

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Palmetto Bay Hosts 2nd Annual Earth Week Celebration, April 18-25

*Residents to enjoy Kayak Tour, Community Clean-up,
Lady Bug Release, Movie Night, Neighborhood Bike Ride, and more*

PALMETTO BAY, Fla., (April 13, 2009) – Earth Day comes just once a year, on April 22, but the Village of Palmetto Bay celebrates all week long.

In honor of our home planet, the Village is hosting a series of events as part of its 2nd Annual Earth Week Celebration, which starts April 18 with a kayak & canoe tour of Biscayne Bay, and concludes April 25 with a bike ride along historic Old Cutler Road and into the Deering Estate.

“I believe it is appropriate to honor this day, and so I am proud to announce that Palmetto Bay recognizes not just one Earth Day, but a week of Earth Days,” said Mayor Eugene Flinn. “By appreciating the Earth and by knowing how it is changing, we can make responsible life decisions, and enlighten our children to do the same.”

Earth Day was established as a celebration intended to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the Earth's environment. In the U.S., Senator Gaylord Nelson met with President John F. Kennedy and urged the recognition of Earth Day. Since January of 1970, many countries decided that a global observance needed to be recognized; therefore, April 22 is recognized each year. This year, hundreds of millions of people in more than 180 countries are expected to participate in Earth Day activities.

Following are Earth Week activities hosted by the Village of Palmetto Bay, and other related events for residents, sponsored by Miami-Dade County (*as denoted by **):

Saturday, April 18

- **Kayak & Canoe Tour** (*noon, 2, and 4 p.m.*): Tropical Audubon Society (TAS) volunteers, will lead guided kayak/canoe trips from Snowden's/Deering Pt., organized by Laura Reynolds. Residents will be able to view the mangroves and learn about the native birds and other bay animals and plants of this South Florida ecosystem – and appreciate Palmetto Bay from the Bay! Two low-impact “novice” excursions are scheduled at noon and 2 p.m.; and a dusk trip will launch at 4 p.m. for more experienced enthusiasts. TAS, which is providing the kayaks free of charge, will add trips earlier in the day based upon demand. The distance of each tour will depend on group experience and weather conditions. Residents are encouraged to bring their own water and snacks, and their own gear. Trip space is limited, so call ahead to reserve a kayak (or feel free to bring your own kayak or canoe) at 305-667-7337 or visit <http://www.tropicalaudubon.org/contact.html>. Special thanks to Palmetto Bay resident Beth Kibler for helping to arrange this exciting event. Additionally, Laura Reynolds will be collecting “suggested donations” to support Biscayne Bay and coastal wetlands restoration.
- **Baynanza 2009*** (*9 a.m. - noon*): Put on your high-waters and sunscreen – and do your part for the environment by registering to participate in the Biscayne Bay Cleanup Day, sponsored by Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management. In Palmetto Bay, join the cleanup at the Deering Estate (16701 SW 72 Ave.) or join in the effort just to the north

at Chapman Field Park (13610 Old Cutler Road). For details and to register, visit the County website at: <http://www.miamidade.gov/derm/baynanza.asp>.

Sunday, April 19

- **Natural Areas Tour at Deering Estate*** (12:30 p.m.): Join a naturalist guide and walk in the footsteps of Florida's first people. Hike through a lush forest of tropical hardwood trees and clinging vines down the Native American footpath which, near the end of the 19th century, became the first Cutler Road/Ingram Highway. Free with admission to the Estate (16701 SW 72 Ave., Palmetto Bay, 305-235-1668). Visit: <http://deeringestate.org/pages/Natural-Areas-Tour.aspx>
- **Bay Cruise from Deering*** (2 - 4 p.m.): Take a relaxing trip on the Pelican Island Skipper Pontoon Boat and discover South Florida's nature and history. The boat departs from the Deering Estate and explores Biscayne Bay. Cost is \$35 per person (16701 SW 72 Ave., Palmetto Bay, 305-235-1668). Please arrive at 1:30 p.m. to ensure a timely departure. For information, visit the Deering website: <http://deeringestate.org/articles/Featured-Events-and-Programs/Bay-Cruise-April-2009-.aspx>
- **Living Artist Concert Series presents "Endangered"*** (Deering Estate, 7 p.m.): As part of the chamber music/baroque series at the Deering, the founding artists of the Living Artist Concert Series will perform a new work, entitled "Endangered," by composer Judith Shatin. Cost is \$35 (16701 SW 72 Ave., 305-235-1668). Visit: <http://deeringestate.org/articles/Featured-Events-and-Programs/Living-Artist-Concert-Series-April-.aspx>
- **Butterfly Walk at Deering*** (10 a.m. - noon): Whether you're looking to photograph the elusive Dinky Purplewing or just appreciate nature's most delicate beauties, butterflies abound at the Deering Estate. Walk with a Deering Education and Interpretive Staff Member along historic roads and trails, through sunny pineland, tree-shaded forest, manicured grounds and other habitats. Free with Estate admission (16701 SW 72 Ave., 305-235-1668). Visit: <http://www.deeringestate.com/articles/Featured-Events-and-Programs/Butterfly-Walk-April-2009-.aspx>

Monday, April 20

- **Magical Musical Litter Bus Tour** (1 - 3 p.m.): Residents are invited to jump aboard the Village IBUS with Alexander Montessori School students as we meander through Palmetto Bay during a sing-along community cleanup. Headmaster James McGhee provides the guitar and songs, you provide backup vocals. Registration at Palmetto Bay Park recreation room (17535 SW 95 Ave.) starts at 12:30 p.m. with lunch provided by Ludovici & Ludovici. Gloves and trash bags are provided compliments of Golden Rule Seafood. The clean up will focus on the U.S. 1 commercial corridor in the Village's southwest sector. (Alexander students will travel from their campus via IBUS at 12:15 to Palmetto Bay Park for registration.)
- **After School Program*** (weekdays, 2 - 6 p.m.): Bill Sadowski Park (17555 SW 79 Ave., Palmetto Bay) offers a unique after school program for kids (grades 2-5) in a creative natural environment. The program consists of homework assistance, active games, quiet games, and arts and crafts. Registration is required and school pick up is available from most schools, so call 305-255-4767 or visit <http://miamidade.gov/wps/Events/EventDetail.jsp?eventID=80309>.

Tuesday, April 21:

- **"Read to Children"** (1- 2 p.m.): In recognition of National Library Week and Palmetto Bay's Earth Week, Mayor Eugene Flinn and Councilwoman Shelley Stanczyk each will read an environmentally-themed book to children at the Coral Reef Branch Library (9211 SW 152 St.).

Wednesday, April 22

- **Lady Bug Release** (part 1): A total of 9,000 lady bugs will be set free on this day by area students, as they learn about the environmental importance of lady bugs as nature's own brand of pesticide. After all, they eat plant-killing aphids and so are quite beneficial to garden plants. Members of the Village Council will join Mayor Flinn in releasing 3,000 live Lady Bugs at each

of the following locations: 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Perrine Elementary School (8851 SW 168 St.); 10 - 11 a.m. at Winhold Montessori School (17555 S Dixie Hwy); and 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. at Coral Reef Elementary (7955 SW 152 St.).

- **Environmentally Themed Discussion** (6 p.m.): At Palmetto Bay's Committee of the Whole meeting, Village staff will discuss aspects of environmental conservation and announce details of an exciting new recycling program at Village facilities. Meeting to be held at the new community Room at the Palmetto Bay Branch Library and Community Room at Ludovici Park.

Thursday, April 23

- **Lady Bug Release** (part 2): A total of 6,000 more lady bugs will be set free on this day as the Mayor and Council again converge on local schools: 9 -10 a.m. at Howard Drive Elementary School (7750 SW 136th St.); and 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. at Alexander Montessori School (17555 S Dixie Hwy).
- **"Read to Children"** (1- 2 p.m.): In recognition of National Library Week and Palmetto Bay Earth Week, Vice Mayor Brian W. Pariser and Councilman Howard J. Tendrich each will read an environmentally-themed book to kids at the Coral Reef Branch Library (9211 SW 152 Dr.).

Friday, April 24

- **Movie Night** (Presentation at 7:30 p.m.; movie at 8 p.m.): Bring your own popcorn and blanket for a showing of "Bee Movie" (<http://www.palmettobay-fl.gov/pdfs/Parks%20-%20Rec/BeeMoviePoster.pdf>) at Coral Reef Park (7895 SW 152 St.). Bee-fore the 90-minute film starts, meet "Willie the Bee Man," who gained recent notoriety for removing a 75-lb bee hive from a nearby home (for more on Willie: <http://williethethebeeman.com/>). A former Miami-Dade kindergarten teacher, Willie is now a bee removal specialist who also speaks extensively on the importance of bees to the environment. Look for Willie in a funny yellow and black outfit, with an interesting "point" of view.

Saturday April 25

- **Neighborhood Bike Ride** (Registration at 8 a.m.): If you haven't been on your bike in a while, now's the time to dust it off and join us on a morning ride to enjoy the natural surroundings of the Old Cutler Road bike path and Palmetto Bay's Deering Estate. Registration at the Deering Visitor Center begins at 8 a.m., followed by a safety talk and official welcome by Mayor Flinn. At 9 a.m., we will head out under the direction of a the Palmetto Bay Policing Unit Bike Patrol and Eric Tullberg, resident and long-time enthusiast, to enjoy a one-hour family bike ride. We will pass by the Ludlam Pine Rocklands, Deering's Chinese Bridge, and take in the natural beauty of this area of our Village. Please see the Village website for a map: www.palmettobay-fl.gov. Note: a short portion of the ride is along a gravel road through Deering.

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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.