

# Pinecrest

SEPTEMBER 2023

THE NEWSLETTER OF YOUR VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

# Sun



**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**  
**NEW VILLAGE WEBSITE**





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



**Anna Hochkammer**  
Vice Mayor  
ahochkammer@pinecrest-fl.gov



**Katie Abbott**  
Councilmember  
kabbott@pinecrest-fl.gov



**Shannon del Prado**  
Councilmember  
sdelp Prado@pinecrest-fl.gov



**Ken Fairman**  
Councilmember  
kfairman@pinecrest-fl.gov



**Yocelyn Galiano, ICMA-CM**  
Village Manager  
ygaliano@pinecrest-fl.gov



**Priscilla Torres, MMC**  
Village Clerk  
ptorres@pinecrest-fl.gov



**Mitchell Bierman**  
Village Attorney  
attorney@pinecrest-fl.gov



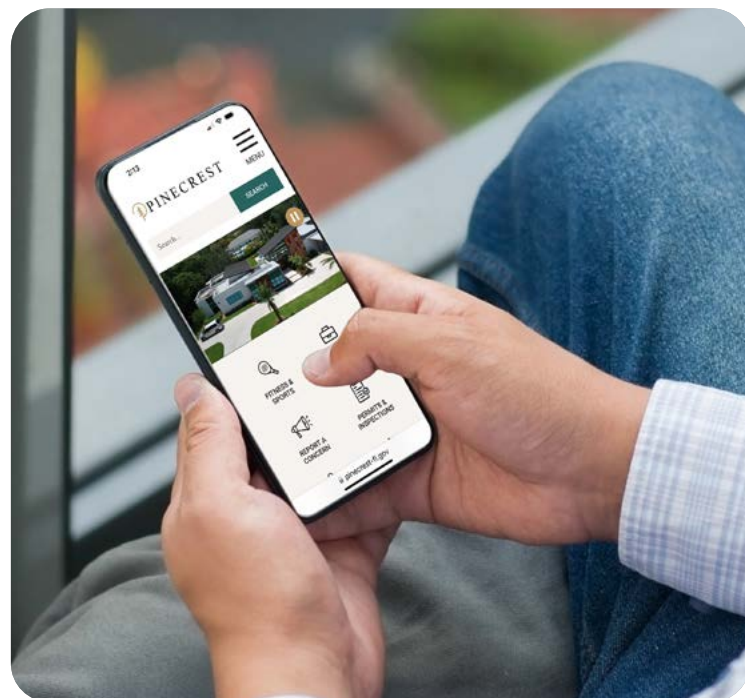
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Editor  
Michelle Hammontree  
Communications Manager  
Design  
Adam Pascale  
Communications Designer

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SEPTEMBER 2023

## ON THE COVER



Visit the newly designed and updated website for the Village at [www.pinecrest-fl.gov](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov). The website offers the same great resources with new additions and an easier user interface for residents and visitors to find everything they need.

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Avian Oasis  
by Myth Makers



# a MESSAGE to the VILLAGE

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

The Village of Pinecrest is introducing a Peacock Mitigation Program starting October 1, 2023. The program seeks to strike a balance between addressing concerns of residents who view the birds as a nuisance and respecting the sentiments of those who appreciate their presence.

The initiative aligns with Miami-Dade County regulations, permitting property owners to make decisions about peafowl on their premises while facilitating municipalities to humanely manage the population. Visit [www.pinecrest-fl.gov/peacock](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/peacock) for more information about the program.

Teaming up with Dr. Don Harris, an esteemed veterinarian specializing in avian and exotic species, Pinecrest is adopting a humane approach. Dr. Harris will conduct a low-impact vasectomy procedure on male peacocks, ensuring minimal disruption to their well-being.

Pinecrest's plan is centered around a clean, brief, and minimally invasive vasectomy procedure. This procedure preserves the birds' vibrant appearance while curbing their reproduction. The peacocks will be taken care of in a sanctuary before returning to Pinecrest within a few days.

The measure of success will be the identification of vasectomized peacocks via leg bands. This approach mirrors successful population control efforts for feral cats, where spaying or neutering, marking, and return to their original habitat has been effective. It's important to recognize that this program requires time to yield results.

The program reflects Pinecrest's aspiration to foster harmony between the peacock population and the community, catering to various residents' concerns while advocating coexistence.

In line with these efforts, residents are encouraged to avoid feeding the peacocks, which can disrupt their natural behaviors. Pinecrest's comprehensive approach reflects a community-driven commitment to resolving this issue while promoting the welfare of both residents and peacocks.

As always, you can call me directly should you need assistance at 305.606.2364 or email me and members of the Village Council at [council@pinecrest-f.gov](mailto:council@pinecrest-f.gov).

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE *Yocelyn Galiano*

I am pleased to introduce the Village's new website, logo and branding. Together these updates are poised to redefine your digital experience and amplify Pinecrest's brand identity. Designed with a focus on modern aesthetics and seamless functionality, the website is a gateway for residents and visitors to easily access information online at [www.pinecrest-fl.gov](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov).

At the heart of our digital evolution is a user-centric approach. Navigating the website is intuitive and ensures ease of use for individuals seeking information about Pinecrest, Village services, the Village Council's mission and more. Whether you are accessing it on a desktop, tablet, or smartphone, the responsive design adapts to your device, making your engagement smooth and effortless.

Our thoughtfully crafted logo embodies the essence of our brand. It's a visual representation of our core values and aspirations, encapsulating the synergy between innovation, excellence in government, and creativity. Every curve, color, and element has been meticulously chosen to resonate with Village residents and visitors.

Behind the scenes, Team Pinecrest has worked tirelessly to ensure optimal performance, security, and search engine visibility. We have integrated the latest technologies to enhance your browsing experience and ensure that you find what you are looking for with ease.

Additionally, commencing with this issue, the Pinecrest Sun will present information in a more editorial style versus listing every program that is offered by the Village which includes the Parks and Recreation Department and Pinecrest Gardens.

You will notice that the magazine highlights specific programs and directs readers to the Village's new website which lists all the program offerings. Community events will continue to be highlighted as well as more information on upcoming capital initiatives.

In summary, our new branding, website and logo symbolize a bold step forward in our commitment to excellence.

Pinecrest Municipal Center  
12645 Pinecrest Parkway  
Pinecrest, FL 33156  
305.234.2121  
[www.pinecrest-fl.gov](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov)

Find Us On





# FLORIDA'S NATIVE PLANTS IN PINECREST

*"We should aspire to have the  
Everglades in our backyard."*

- Charlie Reverte



Imagine the United States as the largest national park in the world. It's likely not happening in our lifetimes, but the premise of the idea is that planting native species keeps our ecosystems alive and thriving. Which in turn, keeps the planet alive and thriving. On a smaller scale, imagine walking out into your yard to the sights and sounds of the Everglades.

The idea is catching on in some circles. In the Village, there is a quiet movement that is gaining traction. It encourages education about planting native species and is spearheaded by Pinecrest resident Charlie Reverte.

On a municipal level, Reverte was happy to let elected officials tour his home and learn more about planting native. Native plant means a species of plants that were originally here before human development. An example of this would be planting a Dade County Pine versus a Poinciana, which is not native to this area and does not support our wildlife.

The Village passed a resolution unanimously in support of the Village planting native plant species during the April 2023 Village Council meeting. Vice Mayor Anna Hochkammer sponsored the resolution and believes this is not only a way to help save Biscayne Bay, but an opportunity for creativity. The resolution does not dictate what is planted on private property.

"Our eyes are often trained to appreciate exotics and natives, but well-planned native landscaping can look tidy and attractive while requiring little or no chemicals, fertilizer, or watering. If we set aside some of our preconceived notions about 'needing' lawns everywhere, the creative possibilities are endless," said Hochkammer.

Reverte planted more than 200 species of natives on his property about two and half years ago. While touring his yard, he said that he grew up in South Florida hiking in the Everglades as a boy scout and learned about South Florida's unique ecosystems at Mast Academy where he attended high school.

When he moved back to South Florida, he wanted the same feeling in his backyard. More than that, he wants his children to have the same knowledge and appreciation for the role planting native creates in a thriving ecosystem.

His children get to travel into a special secret garden made up of natives right in their backyard.

Lights speckles through the canopy of a small, hidden trail behind Reverte's home creating a prism-like effect that reminds one of wonder and curiosity.

"I wanted to show everyone that you can plant native trees in your house, specifically children, because you want to pass on this knowledge from generation to generation," said Reverte. "My kids love to play in the garden and learn about the plants and the butterflies."

Reverte explained that the canopy of the hidden garden is made up of cypress, southern red maple, pond apple, satin leaf, and others.

"An important thing to emphasize is maximizing the diversity of different native plants you use," Reverte said. "Each plant has an important ecosystem function and relationship with wildlife that depend on it."

The ground layer of his yard is teeming with wildlife and is made up of wild coffee, wax myrtle, saltbush, coontie, giant leather fern, and many others. The native plants do not need any mowing or landscaping. The beauty of the native plant concept is natural, unmanicured growth, while using plants that are adequate for the space.

No pesticides, fertilizers or other chemicals are used in his yard either, since native plants are adapted to our environment. Many of the plants he used also attract dragonflies which eat mosquitoes. To help raise awareness of native plants, Reverte also started the Reforest Miami website and social media effort and serves on the board of the Dade County chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, which meets monthly at Pinecrest Gardens.

As a side, remember that the use of most fertilizers is banned in Miami-Dade from May 15 to October 31 each year. Nitrogen and phosphorous run-off make Biscayne Bay sick when it is rainy.

Although Reverte is passionate about native plants being reintroduced into our ecosystem, this labor of love was created with the help of Howard Tonkin who owns Urban Habitat, a native species only landscaping firm.

He helped Reverte naturally fortify the canal bank next to his home from flooding and salt water intrusion.

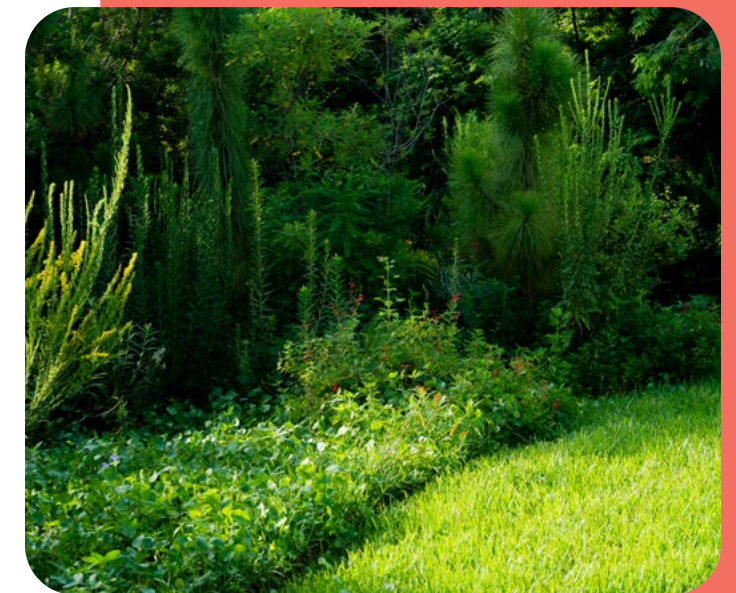
Reverte lives off the Pinecrest canal and has cypress tree, and pond apple trees growing on the bank to create a fortified barrier for storm events and potential hurricanes. Invasive iguanas had weakened the bank walls by burrowing into them causing degradation.

"These cypress trees are buttressed, and they have what's called knees. They can come up out of the ground and they're very hurricane resistant and they're also salt tolerant. So, if there ever was brackish water to flood up here in a hurricane, they can survive it," said Reverte. "I hear an adult tree can drink up to 800 gallons of water per day."

Tonkin explained that his business's core value is making a positive contribution to society. An Australian who moved to Miami in 2000, he was taken aback by the devastation of our Dade County Pines and the condition of Biscayne Bay. He dedicates his life to bringing pines back to Miami-Dade County and water conservation. Two topics that align with the Village's Strategic Priorities.

Tonkin acknowledges that native plant projects are not a sweeping answer to climate change but proposes that small changes can add up to big ones.

"We have less than 2% [Dade County Pines] remaining outside of Everglades National Park. So that means all the wildlife, all the birds that would have lived there and depended on it for migration are all gone," said Tonkin. "So even a small change you can make right now and make a big difference."



The Village of Pinecrest's Master Plan calls for increasing the tree canopy, so you will see more native plants coming soon to a roadside and cul-de-sac near you. For more information about native plants, please visit [www.pinecrest-fl.gov/native](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/native).



# YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (YAC)

By: Chloe Alfonso

Daniel Solomon, 19, a sophomore at Brown University studying public policy, is currently working in Washington, D.C. with the American Jewish Committee on the White House National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.

Jonathan Wong, 21, is a senior at the University of Florida majoring in Aerospace engineering with a minor in Environmental Science.

Cayetana Jaramillo, 19, a sophomore at Brown University, is part of the Women in Business Club and writes for Brown's Journal of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics.

Each one of them is a past member of the Pinecrest Youth Advisory Council (YAC).

The YAC aims to empower youth by providing a platform for the often-underrepresented teen demographic. YAC fosters community involvement through various volunteer opportunities and educates its members about the inner workings of local government.

This past year, YAC members volunteered at the Veterans Day event, Nights of Lights, the Antique Car Show, and other community activities. Additionally, the YAC has hosted a variety of YOUTH series—where a member brings in an expert to speak on a topic pertinent to youth—ranging from financial literacy to the Florida ecosystem to the LGBTQ+ fight for equality to organ donation and physical fitness.

Financial Advisor Ryan James spoke to the YAC about financial literacy.

"I find it very important to engage with and educate youth... [awareness] benefits the community as youth learn skills that they otherwise might not be taught," said James.

Ivette Cano, Director of Education at Everglades National Park held a YOUTH Series Workshop on Nature Preservation in the Everglades.

"Facilitating connections for students with the outdoors is essential to the health of both our kids and our planet. When students grow up understanding and appreciating natural spaces, they are more likely to fully enjoy and protect those places," said Cano.

Julia Reich, chair of YAC for the 2022-2023 term, lauds the youth council for giving young community members the "opportunity to learn about local government through direct interaction with Pinecrest departments," and appreciates the "mentorship of Councilmember Katie Abbott who oversees all that [YAC] accomplishes."

To learn about local government, YAC members attend and participate in Village Council meetings. YAC members also have the opportunity to tour the police department, the public works department and the like, to learn more about what keeps the Village running smoothly.

The YAC was established in 2009 by former Mayor Cindy Lerner. Although YAC is always looking for ways to improve, Lerner's goals—to increase youth's voice in the community as well as provide a deeper understanding of local government—are still at the forefront of the YAC's mission.

YAC's three main objectives are to learn about local government, volunteer in local events, and develop leadership skills," said Councilmember Katie Abbott.

The group looks forward to announcing events about topics that matter to youth this coming year. Additionally, Pinecrest's Youth Council is working to collaborate with other local councils, such as the Palmetto Bay YAC.

Each summer the Pinecrest Council accepts applications for YAC, seeking students who are passionate about learning and giving back to the community. To learn more about the YAC, follow it on Instagram at @pinecrestyac – a verified account. There is also information about the program at [www.pinecrest-fl.gov/YAC](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/YAC).

# HOW TO PROTECT BISCAYNE BAY

Over the years, Biscayne Bay has faced significant contamination issues, primarily due to pollution from various sources, including urban runoff, sewage discharge, agricultural runoff, industrial waste, and boat-related activities. Contamination in Biscayne Bay can have severe impacts on the ecosystem, wildlife, and human health. It can lead to harmful algal blooms, oxygen depletion, loss of seagrass beds, and threatens marine species, including fish, birds, and marine mammals.

Individual choices can play a crucial role in improving the health of Biscayne Bay. Here are some steps individuals can take to contribute to the improvement of the bay's water quality:

- Reduce water usage: Conserving water at home helps decrease the amount of wastewater entering the bay.
- Proper disposal of waste: Avoid disposing of trash, chemicals, and hazardous materials down storm drains or into the bay.
- Use eco-friendly products: Harmful chemicals from these products can wash into the bay through stormwater runoff.
- Car maintenance: Properly maintain your vehicle to prevent oil and other automotive fluids from leaking and contaminating the roads, which eventually end up in the bay.
- Be mindful of boat activities: Ensure that your vessel does not leak fuel or oil, and follow best practices for refueling to prevent spills.
- Participate in clean-up events: Join local community clean-up efforts focused on removing litter and debris from the bay and its shoreline.
- Advocate for policy changes: Support policies and regulations that aim to reduce pollution and protect the bay's ecosystem.
- Practice responsible fishing: If you enjoy fishing, adhere to catch limits and avoid using harmful fishing practices that can damage marine habitats.

Remember, while individual actions can make a difference, systemic change and collective efforts are essential to address the broader issues of water contamination and environmental degradation in Biscayne Bay. Working together as a community and supporting comprehensive strategies can lead to a healthier and more sustainable future for this important ecosystem.



Youth Advisory Council with Village Council, March 2023



# POLICE DEPARTMENT



Contact the police directly via text by using the SAFERWATCH which routes messages to the Police Department's 911 Communications Center. For more information and to download the app, please visit [www.saferwatchapp.com/pinecrest](http://www.saferwatchapp.com/pinecrest).

## TOP PRIORITY

The safety of our residents is a top priority. A significant portion of our public safety mission is accomplished through effective policing, crime prevention, and positive police-community relations. Although crime rates remain amongst our lowest, community involvement is critical. The efforts of committed residents and local businesses protect our community from various property crimes.

Common sense crime prevention tips offer proven, cost-effective methods to deter criminal activity. The 9 PM Routine, for example, reminds vehicle owners to lock car doors, secure their belongings, and not leave the vehicle's key fob inside the car.

Criminals steal cars for a few reasons. In some cases, stolen vehicles are used to commit other crimes or sold for parts. In South Florida, stolen vehicles are also shipped off and sold overseas. Some car thieves use the car for a joy ride and later abandon them. In all cases, the car owner feels angry, vulnerable, frustrated, or afraid. Fortunately, vehicle owners can minimize the likelihood of being a victim of theft.

Pinecrest Police frequently broadcast crime prevention material and safety tips through its e-newsletter, social media, and SaferWatch. Crimes reduction and problem-solving efforts begin with effective communication between police and the community.

Pinecrest Police encourages you to contact the police anytime you see anything suspicious or if you have been the victim of a crime. It is always convenient for us to respond to your home and assist. The more we learn from our residents, the better prepared we will be to address issues. Residents should use the non-emergency number to report suspicious activity. In an emergency, always dial 911.

Police operations are planned to promote public safety. Our officers interact with the community daily while conducting watch orders, park details, and "park and walks" throughout the Village. Police also use traffic enforcement to increase public safety. On occasion, attempted traffic stops in residential areas resulted in vehicles fleeing from police, potentially preventing criminal acts. Another tactic includes deploying police speed detection trailers and police cruisers at strategic locations to increase police presence.

In addition to regular police duties, the Community Resource Team (CRT) works closely with residents and local businesses to promote crime prevention and police-community relations. CRT is heavily involved in Neighborhood and Business Watch Programs, organizing groups of residents and businesses to collaboratively deter, detect, and reduce the opportunities for crime.

The police and the community have an interdependent relationship with a common goal – public safety. If we work together, the criminals will not stand a chance. Remember, put into practice crime prevention, get connected with the police, and follow us on social media.



**STAY CONNECTED.**  
SIGN UP FOR THE  
PINECREST POLICE  
E NEWSLETTER TODAY.



**GET REAL TIME ALERTS  
AND UPDATES.**  
REGISTER FOR THE PINECREST  
SAFERWATCH APP.

# PUBLIC SAFETY TIP



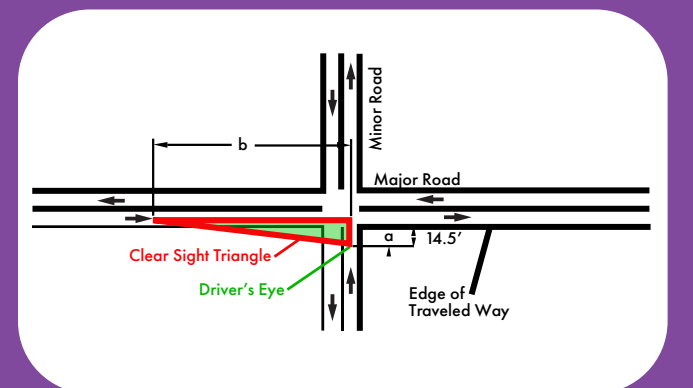
## DEPARTURE SIGHT TRIANGLE

Safety is the primary driving force for the development and implementation of civil engineering standards. These standards have evolved over the last century as more and more motorized vehicles crowd the nation's roads. Intersections are the most common location for accidents. Drivers generally have three options when approaching an intersection: turn left, turn right, or go straight. With four approaches to an intersection there are 12 opportunities for a collision.

One of the most important elements engineers design for at intersections is sight distance. This is the distance a driver can clearly see oncoming traffic. The posted speed of the intersecting road, the number of lanes the driver is looking over to see oncoming traffic, and the location of the stopped driver determine what is called a **sight triangle**. See the image above.

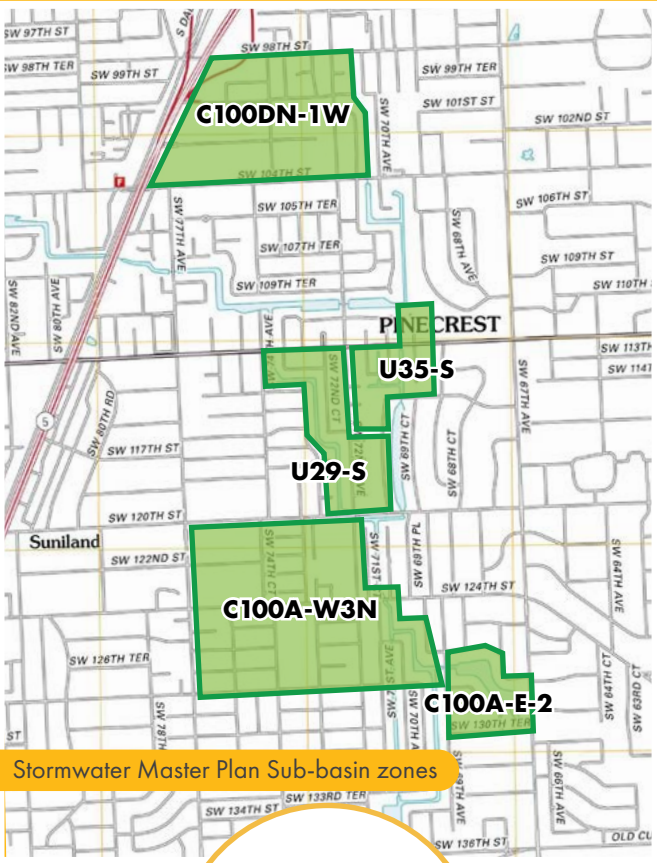
The green-colored area is the sight triangle. Sight triangles, shall, where practical, be clear of obstructions that would prohibit a driver's view of potentially conflicting vehicles. Note, the triangle includes portions of the pavement. So, parked vehicles in the road or next to the road are potential obstructions. This is one of the reasons parallel parking is prohibited within a certain distance of an intersection.

These standards have evolved over time and are codified by the State. Details can be found in the **Manual of Uniform Minimum Standards for Design, Construction and Maintenance for Streets and Highways** (also referred to as the Florida Greenbook) published by Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). It provides criteria for public streets, roads, highways, bridges, sidewalks, curbs and curb ramps, crosswalks, bicycle facilities, underpasses, and overpasses used by the public for vehicular and pedestrian travel for all projects not on the state and national highway systems.





# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RUNDOWN



Stormwater Master Plan Sub-basin zones



## STORMWATER

The Village commissioned a Stormwater Master Plan (SMP) in 2014 and adopted the plan in 2015. The adoption of a Stormwater Master Plan is an absolute necessity to obtain funding for projects from all levels of government agencies - county, state and federal. The SMP analyzed the Village's drainage needs and adopted a priority list of 15 basins (one being the highest priority). The Village currently has one portion of the SMP under construction.

The Palmetto Island Drainage Project began in January of this year and was completed July 3, 2023. The Village also has five basins under design (bordered in green and numbered) as shown in the map.

The Village recently applied for a FEMA grant that would allow all five of these projects to be constructed. The status of the grant award is still pending, but the Village's application met all the criteria of the grant. This grant application is for nearly \$18M and would pay for 80% of design, construction, and construction administration for the five basins indicated in the map. Design of these projects will be completed by the end of the year and allows the Village to seek funding for projects where planning and engineering is advanced enough that construction can begin within a very short time from all agencies should the FEMA grant not be awarded. To assist with reviewing the SMP the Basin Priority number and Basin name follows:

Sub-basin Flood Rank	Sub-basin Name
1	U29-S
2	C100DN-1W
3	C100A-W3N
4	U35-S
6	C100A-E-2

## POTABLE WATER PROJECT UPDATE

At the time of this publication, 14 of 16 sub-phases were conveyed to Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD). Phases 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 2A, 2B, 2D, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 4B, 4C, 4D. This represents 77% of the total project length. All of the property owners in the aforementioned sub-phases have been provided step-by-step connection instructions.

**Phase 2C** is the largest (17,035 LF) and most significant (17% of all pipe installed) of the sub-phases. Additionally, the majority of this phase is within the salinity line and where many wells have been infiltrated by salt water.

All testing and pavement/sod restoration is complete. The Bac-T tests have all passed and the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) letter has been provided. The as-builts have been submitted and we expect one round of corrections. Once the as-builts are accepted by WASD this sub-phase will be conveyed – we expect by 8/30/23 – at this point 94% of the project will be available for resident connections.

**Phase 4A** was the last sub-phase to be permitted by WASD and construction did not begin until March 31, 2023. Consequently, it will be the last sub-phase conveyed. All field work for pipe installation is complete - except for 7 tie-ins. Pressure testing, flushing, and Bac-T sampling is complete. Pavement restoration, swale restoration, as-builts, and FDOH letter will not allow conveyance until the end of August.

## PINECREST GARDENS TERRACE & RAMP RENOVATION

This project is for the renovations to the Pinecrest Gardens Lakeview Terrace and ramp which includes the assessment of existing structures, geotechnical exploration, and mitigation of the subsoil conditions resulting in the failure of the foundation of the terrace and ramp. The repairs will consist of removing mosaic tiles, leveling floor of the terrace and repairing the incline of the entrance ramps. Mosaic tiles on the terrace will be replaced in the pattern in which they were originally installed.

The project is currently in the investigative phase through an architecture firm specializing in historical properties. Once a determination is made of the necessary work, construction documents will be designed and an Invitation to Bid for the construction will be advertised. It is estimated that this work will be completed by June 2024.

## PINECREST GARDENS CYPRESS HALL DECK

A new outdoor deck will be constructed by February 2024 outside of Cypress Hall. The design is complete and the construction contract is expected to be awarded in September 2023.

## CORAL PINE PARK PHASE 2

In 2014, Village Council adopted the Coral Pine Park Master Plan and divided the construction of the approved improvements into two phases. Phase 1, which included a new tennis center and playground, was completed in 2016. This project is for the design of Phase 2 which includes a new multi-purpose room, updated restroom facility, walking path, exercise station, and more. The design and construction documents are completed, a bid will be advertised and awarded for the construction in the fall of 2023. This project is expected to be completed in February 2025.

## GARY MATZNER PARK

In 2021, Village Council approved the acquisition of the 3.76 acre two-parcel site located on the southeast corner of Kendall Drive between 67 Avenue and 65 Court. In May 2023, the Village Council approved the conceptual design for the future park. The final design, as adopted by Village Council, includes vast open spaces, natural play areas, a covered playground, a walking path, a restroom shelter, parking, preservation of numerous specimen trees, and a park gateway that welcomes residents and guests to the northern entrance of the Village. The park landscape will include all native species and create a canopy and backdrop for families and friends to gather and be surrounded by nature as they enjoy the park's beauty and amenities. The Village will issue the Request for Proposals (RFP) for construction documents and park development in late summer to be awarded in early fall 2023. Construction for this project should take approximately twelve months.

## SUNILAND PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Suniland Park has received several updates to the lighting infrastructure. New LED lights have been installed in the parking lot, and athletic field 2 and 3 will have new LED lights retrofitted to the existing sports lighting posts. With this installation, the LED light conversion project will be completed at Suniland Park and includes all major lighting sources having been converted to LED. This includes all athletic fields, basketball courts, multipurpose room, gazebo, and exterior building lights. Upcoming projects include the completion of the parking lot landscape beautification in the fall of 2023 and the installation of a golf cage in the winter of 2024.

## SHARED-USE PATHS

As one of the adopted projects of the Village's Transportation Master Plan approved in 2018, the Kendall Drive Shared Use Path (SUP) project will connect SW 67 Avenue to Red Road. The project consists of removing the existing 5-foot wide concrete sidewalk and constructing an 8-foot asphalt path designed to accommodate two-way pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The path will be located entirely on the south side of Kendall Drive, with some of the new street trees located on the north side. In November 2021, Village Council approved commencement of the construction design which is expected to be completed in spring 2023.

Shared-use paths are paved facilities physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier. They are used by bicyclists, pedestrians, runners, skaters, etc. One of the adopted projects of the Village's Transportation Master Plan approved in 2018, the 67th Avenue Shared Use Path (SUP) will run from Snapper Creek to SW 136th Street. The construction of the 8'-wide asphalt path will include swale grading to facilitate drainage, and landscape enhancements.

This project will enhance the SUP network in Pinecrest by adding connectivity to existing and future facilities. The Village is coordinating with Miami-Dade County on a project that will connect US 1 with the northern terminus of Ludlam at the C-100 Canal. The county is also considering a SUP along the north bank of the C-100 between US 1 and Ludlam, providing another point of connection to this network.

Village Council authorized the design of the Ludlam path, however construction is pending until a funding source is identified. The Village will advertise to acquire engineering design services in summer 2023, with design expected to begin in October 2023. The design and permitting is anticipated to take up to twelve months.





# THE POWER OF PARKS

School is back in session, and cooler weather is on its way. There is no better way to celebrate than to explore a Pinecrest park. So many experiences and treasures are waiting to be discovered around each corner. Many people have fond memories of parks from their youth. This is where you learn to hit a ball, catch a Frisbee, or score a goal. Parks are where we celebrate birthdays and weddings, gather to remember loved ones, and where communities get together to unite as one.

Parks do much to build community, but they are so much more than that. Parks build individuals, build confidence and build courage. Do you remember the first time you dared to cross the monkey bars or go down the giant slide alone? You pushed yourself to do it, and you grew. You became more independent, more confident in your abilities, and more courageous because of your previous success.

Parks create memories that will last a lifetime and develop character in the same people who lead communities to greatness. Regardless of age, our parks are here for everyone.

Join the Parks and Recreation Department at our community events, such as the PineToberfest Beer Festival in September, the Zombie Run in October, or one of the many after-school programs that occur throughout the school year.

If big events are not your thing, explore on your own and reconnect with nature at Coral Pine Park, throw a ball at Suniland Park, or walk the trail along Snapper Creek at Red Road Linear Park. Whether you are enjoying one of the many programmed activities or creating your own adventure along the way, the Pinecrest Parks and Recreation Department is here to help you create the best memories and experiences possible.

If you need help figuring out which park is best for you, contact the Pinecrest Parks and Recreation Department at [parks@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:parks@pinecrest-fl.gov) or check us out online at [www.pinecrest-fl.gov/parks](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/parks) or scan the code.



The Parks and Recreation Department manages the Pinecrest Community Center and all public parks in the Village including Coral Pine Park, Flagler Grove Park, Evelyn Greer Park, Red Road Linear Park, Suniland Park, Veterans Wayside Park, Village Green and Gary Matzner Park.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION & HOW TO REGISTER FOR PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMMING:

305.284.0900 • [parks@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:parks@pinecrest-fl.gov)  
[www.pinecrest-fl.gov/parks](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/parks)

Subscribe to Parks and Recreation e-news at  
[www.pinecrest-fl.gov/enews](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/enews)

5855 Killian Drive, Pinecrest, Florida 33156

Find Us On @pinecrestparks







# SPECIAL EVENTS

## PINE-TOBERFEST - BEER FESTIVAL

**EVELYN GREER PARK | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 | AGES 21+ ONLY**

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE

Prost! Pinecrest Parks and Recreation and Exit One Taproom bring together over 40 beers from breweries near and far for this once-a-year celebration. Join us for music, games, food, and of course, some of the best beer available in South Florida. Lace up your lederhosen and dirndl, and be ready to dance, laugh, and play. Tickets include entry into the event and unlimited beer samples. Pine-toberfest is a rain-or-shine event.

## PINECREST SENIOR GAMES

**VARIOUS LOCATIONS | OCTOBER 2 THROUGH 6 | AGES 50+**

\$15 PER PERSON, PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Pinecrest Parks and Recreation is hosting the second annual Pinecrest Senior Games. Participants from all over will compete in different sports, including pickleball, tennis, bowling, basketball, billiards, racewalk, badminton, table tennis, shuffleboard, and corn hole. Enjoy the thrill of competition and camaraderie during this week-long event. Take advantage of honing your skills to prepare for the qualifying year in 2024. Qualifying participants have the chance to compete in the 2024 Florida State Senior Games and earn a chance to compete in the National Senior Games in 2025. The Pinecrest Senior Games promotes healthy lifestyles, physical activity, and top-quality athletic competition. For more details, go to [www.pinecrest-fl.gov/seniorgames](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/seniorgames).

## ZOMBIE RUN

**EVELYN GREER PARK | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21**

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE

\$20 early bird before September 10 | \$25 September 11 until October 20 | Register on Eventbrite | \$30 Day of Event

Check-in begins at 4:30 pm, Warm-up at 5:45 pm, and the run begins at 6 pm.

Everyone is welcome to this family-friendly zombie run. Dodge zombies throughout the streets of Pinecrest on an adventure to discover the zombie antidote and bring it back to help save humanity and survive the apocalypse. Enjoy a 40-foot zombie maze, obstacle course, photo booth, music, refreshments, and more. Runners will receive an event t-shirt while supplies last and a "life-force" ribbon to wear for the Zombie Run. Participants are encouraged to come in costume.



## TRACK-OR-TREAT

**EVELYN GREER PARK | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27**

All ghosts, goblins, witches, and friends are invited to enjoy trick-or-treating and spooky surprises in a safe and friendly environment from 5 to 7 pm. After that, stay for an outdoor movie in the park starting at 7:30 pm. The Parks and Recreation Department and local businesses will hand out treats for everyone. The evening will be filled with fun, including bounce houses, photo opportunities, music, balloon artists, and more. Children must be accompanied by an adult and bring their Halloween bag for collecting candy. Vendors interested in participating must contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 305.284.0900. Overflow parking is available at Suniland Park. Shuttle service is provided between Suniland Park and Evelyn Greer Park.

## VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

**VETERANS WAYSIDE PARK | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 | 11 AM TO 1 PM**

Everyone is invited to help us thank and honor our brave Veterans and Gold Star Families by participating in this year's Veterans Day ceremony. The ceremony will include an Honor Guard presentation, a pinning ceremony, and music. Please join us following the ceremony for a complimentary picnic lunch. We thank all veterans for their patriotism, love of country, willingness to serve, and sacrifice for the common good.

## FITCREST 5K

**EVELYN GREER PARK | JANUARY 6, 2024**

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE

Check-in begins at 6:30 am, Warm-up begins at 7:45 am, and Race begins at 8 am.

\$30 Early Registration before December 1 | \$35 after

Everyone is welcome to this family event. Runners, walkers, joggers, strollers, wheelchairs, and even four-legged friends. Get a fresh start in 2024 with the third annual FitCrest 5K. The 5K run is a timed event. All race bibs have a timing chip. Pre-registered 5K participants will receive an event t-shirt while supplies last. After the race, stay for more FitCrest activities, including fitness-related games, obstacle courses, bounce houses, music, and a variety of vendors showcasing their programs and camps. For more information, contact Janelle Marzouka at [jmarzouka@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:jmarzouka@pinecrest-fl.gov).

For a complete list of programs and events, go to [www.pinecrest-fl.gov/parks](http://www.pinecrest-fl.gov/parks) or **scan the qr code**.





# FOCUS ON HEALTH & WELLNESS

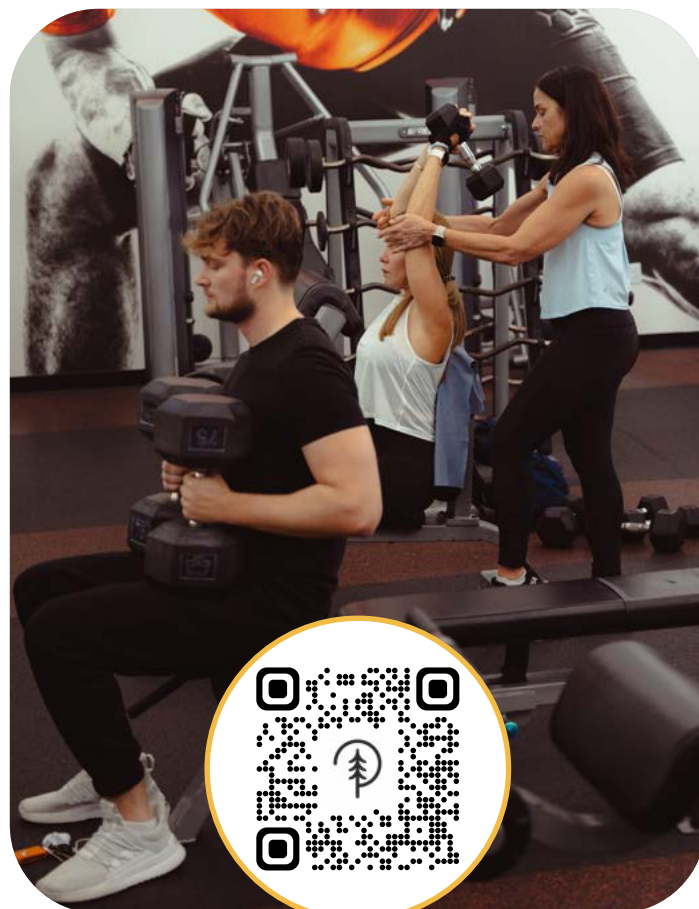
Happiness begins with health and wellness, and the Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide opportunities for everyone to live their happiest life. That is why we provide state-of-the-art fitness equipment at the Pinecrest Community Center Gym, expert personal trainers and group fitness instructors, top-notch community events, and partnerships with local businesses that promote health and wellness.

For over a year, the department has been spreading the word that we want Pinecrest to be one of the fittest communities in South Florida. That is how #FitCrest came to be. We partner with local businesses and create events and programs around making healthy life choices for your mind, body, and soul. We continue to promote this initiative and encourage residents to look for the #FitCrest logo at area businesses and make small healthy choices every day.

There are many ways to participate in #FitCrest activities. One way is to join in #FitCrest Fridays. #FitCrest Friday takes place on the third Friday of every month. This is a great way to discover what some people call "Pinecrest's hidden gem," also known as the Pinecrest Community Center Gym, or learn how to play pickleball at Coral Pine Park during the free mini-lessons.

The time to focus on health and wellness is now, and it is never too late. We want you to live your best life and reach your health goals. Try something new and explore everything our community has to offer. New experiences await you on your #FitCrest journey.

**SCAN THE CODE TO FIND YOUR FITNESS CLASS TODAY.**



## TESTIMONIAL

"I love Cecilia Richter's Zumba Gold classes, which are perfect for an active 70-year old who wants to exercise and have fun at the same time. Following and copying the dance moves are very good for my mental cognition. Cecilia is a fun and happy teacher who motivates you to dance and have a good time!"

~ Rebecca, age 70

# #FITCREST

# STAY ACTIVE ADULTS

Pinecrest cares about all of its residents and provides opportunities for people of all ages to engage in activities that are important and enjoyable to them. One group that has been growing over the past few years is our active adults. The Parks and Recreation Department has been developing a strong active adult program that engages adults 55+ with opportunities to stay social, active, and connected to friends and community. Socialization among older adults keeps the brain sharp and can even decrease the risk of developing dementia and Alzheimer's. Regular activity also positively impacts your physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Staying active can help give you more energy and greater self-confidence. Whether it is a Zumba class, pickleball tournament, the Pinecrest Senior Games, or the next art history workshop, be part of the active adult community and take advantage of fostering friendships, improving health, and maintaining a positive outlook on life.

# AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

After-school programs play a part in so many children's lives. We are proud to provide opportunities to help children develop their skills, make new friends, and create memories that will last a lifetime. Every year, young musicians, dancers, martial artists, future code developers, and athletes spend afternoons with the Parks and Recreation Department, having fun and training to be the best they can be.

Last year, many of our after-school participants competed in their program on a state or national level and performed on stage for hundreds or even thousands of spectators. Participants from Pinecrest Dance Project, Suniland Sundevils Football, Suniland Sundevils Cheer, and WE Martial Arts have all placed first in their respective competitions.

SharpMinds Music Academy and Pinecrest Dance Project also train their students to participate in yearly concerts and performances. These experiences help to shape young people and give them the support and reinforcement needed to continue developing their skills and to try new things.

The skills learned from these programs go far beyond the technical training of the program itself. Youth learn how to problem solve, build confidence and perseverance, be part of a team, have good sportsmanship, lead others, and so much more. Year after year, we welcome the future leaders of our community in hopes that they will share their talents with the world and shine like the stars they are.

Our classes are taught by professional instructors passionate about their craft and dedicated to helping each child succeed. We provide a safe and nurturing environment where every child can learn and grow while making friends and enjoying themselves.

Pinecrest Parks and Recreation wants to give every child the opportunity to get involved, have fun, and be the best version of themselves.



WITH OVER  
**150**  
**PROGRAMS**  
OFFERED EACH MONTH,  
THERE IS SURE TO BE  
ONE FOR YOU.





Pinecrest Gardens is a vibrant 14-acre destination boasting lush landscapes, beautiful botanical gardens, and a buzzing community scene. The historic botanical garden invites visitors from all over to participate in a diverse catalogue of events, workshops, and educational opportunities that promise to captivate and inspire. With a bustling calendar, Pinecrest Gardens ensures there is always something to do. Each year, Pinecrest Gardens hosts a Jazz Series, an Art Festival spotlighting local and regional talent, a Chili Cook-off and a Family Garden Day.

As an educational resource, Pinecrest Gardens offers a wealth of learning opportunities for kids. Youth workshops, collaborative art projects with renowned artist Xavier Cortada, and immersive camp experiences provide engaging and creative outlets for children to develop their skills and express themselves.

#### FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PINECREST GARDENS:

305.669.6990 • [info@pinecrestgardens.org](mailto:info@pinecrestgardens.org)  
[www.pinecrestgardens.org](http://www.pinecrestgardens.org)

Subscribe to the Pinecrest Gardens e-news at  
**[www.pinecrestgardens.org/enews](http://www.pinecrestgardens.org/enews)**.

11000 Red Road, Pinecrest, Florida 33156

Find Us, Love Us, Share Us @PinecrestGardens



# THE CURIOUS CHILD .....

Attending high-quality educational programs and regular participation can lead to improved social and emotional competencies, including prosocial behavior, intrinsic motivation, better concentration efforts, and higher sense of self-worth. As school gets back into full swing this fall, Pinecrest Gardens joins the education mix with a number of programs geared toward expanding the minds of our youth.

One of the longest standing programs at Pinecrest Gardens, Little Lizards, offers different activities relating to monthly themes every Wednesday afternoon. Geared towards children ages 4 through 12 years of age, this outdoor program allows its participants to explore, create and imagine while learning about the wonders of nature.

For those kids who are more inclined to enjoy art and science, Pinecrest Gardens' educational offerings also include an immersive after-school program developed by eco-artist Xavier Cortada. With protecting the planet at the forefront, The Cortada Science Art Academy engages children ages 9 to 12 and inspires creativity and empathy for all things nature through art.

The Parent and Me classes provide daily mommy/daddy friendly activities such as music Mondays, yoga Tuesdays, gymnastic Wednesdays, art Thursdays or dance Fridays. The Parent and Me classes challenge toddlers to learn skills and experience something new every day while providing the parent with the opportunity to interact with and enjoy watching their little one grow through new experiences.

Homeschooling is an excellent option for families who want to take an active role in their child's education. However, homeschooling can be a bit isolating, and some families may feel like they're missing out on the social aspects of school. This is where homeschool co-

ops come in. In addition to the programs previously mentioned, Pinecrest Gardens is home to the a homeschool co-op called Paper Tree House for Fun. A homeschool co-op is a group of families who meet together and work cooperatively to achieve common goals. Organized around academics, social time, the arts, activities, crafts, service work, or projects, this program provides a variety of topics for home learners ages 5+. The program participates in logic games, science with animal encounters, physical activity, and more. The sessions which are led by certified instructors are built around enjoyment of all the amenities that Pinecrest Gardens has to offer and count towards academic programs.

For more information about the educational offerings at Pinecrest Gardens visit **[www.pinecrestgardens.org/education](http://www.pinecrestgardens.org/education)**.



## ENVIRONMENTAL ART CONTEST

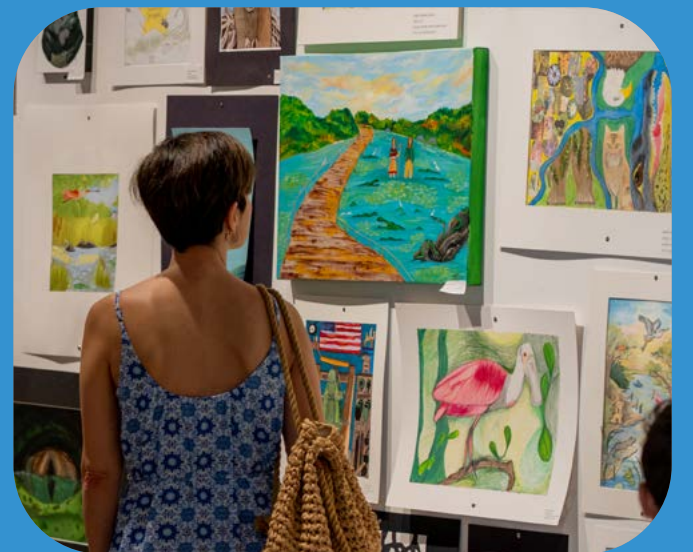
**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 10**

Save-the-Date January 18: Gallery Opening & Awards  
Ceremony

Students residing in Miami-Dade County are invited to enter the 10th Annual Environment Art Contest. Submission window begins November 13 and January 10. Cash Awards available for first, second and third place.

Visit **[www.pinecrestgardens.org/eacontest](http://www.pinecrestgardens.org/eacontest)** for more information and registration.

Thanks to our contest sponsors:  
The Corradino Group and Village of Pinecrest







# ART IN THE GARDENS

## AVIAN OASIS BY MYTH MAKERS OUTDOOR ART INSTALLATION OPENING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Six monumental, site-specific bamboo bird sculptures will descend upon Pinecrest Gardens this November. Towering more than 10 to 30 feet tall each, the birds include a macaw, a sandhill crane, a cockatoo, an owl, a peacock and a painted bunting. The art installation is named Avian Oasis and opens Saturday, November 18, 2023.

Avian Oasis is created by The Myth Makers and pays homage to birds that abound in South Florida. A special nod is given to Pinky the Cockatoo, who performed in the Banyan Bowl on a tiny bicycle when the property housed Parrot Jungle. The cockatoo sculpture will greet visitors as they enter the garden.

Parrot Jungle was founded in 1936 by Franz and Louise Scherr and became a world-famous tourist attraction, one of the first and oldest surviving in Florida, whose visitors included Sir Winston Churchill. The property was an oasis for tropical birds and a getaway for tourists. Today, it is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Made from bamboo and recycled materials, the six birds will

dot the 14-acre botanical garden until they slowly disintegrate into nature. Sustainable art installations are the norm in Pinecrest Gardens. In 2017, the garden exhibited Stickworks by renowned Environmental Artist Patrick Dougherty and in 2019, Giant Trolls Berta and Terje by Sculpture Artist Thomas Dambo.

The Myth Makers, Donna Dodson and Andy Moerlein, are creating the Avian Avatar sculptures. Their inspiration comes from a mutual love of nature and history. For Dodson, that's specifically the mysterious nature of birds, and for Moerlein it is creating events that leave visual marks in nature. Dodson and Moerlein have completed more than 50 projects together internationally and have received multiple national awards and recognitions.

- Also on view are temporary exhibitions in our indoor galleries:
- Senses of Belonging: Public Art in the City curated by Carola Bravo of Hartvest Project
  - #KeepCoolMiamiDade and Human Nature presented by Xavier Cortada Foundation.

For more information about the art installation, visit [www.pinecrestgardens.org/aig](http://www.pinecrestgardens.org/aig).

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### ARTS FOR WELLNESS DAY FAMILY FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21**

10 am to 2 pm

\$5 General Admission

Families are invited to explore their creativity and imagination through a variety of interactive expressive arts and healing modalities in an inclusive and supportive community setting.

This inclusive event will feature healing and expressive arts, music, movement, guided meditation, light therapy, vocal toning, gardening, yoga and community resources for families with and without disabilities. Supported by All Kids Included and Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs.

### FAMILY GARDEN DAY: GROWING NATIVE

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

10 am to 2 pm

Advance: \$7 | At the door: \$10

Join us for Fall Family Garden Day. Spend the morning learning about the plants and animals that call Pinecrest Gardens home and enjoy garden activities, partner exhibitions, workshops, and more. Select activities may require add-on tickets and pre-registration.

Sensory Hour (9 to 10 am): Early access for neurodivergent and cognitive sensitive families. Pre-registration required. Select "sensory hour" ticket at check out. Sensory hour ticket purchases qualify entry to the full event day.

Visit [www.pinecrestgardens.org/fgd](http://www.pinecrestgardens.org/fgd) for more information and registration.

### CANDLELIGHT ORCHESTRA: HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28**

6 pm and 9 pm

People love candles and music and the appeal is global. The Halloween themed Candlelight concert presented by FeverUp will bring the magic of a live, unrepresented multi-sensory musical experience at Pinecrest Gardens. Get your tickets now to discover this special Halloween event inspired by chamber music under the gentle glow of candlelight. The concert will run 65 minutes without intermission. Gate and concessions will open one hour prior to show.

Future Concerts: Wednesday, February 14 and Saturday, May 4







# BANYAN BOWL LIVE



## JAZZ AT PINECREST GARDENS

PRESENTED BY SOUTH MOTORS

This upcoming season, we’ve handpicked six quality shows that are sure to make your heart sing. Don’t miss out on these unforgettable nights at the Banyan Bowl.

### REBIRTH BRASS BAND

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 AT 8 PM

Big brass sound straight from the Big Easy. The Rebirth Brass Band is celebrated for melding their New Orleans brass band tradition with second-line, funk, jazz and soul. This renowned Grammy Award-winning Basin Street institution has been bringing their unique sound to audiences across the globe since 1983.

### GORDON GOODWIN’S BIG PHAT BAND

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 8 PM

Multi-Grammy, Tony, and Emmy Award-winning Jazz ensemble featuring jazz vocalist, Vangie Gunn Goodwin, will take us on a musical journey featuring Gershwin’s great American songbook.

**Thanks to our Jazz Season Sponsors and Partners:**

South Motors, Steinway & Sons, Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs, State of Florida Arts & Culture, Panter, Panter, & Sampedro P.A., Kirk Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, WLRN, and WDNA.

Visit [www.pinecrestgardens.org/jazz](http://www.pinecrestgardens.org/jazz) for information about season subscriptions and tickets.



## TROPICAL NIGHTS

PRESENTED BY PINECREST GARDENS

Experience music and dance like never before at the Banyan Bowl, where nature and culture come together in a unique tropical setting. These shows will be sizzling hot fun.

### “TANGO DREAMS” WITH MUSICAL DIRECTOR ANIBAL BERRAUTE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 8 PM

Dynamic Argentinean pianist renowned for his fusion of tango with Uruguayan candombe, traditional country folklore, and American jazz.



# FESTIVALS



## HOWL-O-WEEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

11 am to 4 pm

\$12 per person in advance | \$14 per person at the gate

Pinecrest Gardens will become haunted by four-legged ghouls and their scary human companions as Paws4you celebrates Howl-O-Ween. The event features tricks and treats, a costume contest, a Doggie Fun Zone Agility course, food, drinks, live entertainment, a spooky Kids’ Zone and pumpkin patch.

## NIGHTS OF LIGHTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 TO JANUARY 6

6 to 9 pm | Open Thursday through Sunday and select Wednesdays

Adult (18+) \$22 | Child (ages 3-17) \$18

Experience Pinecrest Gardens at night as it transforms into a winter wonderland dotted by thousands of twinkling lights, through and around the whimsical botanical landscape. Enjoy tasty treats, magical story time, Santa appearances, holiday bazaar and live performances on select dates.

Members receive discount at the door. Visit [www.pinecrestgardens.org/nol](http://www.pinecrestgardens.org/nol) to view a detailed list scheduled events and buy tickets.

## SAVE THE DATE: ART & DESIGN FAIR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

The Pinecrest Gardens Art Fair is an annual tradition that presents over seventy artists and draws over five thousand visitors. In celebration of the 20th Anniversary, we are expanding our festival to include designers and artisans; and are rebranding the event to Art & Design Fair. We will present independently juried art, collective arts, nonprofit exhibitors and live music and performers.

**CALL FOR ARTISTS: APPLY TODAY** Pinecrest Gardens invites artists, artisans and designers to participate in this juried fair with cash awards and honorariums totaling \$15,000. Visit [www.pinecrestgardens.org/adfair](http://www.pinecrestgardens.org/adfair) to learn more and apply by January 8, 2024.





**Village of Pinecrest**  
12645 Pinecrest Parkway  
Pinecrest, FL 33156

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Miami, FL



# PEACOCK MITIGATION PROGRAM

The Village's Peacock Mitigation Plan has made national news and the front page of the New York Times.

The council is proud to have created an innovative plan that will not hurt peacocks and decrease their numbers over time. The program commences October 1, 2023.

The peacock issue has been around for quite some time, and it is a pleasure to provide Miami-Dade with a guide map on mitigating population growth.

We are proud as peacocks to have a positive reception to an innovative solution. For more information on the Peacock Mitigation Program, please visit the website.

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[WWW.PINECREST-FL.GOV/PEACOCK](http://WWW.PINECREST-FL.GOV/PEACOCK)