



MIAMIBEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 223-2007

RECEIVED

LEONOR T. S. PH. L. 14
COMMISSION
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: City Manager Jorge M. Gonzalez

For JMG [Signature]

DATE: October 9, 2007

SUBJECT: Miami Beach Parks & Recreation and the Joseph J. Vallari Victory Garden proudly present the new Rainwater Harvesting Cistern

The Parks and Recreation Department is proud to announce that AVEENO® and *Organic Gardening Magazine* have recently installed a new rainwater-harvesting cistern at the Joseph J. Vallari Victory Garden. The new rainwater collection system will allow Victory Gardeners to water their vegetables and flowers without tapping into South Florida's limited freshwater drinking supply.

Like much of the rest of the country, South Florida has recently experienced severe drought conditions. The watering of home lawns and gardens results in a huge demand on our limited, potable water supply. In order to conserve this most valuable resource; the Miami Beach Victory Gardeners have partnered with AVEENO® and *Organic Gardening Magazine* to install the rain barrel as a means to water their garden plots and set an important example for other home gardeners.

"An inch and a half of rain on a thousand square foot roof gives you 500 gallons of water. Knowing that it rains an average of 53 inches a year in Miami, we shouldn't be using municipal water to water our gardens," says Renee Savary Co-Chair-Person of the Victory Garden's Citizen Steering Committee. Thanks to Mr. John Aushra, President of the Co-op in the building next door to the Victory Garden for allowing use of the roof space to provide the gardeners with all of the water they will need for this growing season and all of the seasons to come!

On Saturday, October 13th at 11:00am, the City of Miami Beach will hold a short ceremony and reception to officially celebrate the community garden, at 226 Collins Avenue. Members of the community will be in attendance at the unveiling, enjoying the celebration and dedication of the new rainwater collection cistern.

The Victory Garden is a City of Miami Beach Parks and Recreation Department community gardening program that allows Miami Beach residents to cultivate a plot of land for growing vegetables, flowers and herbs. The Victory Garden Steering Committee oversees the operation of the garden and the City provides support. There are about thirty two Miami Beach residents on the waiting list. A new Community Garden is currently under construction in North Beach. Please call Rhonda Gracie at (305) 673-7730 for more information.

JMG/RCM/KS/JO/bc

Attachment

The City of Miami Beach
Parks & Recreation Department &
the Joseph J. Vallari Victory Garden

Proudly Presents

The New Rainwater Harvesting Cistern

Saturday, October 13th
at 11:00 a.m.
Joseph J. Vallari Victory Garden
226 Collins Avenue

Sponsored by Aveeno® & the
Organic Gardening Magazine



YOUR
VICTORY
GARDEN

*conserves
more
than
ever!*

