeBob Square Pants, The Movie". Guests enjoyed an entertaining evening of fun at the Parks and Recreation Department's Movie in the Park event.

Special Olympics Local Games –The Parks and Recreation Department Special Olympics athletes recently competed at the Special Olympics Local Games held on Saturday, March 15th, 2008 at Miami Dade College's Kendall Campus. Each athlete now has the opportunity to compete in the Special Olympics State Games, which will be held in Orlando, Florida. The City of Miami Beach congratulates all the athletes who competed in the Local Games and encourages them to keep "going for the gold".

Spring Eggstravaganza- The annual "Spring Eggstravaganza" took place on the lawn of North Shore Park on March 22nd, 2008. 1200 people of all ages enjoyed a wonderful day of rides, music, food, eggs, and our famous Easter Bunnies. Children ages 10 and under participated in an Egg Hunt searching for eggs stuffed with candy and surprises. The little bunnies with their baskets in hand, eagerly awaited the dj's countdown to begin their hunt and obtain as many eggs as they could find.

Teen Club Conference – Our Teen Club was invited by the Homestead, Miami-Dade County, and Miami Beach Coalitions to be part of the 9th annual National Youth Crime Prevention Conference and International Forum in Miami. The highlight of the conference, which began on Wednesday March 26th and ended on Friday March 28th , was when the Teen Club's "North Shore Players" performed "The Streets 2" in front of 250 teens from across the country.

Hang Ten Surf Club – The Parks and Recreation Hang Ten Surf Club meets every Saturday at Flamingo Park Pool and Sunday at Normandy Isle Pool from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm., as they travel up and down the coast in search of waves. Besides teaching the kids techniques and skills on how to surf, the coaches take time to educate the participants about marine life, surf history and meteorology.

Rock the Night Concert **-** On March 28th, the Parks and Recreation Department hosted their "Rock the Night" concert event at the Scott Rakow Youth Center from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. The concert full of classic rock music featured "Valhalla", a local youth rock band and the famous local Miami Beach Senior High "Rock Emsemble". This new and fun family event attracted many people of all ages.

Surf Camp for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders- In an effort to provide innovative community recreational programming for children with disabilities, the Parks & Recreation Department conducted a special Surf Camp during the week of Spring Break (March 31st - April 4th). For the first time, youngsters with autism were able to learn to surf through a unique partnership between the City of Miami Beach Parks and Recreation Department and the University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM-NSU CARD).The camp was a huge success!!! Miami Beach Parks & Recreation...meeting the needs of all!

Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen Visits Teens **–** On April 12th, 2008 at 12:00 PM, in the auditorium at the North Shore Park Youth Center, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen paid the Miami Beach Teen Club a visit in order to present them with a check from the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention for the amount of $681,500. In attendance were 90 teens, 30 parents and City of Miami Beach staff.

Captain Planet's Carnival- Over 700 participants attended the Captain Planet's Carnival at Flamingo Park on April 18th. Residents enjoyed the tree planting ceremony. Children enjoyed the arts and craft activities, carnival rides and the free entertainment. This event was a huge success.

Upcoming Events:

3rd Annual 3 on 3 Basketball Challenge- May 3rd 2008 at Scott Rakow Youth Center from11:00am – 4:00pm

Go For the Gold **Youth Fitness Challenge** – May 7th & 14th, 2008 at Flamingo Park Track from 3:00pm -5:30pm

Movie in the Park- May 18th 8:30 p.m. at the Scott Rakow Youth Center Pool

Should you have additional questions, please contact Kevin Smith at (305) 673-7730.

JMG/RCM/KSM/rm
c: Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
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