

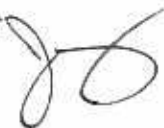


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LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager 
DATE: October 24th, 2008
SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation News

Hispanic Heritage Festival – The North Shore Park and Youth Center hosted its 3rd Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival on Friday, October 10th. Approximately 1,500 participants came and celebrated the achievements and contributions of Hispanics from past to present. In addition, children, adults, and seniors enjoyed a variety of activities including the "Best Empanada in North Beach Contest", music, rides, authentic cigar rolling, and a mini-tasting village. Children from the City of Miami Beach's after school programs presented a variety of dance performances to music sung by popular Hispanic artists .

Movie In The Park - On Friday, October 17th, Normandy Isle Park & Pool featured "Speed Racer" in a series of Movies in the Park events. This Warner Bros. film was about a young man with natural racing instincts whose goal was to win "The Crucible", a cross-country car-racing rally that took the life of his older brother, Rex Racer. Concessions were sold and free popcorn was available for event goers while supplies lasted. Approximately 125 guests enjoyed the evening.

A Night of Creepy Tales & Fun – Over 600 participants enjoyed Scott Rakow Youth Center's "A Night of Creepy Tales & Fun" on Friday, October 17th. All guests had the opportunity to listen to spine-chilling tales in a gloomy lit den, within a mysterious fog surrounded by cobwebs and mystifying creatures. Scary characters roamed the facility while guests enjoyed making their very own s'mores, getting their face painted and playing carnival games.

Upcoming events:

Flamingo Fall Youth Duathlon- Flamingo Park Track, Saturday, October 25th, 8:00am

Social Club Halloween Masquerade Ball- North Shore Youth Center, Saturday, October 25th, 5:30pm to 8:00pm.

Safe Night of Fright- North Shore Bandshell, Friday, October 31st, 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

Seniors' Halloween Dance- Club Mansion, Saturday, November 1st, 5:00pm -9:00pm

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

JMG/RCM/KS/JM/rm

c: Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
Kevin Smith, Parks & Recreation Director
Julio Magrisso, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director