

# State of the Village 2004-2005

Mayor Gary C. Matzner

I am pleased to report that the state of the Village is very good. Having been in office for only three months, it is too soon for me to fully absorb and review everything necessary to make a final determination. Mayor Greer and the previous Council not only completed a number of projects, but also set in motion significant projects for the Village to complete and operate in the coming years, which will effect our future budgets.

The most significant projects will be the capital improvements to Pinecrest Gardens, construction of a Library/Community Center, construction of Flagler Grove Park on 104 Street, improvements to Wayside Park, including the closure of 110 Street at US 1 and completion of the canal dredging project. The challenge will be to construct these projects within budget given the inflation in the construction industry due to the cost of concrete and other building materials.

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, the Village had revenues of \$13.668 million and expenditures of \$12.312 million. However, for the first time, the cost of capital expenditures caused the Village to dip into the reserve fund. For the current fiscal year we are budgeted to use \$3,850,000 of the reserve fund. Commencing next year, we will need to find additional sources of revenue or in the alternative delay certain projects.

Village personnel currently stands at 121 full time and 36 part time staff, up modestly from 117 and 38 respectively for the prior year.

Crime stayed at recent historical lows. The number of serious crimes, including major crimes and felonies for this past year numbered 747 compared to 745 the year before.

I envision, that in any event, the Village Council will need to do some belt tightening and take a deep breath before we embark upon any new major projects. In the meantime, we need to move forward on fund raising for the Pinecrest Gardens Foundation.

While, we may be limited as to any new major projects, I think it is important to have a planning session of the Council and staff in March to give the new council members and myself the opportunity to set out objectives and goals for this Council for the next three years. As an example, among the projects I would like to see accomplished are, decorative lighting along the linear park on Red Road, between Kendall Drive and 112th Street, a skate board facility in one of the parks and Wi-Fi hotspots in the parks and schools. In addition we need to address a major issue, facing not only Pinecrest, but all of South Florida, which is transportation. We receive monies from Miami-Dade County on an annual basis to address transportation issues in our community and we need to develop a Village plan for the use of these monies.

If you have any suggestions or desire to participate in the planning of future projects for the Village, you should email me your suggestions at [gmatzner@pinecrest-fl.gov](mailto:gmatzner@pinecrest-fl.gov) or plan on attending the Village Council planning session in March. We will publish the time and location in the next issue of the Pinecrest Tribune.

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