

PINECREST

SEPTEMBER 2025

THE NEWSLETTER OF YOUR VILLAGE GOVERNMENT



IN THE SPOTLIGHT
STARS PROGRAM

A MESSAGE TO THE VILLAGE

FROM THE MAYOR

If you’ve seen Pinecrest Police vehicles driving with their lights on but no sirens, you’ve witnessed a key part of our high-visibility policing strategy. This proactive approach is designed to deter crime, discourage reckless driving, and enhance police visibility and accessibility throughout the community.

But keeping Pinecrest safe is a shared responsibility. While officers work to make their presence known and deter criminal activity, residents can also play an important role. Criminals often target easy opportunities, which is why we encourage simple, everyday precautions such as locking car doors and bringing key fobs inside overnight. These small habits can make a big difference in preventing theft and break-ins.

This initiative reflects Pinecrest’s long-standing commitment to public safety and community education. The results speak for themselves: crime rates in Pinecrest remain at historic lows well below both state and national averages. Looking ahead, projections for 2025 indicate that violent crime will remain significantly below Florida and national rates, while property crime is expected to continue declining after more than two decades of steady improvement.

The next time you see police lights flashing without the sound of sirens, know that our officers are actively working to prevent crime before it happens—helping keep Pinecrest one of the safest communities in Florida.

If you have questions or would like to share your thoughts, please contact me at 305.606.2364 or jcorradino@pinecrest-fl.gov.

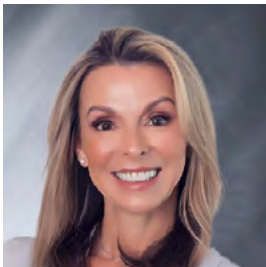
VILLAGE OFFICIALS



Joseph M. Corradino, Mayor
jcorradino@pinecrest-fl.gov



Jerry Greenberg, Vice Mayor
jgreenberg@pinecrest-fl.gov



Shannon del Prado, Councilmember
sdelprado@pinecrest-fl.gov



Ken Fairman, Councilmember
kfairman@pinecrest-fl.gov



Ariel Meyer, Councilmember
ameyer@pinecrest-fl.gov

TABLE OF CONTENTS



STARS Camp



4. Police Mental Health SUV



7. People Mover



13. Zombie Run



20. Season of Arts

ON THE COVER

The STARS program aims to create a supportive and welcoming environment where all participants can thrive, regardless of their abilities. The camp goes beyond traditional boundaries, embracing inclusivity as a core value and providing tailored activities that cater to individual needs. Through a carefully curated blend of recreational activities such as sports, arts and crafts, music, STEAM, field trips, and surprise events, the STARS program fosters a sense of belonging and empowers every participant to explore their full potential.

With dedicated and trained staff and a commitment to promoting understanding and acceptance, the program ensures that every youth, regardless of their abilities, can enjoy a memorable time filled with growth, friendship, and a sense of accomplishment. STARS exemplifies the belief that diversity is a strength, and through shared experiences, it builds bridges of understanding that last a lifetime.



PINECREST

Pinecrest Municipal Center
12645 Pinecrest Parkway
Pinecrest, FL 33156
305.234.2121
www.pinecrest-fl.gov



COUNCIL MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER
9
Regular Council Meeting
First Budget Hearing

SEPTEMBER
16
Second
Budget Hearing

OCTOBER
14
Regular Council Meeting

NOVEMBER
18
Regular Council Meeting

MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
PLEASE VISIT WWW.PINECREST-FL.GOV/CALENDAR FOR CURRENT MEETING SCHEDULE.

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE



“Our message is clear: Mental health is health, and help is always available.”
-Pinecrest Police Chief Jason Cohen

The Police Department unveiled a new mental health crisis response SUV that will help residents during mental health emergencies. The specially marked vehicle displays logos and contact information for local mental health organizations.

With one in five American adults living with a mental health condition and suicide rates increasing 25% over the past 20 years, Pinecrest is taking action to support anyone in crisis. The new vehicle brings together multiple agencies to create a coordinated response network for those experiencing mental health emergencies.

The department partnered with several organizations, including the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline for 24/7 crisis counseling, the Miami-Dade Multi-Agency Peer Support Team for trauma-informed field care, the WestCare Mobile Response Team for mental health and substance use challenges, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness Miami-Dade for education and family support.

Captain Ivan Osoreo leads the mental health vehicle initiative, bringing valuable expertise through his social work background. Police Chief Jason Cohen says the department is committed to overcoming the mental health stigma in the community. “We believe in meeting people where they are and providing compassionate, effective care,” Cohen said. “This vehicle shows our commitment to encouraging everyone to seek support when needed. Our message is clear: Mental health is health, and help is always available.”

Every Pinecrest police officer receives advanced Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). This specialized program equips officers with the skills and empathy needed to safely and effectively assist individuals experiencing mental health crises. The entire force has completed the 40-hour training curriculum that emphasizes understanding mental illness and incorporates de-escalation techniques.

Studies show CIT programs help keep people with mental illness in treatment rather than in the criminal justice system. This approach reflects a shift in public safety toward prevention and wellness, with Pinecrest focusing on early intervention and connecting residents with appropriate resources.



WHY POLICE LIGHTS SHINE WITHOUT SIRENS

If you’ve noticed Pinecrest Police vehicles with their lights on but no sirens, it’s part of the department’s high visibility policing approach. This proactive strategy helps deter crime and reckless driving while making officers more accessible to residents. The next time you see those lights, know that officers aren’t rushing to a crisis but are helping prevent one.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS HELP:

- Pinecrest Police Department Non -Emergency: 305.234.2100
- NAMI Miami-Dade: 305.665.2540
- WestCare Mobile Response Team: 800.435.7968
- Miami-Dade Multi-Agency Peer Support Team: 754.315.PEER (7337)
- Bleeding Blue Support Line: 866.647.8488
- National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: 988

- pinecrest-fl.gov
- namimiami.org
- villagesouth.org/mrt
- miamidademapst.org
- bleedingblue.info
- 988lifeline.org

SUSTAINABLE HOMES

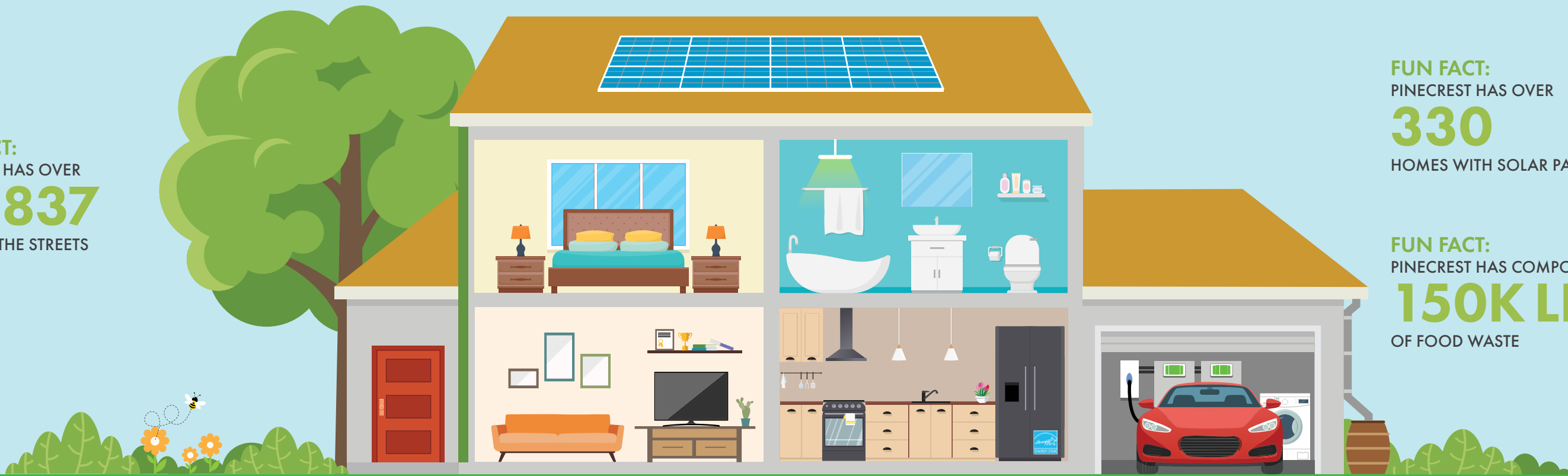
Sustainable housing involves designing and constructing homes that prioritize environmental responsibility and resource conservation at every stage, from initial building to ongoing maintenance and eventual renovation. These practices focus on using renewable materials, maximizing energy efficiency, conserving water, and reducing overall waste and pollution. By emphasizing non-toxic building materials and smart layouts that take advantage of natural light and ventilation, sustainable homes not only lessen their environmental impact but also create healthier, more comfortable living environments. In addition, sustainable housing promotes a reduced carbon footprint, cleaner indoor air, and long-term savings, ultimately enhancing both individual well-being and community quality of life.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Energy efficiency is fundamental to creating sustainable housing. By prioritizing energy-smart designs and advanced appliances, these homes significantly reduce energy consumption for heating, cooling, and lighting compared to conventional residences. By integrating these technologies and innovations, energy-efficient homes aren't just cost-effective to live in—they also make a meaningful contribution to the fight against climate change, ensuring comfort and responsibility go hand in hand.

- **Solar Panels/Roof Tiles:** Generate renewable electricity from sunlight.
- **Solar Battery Backup:** Store extra solar power for later use.
- **EV Charging:** Charge electric vehicles at home.
- **Energy Star Appliances:** Use less energy and water.
- **Smart Thermostats:** Adjust temperature automatically to optimize comfort and efficiency.
- **Automated Lights:** Lights turn on/off based on room use.
- **LED Lighting:** Long-lasting, energy-saving bulbs.

FUN FACT:
PINECREST HAS OVER
50,837
TREES ON THE STREETS



FUN FACT:
PINECREST HAS OVER
330
HOMES WITH SOLAR PANELS

FUN FACT:
PINECREST HAS COMPOSTED
150K LBS
OF FOOD WASTE

LANDSCAPING

Xeriscaping offers Florida homeowners a sustainable approach to landscaping that is both beautiful and environmentally conscious. By prioritizing drought-tolerant and native plants, this method dramatically reduces reliance on supplemental irrigation—critical in Florida’s subtropical climate where water conservation is increasingly important.

Key Principles of Xeriscaping:

- **Drought-Tolerant & Native Plants:** These plants are well-adapted to local rainfall, supporting local wildlife and biodiversity.
- **Soil Improvement:** Amending soil enhances water retention, further reducing irrigation needs.
- **Strategic Mulching:** Mulch minimizes evaporation, suppresses weeds, and maintains even soil temperature.

WASTE REDUCTION

Minimizing waste isn't just about taking out less trash—it's about conserving vital natural resources, reducing pollution, and easing the burden on overflowing landfills. Embracing waste reduction empowers individuals and communities to make a measurable positive impact.

- **Composting:** Diverts organic waste from landfills, reduces methane emissions, and creates nutrient-rich soil fertilizer, cutting the need for chemicals.
- **Greywater Systems:** Reuses water from sinks, showers, and laundry for irrigation and toilets, lowering demand on fresh water.
- **Low-Flow Fixtures:** Saves water with efficient faucets, toilets, and showerheads without compromising performance.
- **Harvested Rainwater:** Collects rain for non-drinking uses, reducing city water use and lowering bills.

PINECREST PAVES THE WAY: COMMUNITY-WIDE COMMITMENT TO SAFE & HEALTHY MULTIMODAL SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

The Village of Pinecrest, in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), is excited to highlight the growing trend of students walking, biking, and riding the Pinecrest People Mover to school. This initiative shows our shared dedication to student health, safety, and environmental responsibility.

Several local schools are leading this effort. Pinecrest Elementary, Palmetto Middle, and Howard Drive Elementary have all successfully completed the “Walk Safe” program, teaching young pedestrians lifesaving skills. Palmetto Middle School went a step further by completing the “Bike Safe” program, ensuring students learn to navigate streets confidently and safely on their bicycles.

Students at Miami Palmetto High School and Palmetto Middle School can even ride the Pinecrest People Mover for free if they live within two miles of either school. This offers a convenient and cost-effective transportation option for families.

Choosing multimodal transportation, such as biking, walking, or riding public transit, offers many benefits beyond just physical fitness. It helps ease local traffic, reduces harmful carbon emissions, and nurtures a spirit of independence in students.

To support these efforts, M-DCPS proudly endorses the University of Miami’s research-based Bike Safety curriculum. This leading resource for students, parents, and educators helps cultivate safe biking habits and encourages active living. You can learn more at ibikesafe.org.

We encourage all Pinecrest families to consider biking, walking, and using the People Mover for the journey to school. Together, through community engagement and education, we can create safer streets and inspire healthy lifelong habits for all our children. For more information visit www.pinecrest-fl.gov/ppm.



Coral Pine Park Pathway

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

ALEYDA MAS PARK

Exciting progress is underway at Aleyda Mas Park, where the recently adopted Master Plan is being transformed into a reality. Since its approval by the Village Council in May, our design partner, Urban Robot, has been hard at work developing the detailed construction documents needed for permitting and construction. This essential phase is expected to be completed by February 2026, after which the project will go out to bid and the much-anticipated renovation will begin—bringing new energy and revitalized amenities to this beloved community space.

CORAL PINE PARK

Coral Pine Park is quickly becoming a shining example of progress in motion! With the multipurpose building fully constructed and utility installation underway, visitors can already see the transformation taking shape. The park’s new walking path is being poured, the multipurpose exercise station has been installed, and construction of the pickleball courts is well underway. With completion targeted for early 2026, Coral Pine Park will soon offer dynamic new features designed to promote wellness, play, and community connection for residents of all ages.

GARY C. MATZNER PARK

Over the next twelve months, the park will be transformed into a vibrant, inclusive destination featuring an interactive playground, open field space, natural play areas, a walking path, restroom facilities, and parking for 15 vehicles. The Gary Matzner Park design came directly from resident surveys and public input. Families told us they needed more accessible green space, safe playgrounds, and walking paths. We listened, and now we’re delivering what you asked for.

VETERANS WAYSIDE PARK RENOVATIONS

This project will enhance the Veterans Memorial area, expand the gathering space for events and reflection, and improve accessibility with ADA-compliant pathways so that everyone can enjoy the park. A new playground for children ages 2–12 will provide a safe place for families to play and connect. In addition, the installation of a bioswale system will naturally direct stormwater to the park’s existing pond, filtering and cleansing it before it flows downstream, showcasing our commitment to sustainable park design. The vision includes a charming stone wall that doubles as both seating and a beautiful barrier separating the park and its surroundings. The park will be landscaped with native plant species that not only beautify the grounds but also help manage stormwater runoff and define the park’s unique areas. Construction began in August 2025 with an expected completion date in early 2026.



PINECREST GARDENS NURSERY RENOVATION

The Pinecrest Gardens Nursery Renovation project includes the renovation of an existing greenhouse, a new shade house, storage sheds, a potter's shed, materials bins and landscaping workspace. Construction began in June 2025 and is expected to be completed by December 2025.

STORMWATER

The Village commissioned a Stormwater Master Plan (SMP) in 2014, which was adopted in 2015. An SMP approved by the Village Council is required to secure funding from county, state, and federal agencies. The plan assessed the Village's drainage needs and established a priority list of 15 basins, with Basin 1 identified as the highest priority.

The Village is nearing completion of the design for the five highest-priority basins and has successfully secured funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Basin 2 was the first to be designed and permitted. The contractors for this two-phase project will begin construction in the next 30 days. Efforts to obtain additional funding from various agencies continue to help offset construction and engineering inspection costs. As each basin is permitted and construction funding is secured, it will be put out to bid.

The projects will be built in order of priority as outlined in the SMP. The five basins are now in the final stages of permitting before proceeding to the construction bidding phase.



Linear Road Park



Pinecrest Gardens Nursery

SHARED USE PATHS

The Kendall Drive Shared Use Path (SUP) project is one of the adopted projects from the Village's Transportation Master Plan, approved in 2018. It will create a connection between Ludlam Road and Red Road. The project involves removing the existing five-foot-wide concrete sidewalk on the south side of Kendall Drive and replacing it with an eight-foot-wide asphalt path designed for two-way, multi-modal traffic. Graded and sodded swales and additional street trees will be added to enhance the area's beauty and expand the tree canopy. This new path will strengthen Pinecrest's SUP network by improving connectivity to existing and future facilities.

The construction for the Kendall Drive SUP began in July 2025 with an expected completion date of November 2025.

Miami-Dade County is also exploring a potential SUP along the north bank of the C-2 Canal between US 1 and Ludlam Road, which would provide another important connection point. In addition, in April, Miami-Dade County awarded the Village:

- \$1 million to construct a Shared Use Path on Ludlam Road from the C-2 Canal to US 1, improve on-street parking, provide landscaping, and mill and resurface Ludlam Road.
- \$250,000 to convert the existing utility bridge over the C-2 Canal on Ludlam Road into a pedestrian bridge.

The Village Council has authorized the design of the Ludlam Road SUP, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has awarded a \$1 million grant toward its construction. This project will create a SUP along Ludlam Road from Howard Drive to Kendall Drive. The design contract was awarded by the Council in April, with design and permitting expected to take at least 12 months.

In February, the Village submitted a grant application to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for \$1 million to fund safety improvements along Red Road Linear Park, from Killian Drive to Kendall Drive.



GET OUT AND PLAY... SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN PINECREST PARKS

Celebrate outdoor fun and community connection with Pinecrest Parks and Recreation. We offer more than spaces to explore—we create experiences that inspire growth, spark imagination, and bring people together. From tree-lined trails to award-winning after-school programs, adventure awaits right here in Pinecrest.

Our diverse programs cater to all ages and interests. STEAM offerings like Kids Architecture, World of Tech and Coding, and Snapology combine learning with fun, while dance, martial arts, soccer, and football build confidence and teamwork. Chess and Art nurture strategy and creativity. The inclusive STARS program supports children with special needs, and our youngest enjoy early learning favorites like Grow With Us and Music Together. Adults can stay active and connected through Wild Palette Art Classes and Line Dancing.

No matter your age or interest, now's the time to get out, register, and join the fun. Come play with us.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER HONORING PINECREST PARKS AND RECREATION

Pinecrest celebrated the staff, volunteers, program providers, fitness instructors, sports league partners, and community supporters who make parks shine at the inaugural Parks and Recreation Awards and Appreciation Dinner. This Parks and Recreation Month event brought together the passionate individuals who drive the department's mission, keeping programs affordable, parks beautiful, and the community connected. Director Robert Mattes opened with thanks, joined by Vice Mayor Greenberg and Councilmember Fairman, who highlighted the vital role parks and recreation play in building an inclusive, thriving community.

The evening's highlight was the 2025 departmental awards honoring individuals and programs that impacted the community. **STARS Miami** won the Inclusive Programming Award for pioneering Pinecrest's first fully inclusive programs. **Pinecrest Dance Project** earned Program of the Year for their remarkable growth and fostering belonging through movement. **Charlie Bibb** received the Community Champion Award for his tireless volunteerism and role in growing Pinecrest's pickleball community. **Ander Alvarez** was named Outstanding New Professional for his immediate impact on beautification projects and rising leadership. The evening closed celebrating **Mohammed Shuaib**, honored with the Excellence in Public Service Award for his dedication, integrity, and exemplary service.

Beyond the awards, the night underscored everyone's vital role, from early morning setup crews to creative program leaders and tireless volunteers. With major park improvements ahead and new national **CAPRA** accreditation, Pinecrest Parks and Recreation moves forward with confidence, pride, and gratitude.



COMMUNITY CENTER & FITNESS CLASSES

Through Pinecrest’s **FitCrest** initiative, the Pinecrest Community Center offers group fitness classes like **Cycling, Yoga, HIIT, and Zumba**, alongside adult programs such as **Zumba Gold**, adult **Karate**, and **Tai Chi**—both at the Center and in nearby parks. Registration and class management are easy with MindBody online.

The Community Center gym is a fully equipped fitness hub open to all skill levels, seven days a week—Monday to Friday from 6 am to 8:30 pm, Saturday from 6 am to 5:30 pm, and Sunday from 8 am to 4 pm. Members can access a complete selection of cardio machines, strength-training equipment, a stretching zone, and certified personal trainers, plus convenient locker rooms with showers.



THRILLS AWAIT AT THE ZOMBIE RUN

This signature FitCrest event energizes the community, offering fun, fitness, and a chance to connect. Are you ready to outrun the undead and join Pinecrest’s healthiest tradition? Lace up and join the adventure.

Get your heart racing at the Pinecrest Zombie Run powered by Baptist Health on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at Evelyn Greer Park. Check in at 4:30 pm, warm-up at 5:45 pm, and race through a two-mile course at 6 pm, dodging zombies and surprise scares along the way.

After the run, take on a 40-foot zombie maze, snap photos, enjoy upbeat music, and refuel at food trucks. Register early for \$20 (through September 8), \$25 until October 18, or \$30 on event day—T-shirts included while supplies last.

PINECREST SENIOR GAMES ARE COMING



The Pinecrest Senior Games is a vibrant, Olympic-style competition for athletes ages 50 and better, celebrating fitness, camaraderie, and lifelong competition. Pinecrest Senior Games is part of the Florida Senior Games (FSG) competition which was founded in 1992 in Bradenton. FSG has welcomed over 50,000 participants and continues championing healthy aging and social connection through sports. Pinecrest is hosting its 4th annual Senior Games at various parks and locations during the week of November 3.

There are many reasons to join this fun and interactive event. It encourages active lifestyles and overall health. The goal-driven training helps keep the mind agile. Competing with peers helps forge friendships and support networks. Lastly, it opens doors to the National Senior Games for top performers.

We will offer pickleball, tennis, table tennis, basketball, bowling, billiards, basketball shooting, corn hole, race walk, dominoes, and basketball.

How to Get Involved:

1. **Register online at pinecrest-fl.gov/seniorgames:** Entry is \$15, to participate in all the events, and includes a t-shirt and an awards luncheon.
2. **Qualify** (if needed): Florida residents must place in the top five at regional qualifiers held January-April & September-November.
3. **Compete in December 2025:** Mark your calendar: December 6-14, 2025, is the official state-level championship.

The Pinecrest Senior Games isn’t just about medals, it’s about pushing your limits, staying in shape, making friends, and celebrating vitality. Whether you’ve never competed before or you’re a seasoned amateur, there’s a place for you. Start training now, register for your favorite sport, and get ready to bring your game.



VENUE RENTALS

Looking for a beautiful and cozy outdoor space to host your next family gathering? Look no further than our reimagined Colonnade Cabanas, nestled amidst breathtaking natural beauty. These picturesque spaces offer the ideal setting for special occasions, accommodating 10 to 20 people and providing a seamless connection with the garden. Embrace nature and create cherished memories in this idyllic outdoor space.

The Garden's picturesque location offers several other indoor and outdoor spaces to host your private party or corporate event. For more information and to schedule a site tour email events@pinecrestgardens.org.

A FINAL CURTAIN CALL AS JERRY KINSEY RETIRES FROM PINECREST

If you've ever enjoyed a concert under the stars at Pinecrest Gardens, watched a student take the stage for the first time, or felt transported by the magic of a jazz performance in the Banyan Bowl, chances are Jerry Kinsey had something to do with it.

After a remarkable 15 years as facility manager at Pinecrest Gardens, Jerry Kinsey is retiring. Known for doing everything from lighting design and rigging to solving plumbing issues and greeting performers backstage, Kinsey is a true jack of all trades whose passion for community and the performing arts helped turn the Banyan Bowl into one of the region's most beloved cultural venues.

“I've always believed in fixing problems before they become issues,” Jerry says. “If I'm walking six to eight miles during a jazz night, it means the show's running smoothly and that's what matters to me.”

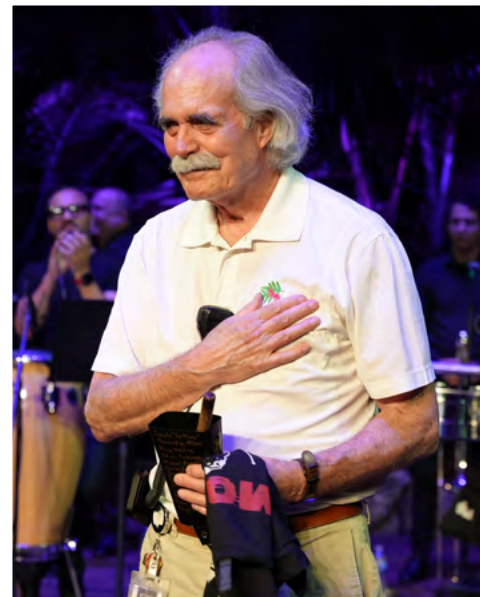
His journey to Pinecrest is as dynamic as any show he's helped produce. Born and raised in St. Augustine, Jerry spent four years in the US Navy as a first-class aviation ordnanceman before working in his family's oil business. It was a group of theater friends in Tallahassee who first drew him into stage production, and he quickly found his place behind the scenes. First at Florida State University's Ruby Diamond Auditorium, and later at some of Miami's most iconic venues.

In 1985, Jerry took on what was supposed to be a five-year project at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts (now known as the Olympia Theater). That turned into two decades supporting the Miami City Ballet, the Miami Film Festival, and countless other performances. He played a critical role in launching the Adrienne Arsht Center and later the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center before arriving at Pinecrest Gardens to help breathe new life into the Banyan Bowl.

During his time here, Jerry helped elevate the Gardens' production quality while keeping its core spirit intact. “This place is family-oriented and community-based, and that's what I'm about,” he says. From high-end jazz to educational field trips and livestreams during the pandemic, he ensured every performance met professional standards while remaining welcoming to all.

Ask him what he's most proud of, and he won't list accolades or celebrity encounters (though, Sophia Loren once asked him to escort her to her dressing room). Instead, he points to the people. “The Village, the council, the members, this community supports the Gardens. And that makes all the difference.”

Pinecrest thanks Jerry Kinsey for his decades of service, his tireless work ethic, and his unwavering belief in the power of the arts to bring people together. His legacy will echo through the Banyan Bowl for years to come.



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Pinecrest Gardens offers a variety of youth programs designed to engage children in hands-on learning and exploration throughout the school year. The **Paper Tree House Homeschool Co-Op** invites homeschoolers ages 5 and up every Wednesday, where they can experience activities ranging from logic puzzles and science experiments to animal encounters and Taekwondo. For days when school is out, such as teacher planning days, the Gardens introduces **Mini Camps** - each with its own unique theme connected to the natural environment, providing a safe and stimulating setting for children to learn and play.

Parents seeking a break can take advantage of **Parents Night Out**, where children ages 4 to 9 participate in interactive science and art activities at night, including themed STEAM stations, all while parents enjoy an evening off. Younger children, specifically toddlers ages 1 to 3, can explore new interests in **Parent & Me** classes by the Pinecrest Dance Project, which feature rotating themes such as music, science, art, gymnastics, and dance.

Additionally, the **Little Lizards** program offers an informal, biweekly science and art experience for children ages 4 to 12 on Wednesday afternoons. Here, kids can read, explore nature, create art, and let their imaginations flourish, with upcoming sessions centered around topics like bats, local flora, and outdoor art. Each program at the Gardens is crafted to foster curiosity, creativity, and a deeper connection with the natural world.

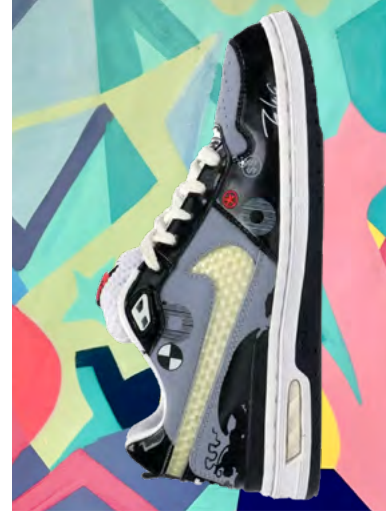
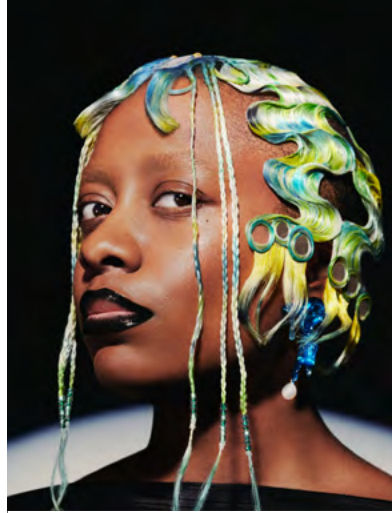


ADULT LEARNING

ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL ARTS CONTEST

Enter the 12th Annual Environmental Art Contest for grades 4-12. This year's theme is Sneaker Stories. Miami-Dade County students are invited to submit artwork inspired by sneakers for a chance to be featured in our Art & Design Fair gallery. Contest opens November 11, with entries due January 13. Discover more about our education programs at pinecrestgardens.org.

Pinecrest Gardens offers engaging adult programs designed to enrich and inspire. **Guided Garden Tours** take place on select Saturdays, allowing participants to explore the secrets and beauty of the gardens with guidance from the horticulture and education team. Each tour covers unique themes such as the palms of Pinecrest Gardens, the site's history and landscape, and an insightful look at the living museum collections. For those interested in hands-on learning, the **Curious Gardener Workshops** provide monthly sessions tailored to adult learners. These workshops, offered on select Thursdays, include interactive topics like the history and art of tea making, a Harry Potter-themed terrarium session, and a creative class focused on crafting a vision board planter. All necessary materials are provided, and each workshop includes a complimentary beverage to enhance the experience.



A SEASON OF CULTURE

ARTS & EVENTS AT PINECREST GARDENS THIS FALL

SOME FRAGRANT GARDEN PLANTS

How wonderful it is that humans are biologically programmed to appreciate flowers. Fragrant flowers may seem like botanical gifts but are an important part of the complex and sophisticated strategies that plants use to lure pollinators. The range of scents is enormous, from carrion to fine chocolate and freshly cut fruit. Planting fragrant tropical flowers pleases our senses and adds to the beauty of gardens in our unique part of the world.

The following suggestions of attractive flowers and varied fragrances include plants for every sort of garden. Not included are roses, which can require high maintenance and are not well-suited to the South Florida environment.

- **Gardenia:** These shrubs produce white or yellow blossoms, with the most fragrant being white-flowered varieties cultivated for centuries. They need warmth, moisture, and acidic soil—conditions hard to maintain in South Florida. Try growing them in pots or choose grafted varieties bred for local soils. Gardenia taitensis (Tahitian Gardenia) tolerates alkaline soil better.
- **Brunfelsia:** Brunfelsia lactea (Princess of the Night) and B. nitida (Lady of the Night) are lanky but fragrant shrubs that bloom mainly in warm months. Their spicy tropical scent can carry far on still evenings.
- **Frangipani (Plumeria):** These small tropical trees produce colorful, fragrant flowers with scents like mango, citrus, and cocoa butter native to dry climates, they should not be watered during South Florida's dry season.
- **Joewood (Jacquinia keyensis):** A rare native shrub or small tree with waxy, fragrant flowers, blooming mostly from spring to fall. It's slow-growing, salt-tolerant, and thrives in sunny, sandy spots with excellent drainage.
- **Betel Nut Palm (Areca catechu):** A tall, tropical palm with richly scented flowers. It loves warmth and moisture. Dwarf varieties like Stumpy are available and all feature the same sweet fragrance.

As the heat of summer gives way to the gentler rhythms of fall, Pinecrest Gardens comes alive with a season packed with music, visual art, theater, and community experiences that celebrate the diversity and creativity of Miami. From Caribbean and Latin American art to jazz under the stars and a wine tasting paired with live acoustic performances, the Gardens is offering something for everyone—whether you're a longtime patron or first-time visitor. Here's what to expect this September through November.

ART THAT REFLECTS & RESONATES

This fall, the visual arts take center stage beginning with Caribbean and Latin American Visions, an exhibition curated by Hartvest Project that opens to the public on September 6. The show brings together works by Miami-based artists whose roots span across the Caribbean and Latin America.

One special highlight of the exhibition is the inclusion of Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist **Cécile McLorin Salvant**, who appears here not only as a performer but also as a visual artist. Born in Miami to Haitian and French-Guadeloupean parents, Salvant brings a distinctive voice—visually and musically—to the show, and her dual presence perfectly captures the spirit of cross-disciplinary creativity Pinecrest Gardens aims to cultivate.

Later in the season, a bold new exhibition titled **Sneaker Stories** opens on November 15, exploring the intersection of graffiti art and sneaker culture. The exhibition showcases rare sneakers and artworks by legends like Futura, KAWS, Claw, and Rammellzee, highlighting the global influence of street art aesthetics and the artists who defined them.

Just in time for the holiday season, Pinecrest Gardens hosts **Walter Mercado: Fe, Esperanza y Mucho Amor**, a tribute to the legendary Puerto Rican astrologer and TV personality. On view from November 15 through December 30, the exhibition showcases ten of Walter Mercado's iconic costumes, highlighting his decades-long career and cultural impact. Beloved across Latin America and the US, Mercado shared daily astrological wisdom with "mucho, mucho amor" to more than 120 million viewers at the height of his fame. This collaboration with the Gonzalo Rodriguez and Gustavo Blanco Collection celebrates his legacy in style—and stardust.

THEATRE & MUSIC

IN THE OPEN AIR

Theater fans can look forward to **Sips & Shorts** on October 9—an evening of ten-minute plays presented by City Theatre, the minds behind Miami’s beloved Summer Shorts Festival. Set in the lush gardens, the event invites audiences to enjoy bite-sized theatrical gems performed by local professional actors. A post-show talk allows for deeper conversation with the cast.

As October continues, the Gardens will glow in a different way during the **Candlelight Open Air Concert** on October 25. With performances at 6:30 and 9 pm, audiences are invited to enjoy a hauntingly beautiful program of Halloween-themed classics under the soft light of hundreds of candles. The natural ambiance of the Gardens paired with the immersive soundscape makes for an unforgettable musical evening.



WINE, JAZZ, & SOMETHING

A LITTLE DIFFERNT

On November 1, Pinecrest Gardens shifts to a more intimate tone with **Uncorked**, a wine tasting event paired with light bites and good conversation. Guests can opt into a VIP experience that includes access to a special **Sound Session** performance by jazz artists Ben Rosenblum and Laura Anglade. With shows at 7:30 and 9:30 pm, the duo will fill the Hibiscus Room with vintage jazz classics, transformed through their fresh interpretations and musical chemistry. Anglade’s timeless voice and Rosenblum’s fluid command of piano and accordion promise an evening that’s as soothing as it is sophisticated.



LOOKING AHEAD

TROPICAL NIGHTS

Music lovers can also begin looking ahead to the 2025–2026 season of **Tropical Nights at Pinecrest Gardens**—a concert series that has become a signature for the venue. From high-energy Latin jazz to intimate acoustic sets, this series brings top-tier performers to the iconic Banyan Bowl, a geodesic-domed amphitheater nestled within the Gardens’ lush landscape.

The season will open with **Parranda Navideña** on December 13, a festive night with Grammy-winning artist Chino Núñez and his orchestra blending salsa, mambo, and holiday favorites in a celebration of Puerto Rican Christmas traditions.

January brings a long-awaited performance from **Alfredo Rodríguez & Friends** on January 30. The Grammy-nominated Cuban pianist will be joined by percussionist Pedrito Martinez for a show steeped in Cuban rhythms and jazz fusion, celebrating the release of Rodríguez’s new album **Coral Way**.

On March 6 and 7, Grammy legend Willy Chirino returns with **Chirino Acústico**, a family-forward show featuring his five daughters—each a musician in her own right. These concerts blend Cuban classics with American and British pop and rock hits for a nostalgic, multilingual, and multigenerational experience that plays like a musical time capsule.

From art exhibitions to live performances, Pinecrest Gardens is one of South Dade’s most vibrant cultural stages this fall. Whether you are admiring street art and sneakers, sipping wine under the stars, or losing yourself in a jazz melody echoing through the trees, you’ll find something that resonates.

For more information, tickets, and event details, visit pinecrestgardens.org.



PINECREST

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