



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 031-2006

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: January 31, 2006

SUBJECT: MB magazine and CityPage

As part of Miami Beach's ongoing efforts to provide enhanced information about the City to the community, the City has released the second issue of the new MB magazine. As you may recall, the first bi-monthly, bi-lingual issue was launched in December of 2005 and was mailed out to all of the residents of Miami Beach. The February/March issue of MB should be in residents' mailboxes within the next five to seven days. Attached, please find a copy of the latest edition of MB.

As Miami Beach celebrates its 91st birthday, the February/March issue of MB takes a journey into the past and highlights some of the key efforts that have made Miami Beach what it is today. It also includes information on how residents can become more involved in local government; an overview of the many upcoming winter festivals; the latest on the North Shore Open Space Park improvement project; tips on winter gardening; how to stay heart healthy in 2006; keeping your vehicle safe; and much more. Once again, we are inviting individuals to guess the name of the artist and artwork featured on the colorful cover; the winner will be selected and announced at a future Commission meeting.

Future editions will, among other items, provide updates on City projects, highlight new and current services and inform residents about various city initiatives. The April/May issue of MB will be released in mid to late April along with the Recreation Review Summer Guide, to ensure the timeliest distribution of information relating to our summer youth programs.

In addition, you may have recently noticed the new CityPage in the Sunday edition of the Miami Herald Neighbors for our area. This page is full of additional information of interest to our residents. In particular, this ad provides us with an opportunity to share timely news with our community, especially during the time period between the publication of MB. The CityPage will also be featured at least once a month in other local periodicals. We have 8 ½ by 11 samples of the first two full page ads attached, for your reference.

MB and the CityPage are both developed by the City's Office of Communications. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions.

Attachment

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

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RECEIVED

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

South Beach Comedy Festival
January 18 - 21

Planning Board Meeting 
January 24, 1:30 p.m., Commission Chambers

ING Miami Marathon
January 28 & 29

Board of Adjustment Meeting 
February 3, 9:00 a.m., Commission Chambers

G.O. Bond Oversight Committee Meeting 
February 6, 5:30 p.m., Commission Chambers

Design Review Board Meeting 
February 7, 8:30 a.m., Commission Chambers

Volleypalooza
February 11 & 12

 For more, go to miamibeachfl.gov and click on **calendar**.

 Live on MBTV-77

Cultural Affairs Program and the Cultural Arts Council announce

2006/2007 Cultural Grants Applications Now Available

CULTURAL GRANTS PROGRAMS:

Dance, Music, Theater, Film and Visual Arts,
Arts and Cultural Education, Cultural Presenters,
Cultural Heritage and Cultural Anchors

Guidelines and applications are available at
www.mbculture.org and at the Cultural Affairs
Program office, 555 17 Street, courtyard entrance.

Required Applicant Consultations are January 16 -
February 3, 2006. Call 305.673.7577, ext. 6126
for information and appointments.



More fun at Flamingo Park

The new playground at Flamingo Park sports three times more opportunities for fun than the previous equipment thanks to the Miami Beach G.O. Bond Program and a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Recreation Development Assistance Program. The new playground includes areas and activities for specific ages, swing sets, and a rock-climbing wall. This is just one of several improvements planned for Flamingo Park in the near future. For information on the full range of Parks & Recreation programs for every member of the family, visit www.miamibeachparks.com or call 305.673.7730. **COMING SOON:** New playground at Muss Park.

The plan to make Miami Beach even better

The City strives to continue delivering outstanding, enhanced services to its residents, businesses and visitors while aiming to reduce the overall tax rate, provide a return for homesteaded property owners, and implement changes to ensure the long-term sustainability of the City.

While Miami Beach has accomplished much over the last five years, the community survey conducted in early 2005 provided insight into areas that the City can focus on and improve even further. The City has used this information to develop the City of Miami Beach Strategic Plan that sets measurable outcomes for the City to achieve over the next few years. Beginning with the fiscal year 2005/06 budget, the City implemented a new process for allocating resources based on the Strategic Plan. The City will monitor its performance and make adjustments for further improvement.

Through fiscal prudence and good leadership, the City's plan will help make Miami Beach a better place to live, work, and play.

Read more about the City's Strategic Plan, every Sunday in Miami Beach's CityPage.

Collins Bridge opened on June 12, 1913, providing a critical link between Miami on the mainland and Miami Beach. The 2 1/2 mile bridge was awarded the title of being "longest wooden bridge in the world." Today, the historic Venetian Causeway follows the route.

DID YOU KNOW?

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

 FOR INFO CALL **305.604.CITY**  OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE **miamibeachfl.gov**

Answer Center
305.604.CITY (2489)

Parking
305.673.PARK (7275)

Mayor/Commission
305.673.7030

Job Hotline
305.673.7777

City Manager
305.673.7010

Tourism Hotline
305.673.7400

Police (Non-Emergency)
305.673.7900

Sanitation/Garbage
305.673.7616

Fire (Non-Emergency)
305.673.7120

Bulky Waste Pickup
305.671.4444

 MIAMIBEACH

Enrollment Opens for Neighborhood Leadership Academy

The City of Miami Beach Neighborhood Leadership Academy opens enrollment for the spring session. Applications will be accepted until March 1, 2006 or until the class is full. Enrollment to the Academy is limited to Miami Beach residents.

The free Neighborhood Leadership Academy is an interactive civic and public information program. Each semester includes 13 weekly, two-hour evening sessions. The first class begins Monday, March 6, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall, Commission Chamber, third floor, 1700 Convention Center Drive.

"You will increase your understanding of the City and enhance your abilities to actively participate in many

of the important decision-making processes that affect your neighborhood. Participating in your local government will also assist us in understanding your neighborhood needs and priorities," said Miami Beach City Manager Jorge M. Gonzalez. "Additionally, it is a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with the City employees that are responsible for delivering services to you."

Applications are available online at www.miamibeachfl.gov, Miami Beach City Hall, or by calling 305.604.CITY for more information.

North Beach welcomes the 32nd Annual Miami Beach Festival of the Arts

The Miami Beach Coldwell Banker Festival of the Arts 2006 will be held February 11 and 12 at Ocean Terrace (east of Collins from 73 to 75 streets). The annual arts festival is an enriching cultural arts experience with captivating activities for the whole family to enjoy. Admission and parking are free.

This signature community event showcases the artwork of 150 artists from across the nation. Artwork is juried and prestigious cash prizes are awarded. Proceeds collected year round from local Patrons of the Arts generate pre-sale coupons used to purchase artwork at the event.

Visitors come to browse and buy the fine art on exhibit while enjoying the cultural and performing arts. Ocean Terrace offers an open-air band shell, activity center, and beach bowl with on-going music, dance, theater, arts and crafts, storytelling, and international cuisine throughout the event for children of all ages.

The Miami Beach Festival of the Arts is produced by the North Beach Development Corporation with support from the City of Miami Beach's Fine Arts Board. For more information, call 305.673.7577 or visit miamibeachfl.gov.

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Planning Board Meeting 
January 24, 1:30 p.m., Commission Chambers

ING Miami Marathon
January 28 & 29

Board of Adjustment Meeting 
February 3, 9:00 a.m., Commission Chambers

G.O Bond Oversight Committee Meeting 
February 6, 5:30 p.m., Commission Chambers

Design Review Board Meeting 
February 7, 8:30 a.m., Commission Chambers

Miami Beach Festival of the Arts
February 11 & 12

International Boat Show
February 16 - 20

South Beach Wine & Food Festival
February 24 - 26

 For more, go to miamibeachfl.gov and click on **calendar**.

 = Live on MBTV-77

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT Community Resource Outreach and Answer Center

CityPage features at least one City of Miami Beach department/division profile a month, highlighting their key duties and how they are making Miami Beach a better place.

The Neighborhood Services Department directs the resources of various divisions to focus on the needs of individual residents and Miami Beach's 13 neighborhoods. The NSD gives residents the tools they need to access local government and voice their concerns; and helps residents identify needs and priorities for their neighborhoods.

The Community Resource Outreach and Answer Center is the one-stop shop for all residents, civic groups and neighborhood associations to exchange information with all City departments. The members of this division address citizens' inquiries and needs through a tracking system and various outreach efforts. This division also facilitates public/private partnerships seeking to resolve neighborhood issues and coordinates informational workshops of a variety of issues affecting residents.

The Miami Beach Answer Center: 305.604.CITY (2489)
TTY: 305.673.7218 is the place to begin looking for answers.

North Shore Teen Club Explores Peace River



The North Shore Teen Club was rewarded with a field trip for their efforts in organizing last month's North Shore Park's Winter Wonderland event. Twenty-seven members of the Teen Club traveled to Peace River in Arcadia last month for a two-day canoe and camping adventure, sponsored by the City of Miami Beach Parks & Recreation Department. The journey to the wild outdoors was chosen because many of the teens had never experienced such a trip.

The teens spent the night at North Shore Park to prepare themselves for the four-hour bus ride to Arcadia the following morning. Upon arrival at the Canoe Outpost, they were amazed by the sight of deer running across the landscape. They loaded 18 canoes with their camping gear and set off on a 23-mile adventure down Peace River that included alligator and otter sightings. They arrived at their camp site on the riverbank; set up their own tents; and collected firewood for the evening bonfire. They roasted marshmallows and talked into the wee hours of the morning. The following day, the teens broke down the camp site and packed it all into their canoes for the eight-mile trek back to the Canoe Outpost.

The teens forged a lasting relationship with one another, learned the value of teamwork, and gained confidence in their own abilities. It was an experience that the Miami Beach teens and their coaches will never forget.

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Sanitation/Garbage
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Fire (Non-Emergency)
305.673.7120

Bulky Waste Pickup
305.471.4444

Parks & Recreation
305.673.7730

Water & Sewer (24 hr)
305.673.7625

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YOU

Instead of getting in line, you can go online to miamibeachfl.gov for many services available 24 hours a day, such as our "Better Place" system that provides 24-hour customer service access.



MAB

MIAMI BEACH magazine/revista

INSIDE

It's Your City, Get Involved

91+ Years of Miami Beach

A Feast of Festivals

february/march 2006