

# Pinecrest

MAY 2020

THE NEWSLETTER OF YOUR VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

# Sun

## CORONAVIRUS SPECIAL ISSUE





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## VILLAGE COUNCIL CONTINUES ITS WORK

When it came to the business of running a municipality, the Village Council quickly adjusted its procedures and Pinecrest became one of the first municipalities in the State of Florida to hold a virtual council meeting. The Village Council met via ZOOM on March 17. While under the on-going state of emergency, all meetings in the foreseeable future will be conducted virtually. Agendas and a schedule of future meetings are posted at [www.pinecrest-fl.gov/agendas](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/agendas). The live stream video is available at [www.pinecrest-fl.gov/live](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/live). Public comments on agenda items can be submitted to [clerk@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:clerk@pinecrest-fl.gov).



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# a MESSAGE to the VILLAGE

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE | *Joseph M. Corradino*

Keep it up Pinecrest, continue to stay at home! We are gaining on this disease. Every day we do this could mean weeks off of the total duration and dozens if not hundreds of lives saved. What we do in the weeks to come may be the most impactful, but also the most difficult. Please be patient.

Working from home, shopping only for food and medicine, great hygiene, and when you are out, practicing social distancing and wearing any face covering will have a positive influence on how we are all impacted by this disease.

Please know that Pinecrest is rigorously enforcing the county's emergency orders—a complete list is available from a link on our web site. Remember, our goal has always been, in the absence of sufficient testing, that we must stay at home to preserve the capacity of our hospital system so that those who need critical care can get critical care, and therefore save lives.

Each day we are working closely with other municipalities and Miami-Dade County in monitoring our progress. While this unified county-wide effort is yielding positive results, the projected peak of this storm will not arrive until late April.

Keep it up, continue to stay at home, and be patient. This is not time to relax. This is time to press harder and obliterate this disease.

Please stay safe! We are here if there is anything you need. Please feel free to text, call or send me an email. Likewise, the Village Council and our staff are also available at any time. We are all working as a team to do whatever is necessary to succeed. I can be reached at 305.606.2364 or [jcorradino@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:jcorradino@pinecrest-fl.gov). The entire Village Council is available via email at [council@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:council@pinecrest-fl.gov).



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE | *Yocelyn Galiano*

This Coronavirus Special Issue of the Pinecrest Sun was produced to augment the Village's emergency communications program and provide residents with an additional resource of pandemic related information. However, this information is ever-changing. Some of the information in this issue may be dated by the time you receive it. For that reason, I strongly urge you to familiarize yourself with the Village's website and follow us on our social media platforms, so you are provided the most up-to-date information available.

At the time this message was written, the federal government just published the "Framework for Opening America" and daily meetings and discussions are taking place at all levels of government regarding the slow and methodical re-opening of businesses. The staggered re-opening of different business industries will occur with close monitoring of the effects of the increased economic activities on the number of COVID-19 cases. This will ensure the medical system can adequately perform. From all indications, we are anticipating that parks will be among the first institutions to re-open. Pinecrest will be prepared.

Team Pinecrest is planning best-case scenario programming that includes summer camps and park activities with possible start dates in June. All these programs would include enhanced health, safety and social distancing protocols—taking into account the safety of our most precious community members, our children. More details on the enhanced protocols will be available on our website as we get closer to commencing those services.

Based on my dealings with other officials at all levels of government and countless meetings listening to the statistics of this virus, I can tell you that I fully expect we will be seeing waves of contagion at various levels within the community over the next year. Until such time as antibody tests and/or a vaccine can be widely administered – people will be functioning in society under this new normal. I expect we will be operating with social distancing rules in both our professional and personal lives well beyond the next several months. On a more positive note, there is a light at the end of this tunnel. Just as we rebounded after every hurricane, we will rebound from this crisis. We are stronger as a community and ironically, closer as a Village because of this experience.

The Village is here to help. Do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here 24/7.



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Find Us On





# VILLAGE RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

The Village of Pinecrest is responding to the coronavirus pandemic and working collaboratively with residents, members of the business community, non-profit organizations, and other government entities to lead the community through this unprecedented event. This Coronavirus Special Issue of the Pinecrest Sun is part of the Village's broad outreach efforts to disseminate timely and accurate information.

Just four days after the first COVID-19 related death was reported in the United States, on February 29, the Village published a new coronavirus resource and information page on its official website and the Village Manager established a Coronavirus Task Force to begin coordinating the work of managing the crisis. On March 12, just one day after the first reported case of a positive test for COVID-19 in our county, the Village of Pinecrest declared a Local State of Emergency. That declaration allowed Village leaders to activate the emergency operations plan, direct resources and make Village government more flexible to respond to the emergency. Since then, school, facility and business closures have been instituted at-large in Miami-Dade County.

Operations at the Village have shifted primarily to enforcement activities conducted by the Police Department and Building & Planning Department. The Village government remains fully staffed and functional, with adjusted employee schedules and rotations as well as enhanced protocols to allow for the optimized safety of all employees.

Village leaders remain committed to the core mission of sustaining a vibrant Village that builds a sense of community spirit and pride with fiscally responsible government, the highest quality municipal services and infrastructure, a responsive and efficient staff, and innovative leaders who engage residents. Together, we will get through this crisis.

## #PINECRESTKIND

#PinecrestKind is an idea conceived this past December to promote kindness. This "feel good" idea was great, but it would have to wait. The beginning of the pandemic was the perfect time to launch the call-to-kindness. Today we need a special type of kindness. Kindness that requires us to live differently, to have compassion for those who are most vulnerable.

Share a virtual concert. Take a walk alone. Have social hour via video group chat. Create art for others to enjoy. These are all #PinecrestKind! Think of it as a virtual gathering where we uplift each other by sharing moments of kindness in writing, photo and/or video. Just add #PinecrestKind to your social media posts, so that we can all see and share.



# WEB PORTAL

The coronavirus pandemic is an ever-changing situation that has communities throughout the world updating and adjusting guidelines on a daily, and sometimes hourly basis. The Village has created a special web portal to share accurate information about the COVID-19 disease, community resources and the Village's response. It provides information about area testing sites, open businesses and the most up-to-date government issued orders relating to the community-wide response to the pandemic.

The website also contains the latest Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, screening tools, virtual activities, and resources for mental health, domestic violence and alcohol abuse. Small business owners can find links to official websites, information and forms related to the federal government's CARES Act.

Please visit our website at [www.pinecrest-fl.gov/coronavirus](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/coronavirus) or scan the QR code below. Make sure you do not miss important updates from the Village of Pinecrest regarding emergency orders, closures, cancellations, health information, and other relevant facts. Follow us on our social media platforms—Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. Just look for Village of Pinecrest and like, follow or subscribe.



# VOLUNTEERS

We are hoping for the best, but planning for the worse. Are you interested in volunteering should the opportunity arise? Please send us an email at [COVID19@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:COVID19@pinecrest-fl.gov) or call 305.234.2100 so that we can add your name to a potential volunteer list.



# FOOD BANKS & DISTRIBUTION

Miami-Dade County has detailed information about food distribution sites, and special food distribution initiatives for public school students and seniors at [www.miamidade.gov/coronavirus](http://www.miamidade.gov/coronavirus). Click on the "Food Distribution and Senior Services" icon.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Pinecrest Police Department's staff has the necessary equipment to protect themselves and others while continuing regular routine patrols of the Village and responding to service calls from citizens. The Village's 911 call center implemented new protocols provided by the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department to assess a caller's health. This information is then relayed to a responding officer to ensure their safety. Only Miami-Dade Fire Rescue units are responding to 911 medical calls.

The department's technology resources are a great asset during this crisis. The Saferwatch app, allows residents to text police directly via the 911 call center. For more information and a link to download the app, visit the department's webpage at [www.pinecrest-fl.gov/police](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/police) or scan the QR code in above photo.



You can reach police via text by using the Saferwatch app, by calling the non-emergency line at 305.234.2100 or calling 911 in an emergency. Help us help you by reporting any of the following:

- Report violations of emergency orders such as social distancing non-compliance or non-exempt business activities.
- Report suspicious or criminal activity.
- Report suspected construction work without permits.
- Request a free watch order for your residence or business.
- Request a welfare check for yourself or a neighbor who lives alone or is elderly.



# DO NOT BE A VICTIM

Unfortunately, during times of crisis, criminals thrive by taking advantage of vulnerable or desperate individuals. These scam artists employ various techniques, including telephone calls, e-mails and online sites, to commit fraud. If you see or experience something unusual or that just doesn't feel right, question it. Contact the Police Department to verify any claim an unknown individual is making in-person, via the phone or online.

Here are some tips to avoid being scammed:

- Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test kits. Scammers are selling products claiming to treat or prevent COVID-19—none exist at this time.
- Beware of in-home visits or calls from individuals presenting themselves as government representatives from the Department of Health (DOH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or other government entity.
- Hang up on robocalls. Scammers use illegal sales to get your money and personal information.
- Watch out for phishing e-mails and text messages. Do not click on links on websites, e-mails or texts that are not from a trusted source and never provide personal information. Phishing emails may mention the coronavirus, medical supplies or claim to be from government, national or local health organization in order to get users to open the message that unleashes malware.
- Research before you donate. Do not let anyone rush you into making a donation. Get tips on donating wisely at [ftc.gov/charity](https://www.ftc.gov/charity).
- Think twice before investing in companies who say they are working on a coronavirus cure. Check official sources like the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to check its legitimacy.
- Stay in the know. Use only trusted sources for information. Visit [fbi.gov/coronavirus](https://www.fbi.gov/coronavirus) for the latest tips.

## MyPinecrest App

MyPinecrest app is the official service request tool for Pinecrest. It enables a virtual dialogue between Village staff and the community. Service requests are routed to the appropriate staff and can be accompanied by a picture. For example, if one is reporting a pothole or graffiti, a picture can be sent with the service request. The user will receive a case number and progress alerts – received, processing and completed. Download it via the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play (Android).



## UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Due to technical difficulties with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) online application process, area libraries are providing printed unemployment applications. The closest library that is providing this service is the Coral Reef Branch at 9211 SW 152 Street. To find additional participating libraries, please call 311.

Unemployment applications and return envelopes will be available for pickup at tables outside the participating library entrances from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., seven days a week until further notice. Return the completed application in the sealed envelope by dropping it off in the library location's book drop. Applications will be picked up from the book drops every day and delivered to CareerSource South Florida where trained staff will send them securely overnight to the Florida DEO in Tallahassee for processing.

Before filing, make sure you have the following documents available:

- Social Security number
- Driver's License or State ID number
- Your employment for the last 18 months including for each employer:
- Name, address, and phone number
- First & last day of work
- Gross earnings (before taxes are taken out) during the listed dates
- Reason for separation
- FEIN number (this is found on any W2 or 1099 tax forms you have received)
- If you don't have the FEIN, you can use employer details off of a recent paystub



# BRING PINECREST GARDENS HOME

## The Trolls Coloring Book

Pinecrest Gardens worked closely with Danish environmental artist Thomas Dambo to create this one-of-a-kind coloring book featuring Pinecrest Gardens' beloved Trolls—Berta and Terje. The coloring book tells their story and provides whimsical illustrations of the brother and sister duo on their adventure.

Download the Trolls coloring book today at [www.pinecrestgardens.org/trolls](http://www.pinecrestgardens.org/trolls) to learn how Berta and Terje found the majestic Banyan tree at the gardens. You can also scan the above QR code. In the back of your coloring book, write a message to the Trolls about what you've been up to at home, and share it with them through social media by using **#DiggingPinecrest**. You can also share the pages you colored!



## Digging Pinecrest: The Gardens Blog

The Digging Pinecrest blog is focused on bringing you content that you can enjoy at home while staying connected to the gardens. The blog posts feature activities for home such as making seed starters from recycled materials, scavenger hunts and highlights plants you can grow at home. Digging Pinecrest is written by the Pinecrest Gardens Educational Programs Coordinator Lacey Bray. Her specialties are outdoor education, growing edible and native plants, as well as display gardens, such as the Learning and Sensory Garden. Visit [www.diggingpinecrest.blogspot.com](http://www.diggingpinecrest.blogspot.com) or scan the above QR code to explore, learn and grow!



The Village's Parks and Recreation Department is working with program instructors to develop virtual options for individuals who wish to continue expanding their skills and talents from home. New offerings coming soon. Visit the Parks and Recreation Department website at [www.pinecrest-fl.gov/parks](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/parks) or scan the QR code for a complete list of available classes.



## FITNESS

Visit our social media channels to join us for free virtual workouts, tips and resources. Weekly fitness challenges are posted every Monday on our social platforms. Follow or like Pinecrest Parks on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Subscribe to the Village's Youtube Channel at Village of Pinecrest. We encourage you to post photos and videos of your workout with **#Pinecresting**.

Our fitness instructors and personal trainers are all in when it comes to helping you stay fit and healthy. Each one is providing free virtual classes via their social media accounts. There are more than ten fitness experts ready to make you sweat.

For a complete list of the fitness instructors' names and social media handles, visit [www.pinecrestcommunitycenter.com](http://www.pinecrestcommunitycenter.com) or scan the QR code.



## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

**Piano** - Ages 4 to Adults

**Guitar** - Ages 4 to Adults (Beginner, Intermediate and Continuing)

**Ballet** - Ages 3 to 16

**Dance** - Ages 3 to 16

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Please pre-register for the below programs by sending Gloria Zoghbi an email at [gzoghi@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:gzoghi@pinecrest-fl.gov) or calling 305.284.0900. You will receive a ZOOM link ten minutes before the beginning of the program.

**Techie Tuesdays with Glo:** Tuesdays 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Learn how to use your iPhone and all its features. Topics that will be covered will include downloading apps, texting, Face Timing, posting on Instagram and Facebook, emailing, sending pictures, and more.

**Book Club:** Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Join our first Book Club. We will be reading "A Return to Love" by Marianne Williamson.

**Coffee Chat with Glo:** Fridays at 1:00 p.m. Join Glo for current events, information about virtual programs and fun socializing.

### PIONEER LUNCHEON

Friday, June 5 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Village of Pinecrest would like to honor Pinecrest Pioneers, who are 80 and older, by delivering them a delicious lunch to their home. Please RSVP to Gloria Zoghbi by May 31 at [gzoghi@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:gzoghi@pinecrest-fl.gov) or by calling 305.284.0900



**Village of Pinecrest**  
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# PINECREST COUNTS!

HAVE YOU RESPONDED TO THE 2020 CENSUS?  
SHAPE OUR FUTURE BY RESPONDING TODAY!

PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO RESPOND...  
COMPLETE THE FORM ONLINE AT [MY2020CENSUS.GOV](https://my2020census.gov)  
OR RETURN THE PAPER FORM SENT BY THE CENSUS BUREAU.

THE CENSUS IS MANDATED BY THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND A RESPONSE IS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW.



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