

Village Update
by Councilmember Paul Neidhart
Palmetto Bay Business Association

Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008

Good morning, good afternoon. I am here today on behalf of the Village to provide a brief update on current happenings and developments.

What an election season. What a relief it's over. As you may know, here in Palmetto Bay, it was a real nail-biter of a race for the Vice Mayor's seat. Quite the opposite situation in the "race" to fill the District 2 seat, right Howard?

Congratulations to Howard for continuing the tradition of being unopposed in District 2... A bit of history, I'm sure Howard wishes to forget, he was forced to engage in a run off with Vice Mayor Linda Robinson by one vote in our inaugural election back in 2002. I'm sure he's so glad he didn't have a run like that again.

And congratulations to our Vice-Mayor-elect, Brian Pariser. Congratulations to both of you.

Anyhow, be sure to attend the December 1 Council meeting to see my successor, Howard Tendrich, sworn in... as well as Linda Robinson's successor, Brian Pariser, sworn in as our new Vice Mayor. Congratulations to both of you. You're both in for a very challenging, very satisfying experience.

With that said, let me move on to an update of the recent events around town and share some news on some developments:

Last Friday night – Halloween night – the Mayor and members of the Council were on the prowl during our annual Pumpkin Patrol. They were escorted around town by members of the Village Policing Unit, looking for trick-or-treaters, handing out glow sticks, and promoting safety – and scaring some kids along the way, I'm sure. By the way, Councilmember Stanczyk – or should I

say Your Highness – I hear you looked absolutely convincing as the Queen of England!
(LAUGHS) ... Special thanks to Commander Gregory Truitt and his officers for the fun.

Saturday night, the Mayor and Councilmembers welcomed a new business to town: Cooper's Restaurant on US 1 and 167 St. – just north of the new Walgreen's. They were on hand for the grand opening/ribbon cutting, to congratulate the owners, and greet some guests. This new restaurant is a real class act. I encourage you all to drop in for a great steak, in a very sophisticated setting. Best of luck to owner/manager Gene Singleterry.

And then on Sunday, the Village's own Open-Air Market opened for business. A little rain, a little sun – a little more rain... Didn't keep too many folks away, though. This outdoor farmer's market has been months in development and brings fresh produce and other items every Sunday to this highly visible spot in the Commercial Island – the parking area just north of the EDC Building at Perrine Ave.. It's a smart thing to do from an environmental standpoint, and it should also bring a lot of interest to this area for future economic development.

Also on the economic development front, we just signed a contract with a video marketing firm called CGI Communications to film, script, and host a Community Video Tourbook – right on the homepage of the Village website. It will feature short streaming-videos on Palmetto Bay's businesses, housing, schools... our community in general. The program is endorsed by the US Conference of Mayor's and the best part – it's free for the Village to participate. There is also an opportunity for local businesses to join in as sponsors (not free!). A fast link to your business website or a streaming video of your own will be available from the web page while the Village videos are running. Great visibility and a great opportunity to build the Village's image to people all around the state, country, and world, for that matter. Contact our Public Information Officer, Bill Kress, for information on this. Or contact CGI directly by Googling "Mayors TV."

Also along the lines of public information, if you haven't already signed up to get "e-Currents," do so now. The first edition of our new electronic newsletter will be issued via e-mail later this month. It's the best way to stay up to date on important

announcements, happenings around town, and Village news in general. You may contact Bill Kress on this one, too. Or just visit the Village website for information.

In the area of Parks & Recreation, there's work planned on two projects that I have been highly supportive of over the years:

First, the Skate Pavilion: It has been such a huge success, so much so that we've already have to resurface the skate area. We plan to break ground on this improvement work within 10 days.

And the Carriage House at Thalatta Park... We will be breaking ground on improvements to that facility in about two weeks. This building, off the main house, will be updated in order to support catering efforts that will allow us to host social functions, meetings, and conferences – and generate some revenue, too. It's the start a lot of great improvements to that beautiful waterfront park.

There's also great progress being made at present at Ludovici Park, site of our new bayside library. We've recently ordered amenities including park benches, picnic pavilions and picnic tables. And if you've recently driven by the library, you'll see that the roof is nearly completed. Things are really taking shape over at the construction site at Old Cutler Road and

On the Public Works front, we've got some chicanes under construction on 174th street to help calm traffic and improve the look along that residential street. Just be advised there may be some periods when they must close the road and re-route traffic. So be patient.

Palmetto Bay also continues our aggressive and significant water drainage efforts – all thanks to the Public Works team ... look for that to begin in December in the sub-basin 7 area of District 1 and 2.

So allow me to wrap up this update – perhaps my last, as Councilmember of the Village of Palmetto Bay – certainly not my last as an active member of this wonderful community. See you around!

Just quickly, the Mayor attended a wonderful kick-off celebration at Coral Reef Elementary School last week, for Red Ribbon Week, a drug-awareness campaign that involves the kids in the fight against substance, and how they can fight it in their schools – and in their lives.