

MI Avenue

South Miami Avenue Homeowners Association Newsletter
"An Association in Action"

Volume 9, Issue 3

Fall 2009

Sidewalk Repairs to Begin

Project focuses on side-street sidewalks

Come November 2009 the City of Miami's Public Works Department will begin to replace damaged sidewalks in the neighborhood, specifically the side-streets between 15th and 25th Road off South Miami Avenue.

Inspectors from the City began identifying damaged sidewalks and marking them with a white "X" mark last year, and once again August 2009. In the next few weeks neighbors on the side-streets will be receiving letters from Public Works with specific dates on when the work will commence on their block. ♦

Median Despair

Weeds, County budget woes impact mowing schedule

Ever since cuts in the County's budget forced a reduced mowing schedule at the start of May 2009 the median on SMA has become overgrown by weeds. Lack of mowing combined with rains over the summer exacerbated the problem.

The 2010 budget for the County does not allocated more funds towards mowing the median (still once per

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Security Decision

Patrols come to an end

In response to neighborhood security and safety-related meetings earlier in the year, the Association sent letters to homeowners outlining a proposal which calls on neighbors to participate in a special program. The plan proposes that neighbors continue the off-duty safety and security patrols by City of Miami police officers for a minimum of 20 hours per week by funding the program. It means \$100 per month from a minimum of 25 neighbors; the more neighbors that participate, the lower the monthly fee.

The premise of the request is to be pro-active against crime and to continue the patrols which ended August 2009; the Association had funded the patrol since April 2006. We need you to consider joining the program since more participants will lower the monthly cost per household, and we all benefit.

If you have questions or would like to learn more details regarding the security proposal, please contact Colin Veater at colin@miavenue.com or 305.322.0319. ♦

Halloween Party, Sat. 31st

Neighbors to host several events for children

The tradition continues with our annual Halloween Party on October 31st starting around 6:30pm at the corner of 18th Terrace and SMA.

But the real fun begins earlier at 2055 SMA (de la Peña home) where children will gather at 5:30pm and be treated to games and prizes. Accompanied by a City of Miami Police officer, the children will then visit other participating homes for games and traditional "trick or treat."

We need more participating households, so get

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url: www.miavenue.com Email: colin@miavenue.com

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month) but the Association has begun conversations with the County and City to address the long-term problem which is the poor quality sod initially used by the contractor during the SMA Improvement Program. Basically the grass has been taken over by weeds and replacement of the median grass is required.

The Association will review all available options to landscape the median and insure its proper maintenance going forward. ♦

Did you Know? The South Miami Avenue median and its swales is a historically designated roadway by the State of Florida. The Avenue is the responsibility of the County; the side-streets are the responsibility of the City of Miami. ♦

Water Restrictions Remain

Despite rains, restrictions remain in place

Although we are coming out of the rainy season, water restrictions remain in effect for the neighborhood, as well as all of Miami-Dade.

These water restrictions apply to both public and well-water sources. Penalties apply if you do not follow the schedule which depends on your home address:

Odd-Number Addresses 2 days, Wed and Sat

Even-Number Addresses 2 days, Thu and Sun

If you water by hand, the permitted time is 5 - 7pm; if you have an irrigation system, the allowed time is 4 -8 am.

For more information, visit www.sfwmd.gov.

Please do your part – conserve and observe! ♦

Side Streets Project

Curbs and road resurfacing

The Association hopes to begin the “Side-Street” Improvement project in 2010. The project will focus on the nine (9) side-streets off South Miami Avenue (between 15th and 25th) and seeks to address damaged curbs as well as road resurfacing. Uneven sidewalks have already been identified with white arrows for repair/removal and their replacement will begin November 2009. The Association will provide residents with a better idea of the potential construction schedule once funds are allocated

towards this project by Public Works. The Association had expected funds from the City in 2009 for the Side-Street Project but it was pushed into the new budget year 2010. ♦

Police Pay a Visit

More neighborhood patrols by Police

Many of you have returned home to find a postcard on your front door or mailbox from the City of Miami Police Department. The visit to your home, and comments on the card, is part of an effort by the police to be pro-active and improve its visibility in the neighborhood and contact with residents. If you have question, call the number on the card.

City of Miami Police Reminders

- Be observant!
- Get to know your neighbors and their cars, exchange phone numbers for emergencies.
- Get to know the house keepers, gardeners', and other domestic workers on your block.
- If you notice an unfamiliar person near your house or car, and you feel uneasy and threatened, do not hesitate and call 911

The City of Miami Police prefers that residents act if they are suspicious rather than waiting for “something” to happen. ♦

Do you have a Question?

Call the NET or 311

Do you have a question about City or County services? Who should you call if the street light burned out? Do I need a permit to remove a dead tree in my yard? Trash is being dumped on my block illegally, what do I do?

The City of Miami NET Office is a great resource with a wonderful staff which functions as a mini-city hall for the neighborhood; contact them at 305.329.4750. Or call the County's 311 hotline between 6am – 10pm weekdays; 8am – 5pm on Saturdays. ♦

REMINDER

- *Day-light Savings is on November 1st. Turn your clocks back one hour.*

USEFUL NUMBERS - CONTACTS

Coral Way Neighborhood Enhancement Team
2299 SW 27th Avenue
Miami, FL 33129

Liza Walton, NET Administrator
Tel 305 329-4750
lwalton@ci.miami.fl.us

Commander Whitehouse, City of Miami Police
Tel 305 643-7170

Commissioner Carlos Gimenez
Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Tel 305 375-5680

Commissioner Marc Sarnoff
City of Miami Commissioner
Tel 305 250-5333

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WHAT: **MONTHLY BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING**

WHEN: LAST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

PLACE: SIMPSON PARK

TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 P.M.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 28TH.

WHAT: **SIMPSON PARK ENTRANCE CEREMONY**

WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

PLACE: SIMPSON PARK (15TH ROAD AND SMA)

TIME: 9:00 – 10:30 A.M.

WHAT: **HALLOWEEN PARTY**

WHEN: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

PLACE: TOUR STARTS AT 5:30 PM AT 2055 SMA
ENDS AT CORNER OF 18TH ROAD AND SMA

TIME: 5:30 – 8:30 P.M.

MORE INFORMATION IN FLYER



CITY OF MIAMI REMINDERS – IMPORTANT!

- *Regular trash removal is scheduled twice a week on Tuesday and Fridays. Must be placed in green trash cans provided by the City.*
- *Recycling is scheduled once a week on Fridays. Must be placed in blue bins provided by the City*
- *Yard clippings and small furniture pickup is scheduled once a week – Fridays. Items must be placed on the street, not the swale; items can be placed on the street Thursday for Friday pickup.*

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involved and plan something different for Halloween! Please call Lourdes de la Pena, 786.301.4215 or email lmclourdes@aol.com. ✦

City Budget – What Now?

Details of the City of Miami's budget impact not clear

On September 30th commissioners approved Miami's \$512.7MM budget on the third try. Nonetheless, the City's finances are very tight since it voted to leave the property tax rate flat at \$7.67 for every \$1,000 of taxable property. This means that commissioners balanced the budget after agreements with three of its main unions in addition to cutting certain services, like reducing the NET budget. So, the real question is what services will be cut and when? Residents still do not have an answer but it is most important that neighbors and residents of the City of Miami become more involved and demand a response from its public officials. We need to learn exactly where our tax dollars go.

If you have questions, call our commissioner, Marc Sarnoff, and ask him and/or staff at 305.250.5333. ✦

Priorities!

Let us know what is important to you!

Your Association is working on these priorities, do you agree or do you have other ideas? Let us know!

- I-95 Barrier Wall
- Traffic Calming
- Capital Improvements
- Security/Safety

Email colin@miavenue.com – let us know! ✦

Renew Your Membership!

Complete the enclosed membership application TODAY!

Your Directors are working hard and deserve your support. Please complete and return your application today!

Please renew your SMAHA membership – together we all make a difference for our neighborhood! ✦

Candidate Forum

Association sponsors Candidate Forum

On October 8th residents were able to attend BHA's 18th Candidate Forum held at the Miami Museum of Science. The Forum provided candidates for Mayor, as well as District 3 and District 4 commission races, the opportunity to present their platforms and respond to questions from the audience. Mr. Gustavo Godoy served as moderator.

Your Association, one of three organizations hosting the event, continues the tradition of supporting this important format which permits residents to learn more about the candidates and ask questions of their soon to be public officials.

Our commissioner, Marc Sarnoff – District 2, is not up for reelection but please VOTE on November 3rd for your candidate for Mayor. You count! ♦

Simpson Park Re-design

New entrance to Hammock on October 23rd

Simpson Park's re-designed new entrance at the corner of 15th Road and SMA will be inaugurated on Friday, October 23rd at 5pm. The Mayor and our District 2 commissioner, Marc Sarnoff, will attend. Neighbors and the general public is welcome.

This beautiful new entrance is the result of a private-public collaborative effort to enhance the public's access to this beautiful and unique 8.3 acre native hardwood hammock in our neighborhood.

Walk the newly outlined trails, visit the pond, or just relax amid nature. But remember to take identification as it is required to enter the Park.

Please go and enjoy it.

For questions, call the park administrator, Juan Fernandez at 305.856.6801 ♦

JOIN ONE OF OUR COMMITTEES!!!

Traffic

Henry Gonzalez chairs this committee – their goal is to improve safety by reducing the speed of vehicles along the Avenue.

Improvements

This committee chaired by Robert McCabe seeks to improve the beauty of our unique neighborhood particularly our Lights, Royal Poinciana trees, Date Palms, swales, medians and curbs.

Development

Micky Biss and Leo de la Peña co-chair this committee which monitors developments adjacent to our neighborhood that could impact our quality of life and property values.

Side-Street

Spencer Crowley chairs this committee which seeks ways to create a green barrier between I-95, and address concerns of neighbors on side-streets.

SMAHA

2009/10 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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