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## **Mayor Flinn Announces ‘Year of Transition’ at Annual State of the Village**

***Crime reduction, park improvements, public works projects, and construction of a new Gold-certified village hall highlighted***

**PALMETTO BAY, Fla.**, (Oct. 23, 2009) – Mayor Eugene P. Flinn, Jr., drew an impressive crowd of 450 residents, guests, and VIPs to the 2009 Palmetto Bay State of the Village, Oct. 21, at the Palmetto Bay Village Center. Replete with food, wine, and dessert, the event is the Mayor’s annual opportunity to highlight achievements by a government that is, according to one astute observer, “firing on all cylinders.”

The new year 2009/10 will be a period of gradual shift from capital projects to programs and services – and a continued focus on sustainability and green initiatives. Following are highlights of the Mayor’s speech, entitled “The Year of Transition:”

- Crime is down approximately 11 percent compared to last year.
- The Village’s new solar-powered, “green” monument signs are on schedule for installation in the next few months.
- The new Village Hall, a major “green” initiative, will be “gold” certified LEED construction, and is scheduled to open October 2010. The Mayor also stated that the Village will continue to pursue ways to make the building self-sustaining to garner a Platinum Net-Zero rating – thereby realizing about \$50,000 per year in operational costs.
- The Palmetto Bay Branch Library had its soft opening on Oct. 19. It contains more than 21,000 books, plus multimedia. More than 300 visited the new library on its first day.
- Grant dollars continue to flow into Palmetto Bay: More than \$18 million since 2003; more coming, including dollars for a possible new fire station.
- Besides a slight lowering of taxes, Palmetto Bay added \$250,000 to reserves in a very difficult year. Mayor remarked that taxes could have been lowered, but conservative thinking prevailed and adding to reserves is prudent.
- The parks system in Palmetto Bay continues to see renovations and upgrades – and enhanced programs (such as new summer camps), despite the tough economy. A new concession/storage/restroom facility is going into Coral Reef Park – and new exercise stations, at both Coral Reef and Palmetto Bay Parks.
- Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan adopted for Palmetto Bay is making commuting and recreation safer for all residents.
- In South Florida, 50 percent of water is used to water grass. Over the past three months, Palmetto Bay had zero citations issued to residents, showing that the “green” movement is resonating with everyone in the Village.
- Residents are also embracing a County-based rain barrel-collection program.

- In other “green” and cost-saving news, the Village’s popular *e-Currents* newsletter is published online for just \$35 per month cost, versus about \$32, 000 for hard mailing.

Please be sure to visit Palmetto Bay’s website for photo coverage, the mayor’s [address](#) in its entirety, and a link to “The Year of Transition” video, which debuted at the event and features Village employees.

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*Incorporated in 2002, **The Village of Palmetto Bay** is a vibrant community of 25,000 residents nestled between Biscayne Bay and So. Dixie Highway, about 15 miles south of downtown Miami. The Village is governed by a five-member Council and operates under a Council-Manager form of government. Dubbed “The Village of Parks,” Palmetto Bay offers an extensive system of attractive parks, unique recreational opportunities, and bay access. It also is home to several excellent public schools, and a robust commercial corridor along Dixie Highway offering a diverse range of restaurants, markets, and lodging. Specifically, the Village extends from the centerline of SW 136 St., south to the centerline of SW 184 St., expanding west to the centerline of South Dixie Highway (including the center island), and east to Biscayne Bay. Visit us at [www.palmettobay-fl.gov](http://www.palmettobay-fl.gov).*