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LETTER TO COMMISSION

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

RECEIVED

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: May 22, 2007

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation News

Biscayne Bay Clean-up- In efforts to clean the Intracoastal Waterways, the Scott Rakow Youth Center participated in the 25th Annual Bayanza Clean Up held at Haulover Park on Saturday, April 14, 2007. The after school participants in grades 4th – 6th put on their favorite cap and gloves to assist in collecting debris along the waterways of Dade County. The clean up was a huge success and featured educational booths, outdoor live music and lunch for all participants. The youth collected 28 bags that contributed to the total of 30 tons of garbage collected countywide.

Relay for Life Fair- The Scott Rakow Youth Center held its 2nd Annual Relay for Life Fun Fair on April 18, 2007. After school participants in grades 2nd-12th were invited to take part in a great deal of fun, while playing an essential role in efforts to raise funds for a good cause. With eight different carnival booths, a huge obstacle course and a variety of prizes, the afternoon was a huge hit. With a turnout of over 150, the children enjoyed music, along with carnival refreshments and popcorn.

North Shore Park Drama Club- On April 26, 2007 The North Shore Park Drama Club also known as The North Shore Players put on their hit play The Streets 2 "Youth of the Nation" at Nautilus Middle School. As the play came to an end, the kids gave a standing ovation to the actors for their performance. The Streets 2 "Youth of the Nation" the play will be premiering at the Byron Carlyle Theater on June 1, 2007.

Pet Fashion Show- The Parks and Recreation Department recently held their 1st Annual Pet Fashion Show on April 27, 2007. With standing room only at the North Shore Youth Center, 20 dogs, 1 cat, and 1 hamster were dressed in summer attire and formal wear on the runway. The models from North Shore's Playtime and Senior Scenes programs dressed in accessories from sunglasses and hats to slacks and evening gowns. The crowd got a sneak peek at the hottest summer fashion trends for their 2 and 4 legged friends.

Walking Tall Circus- The Parks and Recreation Department hosted the Carnival Center for the Performing Arts "Walking Tall" Circus on Saturday April 28, 2007 at North Shore Park. Performers from the Overtown, Gwen Cherry Boys and Girls Club, Sunkist Grove Community Center, North Shore Park and Youth Center, and Dr. Rafael A. Penalver Clinic came together to put on an unforgettable show of acrobats, tumblers, jump ropers, and visual artist. The crowd received free popcorn, snow cones, and cotton candy as part of the circus experience. The North Shore Park Teen Club volunteered at the event, distributing the goodies and ushering the crowd to their seats.

Go for the Gold Challenge- On May 2 and May 9, the Parks and Recreation Department tested 253 boys and girls in our annual "Go for the Gold" Challenge. The age and gender specific activities included the shuttle run, 50-yard dash, push-ups, curl ups, pull-ups, flex-arm hang and the quarter mile run. Out of the 253 participants, 98 received medals (5 gold, 48 silver and 45 bronze) for their accomplishments which are twenty eight more from last year (3 gold, 33 silver and 35 bronze). Not only will medal winners receive gold, silver or bronze, this year there was a donation of shoes from NIKE to promote activity and fitness for youth. All medalists will receive a free pair of NIKE shoes until supplies and sizes last.

Movie In the Park – The Scott Rakow Youth Center hosted a movie with a splash on May 4, 2007. Children, family and friends gathered around the pool deck to enjoy yet another FREE Movie in the Park. Attendees had the option to sit back and relax on the pool deck or swim in the heated pool, while watching "RV" on the inflatable big screen. Guest enjoyed a moon lit evening, filled with food, fun and entertainment.

North Shore Social Club – The North Shore Margaret M. Swett Social Club, celebrating 41 years of providing social activities for mentally disabled adults will be partying the night away at their "End of the Year Celebration" on Saturday May 19, 2007 at the 21st Street Recreation Center at 6pm. The Social Club will gather to reminisce on the festivities and memorable events they were a part of throughout the 2006/2007 year. The festivities will last until 9pm when the dancing shoes will have to be hung up for the evening.

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

JMG/RCM/RS/JM/rm

c: Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
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