

BRICKELL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

NEWS

VOL. XVI NO. 2 • NEWSLETTER OF THE BRICKELL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. • SUMMER 2006

BRICKELL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION is comprised of condominium association members and associate members representing some 16,000 residents along the Brickell corridor and on Brickell Key from the Miami River to the Rickenbacker Causeway. The purpose of BHA is to communicate common interests more effectively and mobilize support on important issues relating to the quality of life in our neighborhood.

www.brickellhomeowners.com



VOTING LOCATIONS

Precinct 541

**Miami Fire Station #4,
1105 SW 2nd Ave.**

Precincts 569 & 995

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
1770 Brickell Ave.**

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CANDIDATES FORUM 2006

Commission Candidates Vie for Brickell, Roads Support

The four contenders for City of Miami Commissioner of District 2 addressed residents and members of the business and professional community of the Brickell, Roads and South Miami Avenue neighborhoods at the 17th Annual Candidates Forum. Each had differing views on how to correct the City's ills.

The near-capacity crowd in the Miami Museum of Science auditorium had more questions than time would

allow for those running for the seat formerly held by Johnny Winton. Facing legal troubles, Commissioner Winton was removed from office by Gov. Jeb Bush and his replacement named a few months ago. Mayor Manny Diaz and the City Commission appointed **Linda Haskins**, the City's Finance Director at the time, to the Commission seat, but she must now run in the General Election Nov. 7.

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Long-Awaited Brickell Ave. Streetscape Project Begins

Residents to see lighting, crosswalks and pavement improvements

The installation of the City of Miami sign at 25th Road and Brickell announcing the project was cause for celebration for BHA volunteers who have been pushing for the Streetscape Improvement plan for Brickell Avenue for six years. An email from the City's Department of Capital Improvements in early summer announcing the commencement of lighting installation was another joyful indicator of progress, taking neighbors one more step closer to a grand vision for our Brickell Avenue.

A BHA Task Force began studying streetscape improvements in 2000, and hired the architectural and landscape design firm, Wallace Roberts & Todd. The firm created a design plan that residents embraced, and that our essential partner in this effort, the City of Miami, also liked.



BHA President Tory Jacobs with the sign announcing the Streetscape project.

Continued on page 6

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Investment opportunities come and go, and

these days, it is hard to predict the financial success of many investment vehicles. Real Estate continues to outperform any long-term investment. Today is still a great time to consider buying your next investment property.

Ask about your free Market-Analysis. This analysis will indicate the likely sales/ buying price that you could expect to receive or pay for a property in today's marketplace. This service is provided to all our clients, courtesy of Brickell Investment Realty.

We are located in lobby of the Four Ambassadors. Our hours are Monday thru Saturday 9-6 and Sunday by appointment!



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Estamos en el lobby del Four Ambassadors. Abrimos de lunes a viernes de 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM y los domingos con previa cita. Servicio al cliente personalizado.

Dan Burdak
A Bristol Tower Resident





Bumps in the Road

The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce has created a new committee, the Downtown Traffic Task Force. As its name suggests, the Task Force will be addressing downtown traffic problems, but with a couple of meaningful differences from the many preceding similarly-named and intended study groups.

First, the not inconsiderable influence of the Chamber is committed to support Task Force initia-

tives. Second, the Task Force will approach the well-documented subject with recognition of the nexus of traffic to worker housing availability, parking availability and pricing. Further, the Task Force will recognize the common denominator of all the possible solutions to traffic problems, affordable housing and parking: *money*. Who is going to pay for what? Where is the money coming from?

Many of our area's traffic-relat-

ed problems can be ameliorated **without** committing public funds:

Construction Sprawl

The City is too generous in permitting contractors to usurp the public rights of way, sidewalks and streets, forcing pedestrians out onto the streets. We should require covered walkways alongside con-

Continued on next page

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INFINITY AT BRICKELL

struction sites and construction staging within the site, typical of major cities. Current constructions sites in the Central Business District, Performing Arts Center and Brickell area are major contributors to traffic delays.

Zoning

The proposed *Miami 21* provisions need to be examined, mindful of how these new guidelines allow for on-street and off-street parking and truck loading and unloading.

FDOT vs. the City of Miami

Who should control Miami's major urban thoroughfares, Brickell Avenue and Biscayne Boulevard? Should these city streets—where pedestrian activity is supposedly encouraged—be governed as if they were U.S. 1, a federal highway controlled by mandates of the Federal

Highway Commission, as interpreted by FDOT?

Double Parking by Trucks, Loading and Unloading, Blocking Traffic Lanes

Eliminate metered parking in designated areas so that trucks can get to curbs. Eliminate daytime deliveries, especially by large rigs. Require nighttime deliveries. Prohibit big rigs downtown during daylight hours, forcing truckers to use much smaller vehicles for daytime, downtown deliveries. Be sure that that all new projects that may require servicing by large trucks be designed and constructed with off-street loading docks.

Signage & Signalization

Everyone who drives the streets of Miami-Dade, not just in our area, has been anxiously awaiting the County's much needed traffic signal system upgrade that is said to be able to intelligently improve signalization and traffic flow. We're ready for that improvement, and ripe for many more. Significant opportunities are available with high returns on investment in these areas.

Traffic Officers on the Street, on Their Feet

Not cheap, but worth thorough evaluation, are the benefits of having traffic officers on duty (on foot, not in cars) at construction sites, major intersections and covering entertainment and sporting events.

Worker Parking & Public Transit

The considerable daily inflow of workers to downtown offices, hotels, restaurants, stores, etc. needs a reliable, complete public transit system, supported by circulatory busses/jitneys and accessible and affordable parking.

Monitoring the Progress of Public Construction Projects

Recognizing that construction disruption is a necessary price of improvement, it is, unfortunately, necessary to monitor the City, County and State (FDOT) tracking of each project's progress. Too often, projects are let, then sit or progress intermittently, thereby disrupting traffic flow for longer than necessary or originally intended.

Most of the above line items do not call for major commitment of public funds, yet offer opportunities to effect traffic flow improvements. Let's wish the Chamber's new Task Force well. Let's hope that it doesn't turn out to follow in the shallow footsteps of so many earlier committees that have meant well, but not been able to overcome the bumps in the road. •



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BHA News is published by the Brickell Homeowners Association to keep neighbors, public officials and others in the community informed of the activities and concerns of its residents.

Advertising is accepted on a space-available basis, and BHA reserves the right to accept or reject all advertising. For advertising information or other details, see the BHA Web site or write to Communications Director, Natalie Brown, nbrown@brickellhomeowners.com Editorial material and suggestions are also welcome for consideration.

Hurricane Preparedness for Brickell

After last year's experiences with Katrina and Wilma, hurricanes have been at the top of the agenda for everyone in South Florida for many months. Brickell is included in the top-of-mind crowd, having seen blown-out glass panels on buildings we all assumed could withstand high winds, among other destruction in our neighborhood.

Property managers for BHA condo associations and NET Administrators Eddie Padilla and Liza Walton met in spring to discuss how to best inform and help residents in their preparation efforts, and ways that the Brickell condominium associations might collaborate in preparations, communications and supplies. The key message of government is that residents should have 72 hours worth

of supplies and preparation on their own, without needing governmental assistance. The slogan is, "For 72, help us, help you."

The Brickell Area Association has also been addressing the topic and has pulled together information and resources of particular interest for Brickell businesses and residents. (www.brickellarea.com)

Construction sites are a big concern during storm season, blamed by many for a lot of the glass pane destruction last year in the Brickell area. If hurricane warning conditions have been issued, construction debris at construction sites is supposed to be secured. If residents see a situation where that is not the case, two entities should be notified, the BAA advises. Both the City of Miami and OSHA

should be notified:

City of Miami,
Dept. of Bldg./Unsafe Structures
Attn. Cedric Mar
444 SW 2nd Avenue, 4th Floor
Miami, FL 33130
Tel: 305-416-1191
Fax: 305-416-2168

OSHA's toll-free number for reporting imminent, life-threatening situations is 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

Brickell Shelter

Residents countywide are advised that the shelters operated by the County and Red Cross, also called "evacuation centers," are the option of last resort if officials order or advise evacuation. Try to stay at the home of family or

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The plan, as originally conceived, includes decorative lighting along the sidewalks, monuments with small fountains that mark the Brickell neighborhood at 15th and 25th Roads, and pedestrian crosswalks marked with special pavers. FPL is committed to restoring the medians after they remove the light poles.

Work for the installation of the decorative lighting began earlier this summer. Underground directional boring work was first, next will be installation of the pre-cast concrete foundations for the light poles and the electrical pull boxes. Construction for crosswalks, monuments and fountains will follow the lighting work.

The project, which had been given the nod and promise of funding support by the City back in fall 2003, was supposed to begin in early 2006 and be completed by the holidays. The latest word from the City, however, is that completion isn't expected until the first half of 2007, due to the late start up this year. Weather and hurricanes could bring about further delays, although Jose Gonzalez, Assistant Transportation Coordinator for the City of Miami, reports that the project is moving ahead well.

“The lighting work is moving forward at a good pace with only minor delays that do not substan-

tially impact the projected schedule for completion,” he reported to BHA in email in late July.

If it seems slow going, it's important to realize the contractor's work hours for this project are limited by its Florida Department of Transportation-issued permit. Work is only permitted during non-peak, daytime hours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., a six-hour window during which the daily “maintenance of traffic” set up and take-down must also occur.

BHA is pressing the City to stay on top of its contractors and this project, so that construction disruption for residents is minimized. When the crosswalk construction and paving takes place, one lane of traffic at a time in each direction will be closed. BHA will be informed of those dates in advance,

Continued on next page



Orange plastic netting and holes await decorative lighting that will line Brickell Avenue as part of the Streetscape plan. The lightpole foundations await installation under the overpass by 26th Road.

Brickell Business Spotlight

The Sports Club/LA Miami, located in the heart of BHA territory in the Four Seasons Hotel at 1441 Brickell Avenue, is fitness central for its members and corporate partner for many community organizations. Not only does the club offer high-tech equipment and state-of-the-art fitness programs for those looking for buff bodies, it also participates with community groups who help those in need in Miami.

“We like to work with community groups who hold their fundraisers here,” General Manager Susan Devine explained. “And our members love it and participate...it's something special added for them, and they've come to expect a variety of parties.”

One Friday evening in August, the club opened its lovely expanded lobby area for Kristi House, a nonprofit that helps children who are sexually abused. The fundraiser attracted 300 people from the club and the Brickell neighborhood and was a success for both Kristi House and the club in raising awareness for both.

Special Offer for BHA

To encourage more Brickell residents to learn about the 45,000-square-foot fitness center, a special offer was created for Brickell residents, as described on the colorful insert to this newsletter. The offer has been extended through September 2006, to be sure everyone has time to take advantage as the summer winds down and the season begins. Thanks, Sports Club/LA! •

Mr. Gonzalez promises. (BHA posts traffic and neighborhood advisories on its web calendar: www.brickell-homeowners.com.)

"The City understands the long-standing desires of the community to see this project constructed, and please be assured that we are monitoring the progress of this project very closely via our industry partner, HDR, providing the project management oversight services. In addition, GBF Engineering has been engaged by the City to provide construction management oversight and inspection services on this project," Mr. Gonzalez said.

BHA congratulates the volunteers who worked on this project over the years, and Task Force Chair Paul Lewin, still a Brickell resident but avowed retired volunteer. •

Let us hear from you...



President: Tory Jacobs
tsjacobs@bellsouth.net

Communications Director:
Natalie Brown
nbrown@brickellhomeowners.com

"Hurricanes" continued from page 5

friends, we have so often heard, as the shelters are not designed for comfort, and they don't allow pets.

But, if in need, there is a shelter nearby for Brickell area residents. It's at Booker T. Washington Senior High School at 1200 NW 6th Avenue, and is accessible for people with disabilities. Residents are advised to monitor TV and radio, or to call 311, for information on shelters open, and related hurricane news in the event of a storm.

Transportation for evacuation for Brickell residents going to the shelter would occur in front of the UTD Towers, 1809 Brickell Avenue. Our area is in Evacuation Zone B.

Safe Harbor for Your Car

If you park in a garage that's apt to flood in the event of a storm, there's a program that opens commercial garages to residents who are pre-registered for the program to safely store their vehicle(s) during a storm. Operated by the Miami Parking Authority, program enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis, and is free to residents. You can register online at www.miamiparking.com/mvp or at a NET Office. For more information, call (305) 373-6789 x225.

For more hurricane preparedness information see links on www.brickellhomeowners.com. •



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Ms. Haskins cited her financial



Linda Haskins

background in the private as well as public sector as among her top qualifications for the job. She said she is experienced at turning around flailing companies and “the City needs to turn around.”

“The problem with the City, Ms. Haskins said, “is there is not much organization...for anything. First and foremost, we have to get our operations in order.”

Frank Rollason, who has been a City of Miami employee since 1966 when he began as a firefighter, said that



Frank Rollason

he has held various posts with the City as administrators assigned him to troubled areas. He worked coordinating the Hurricane Andrew aftermath, has worked in risk management, on the group benefits plan, with the general services administration and is currently heading up the beleagued Overtown Community Redevelopment Agency, which he said has turned the corner. “Throughout my career I have been sent by people to put out fires.”

And, on the fire topic, Mr. Rollason vowed to end the controversial Fire Rescue Fee which was enacted five years ago: “I’ll get your money back and kill the fire fee that was supposed to last only

five years. That time is over,” Mr. Rollason said.



Marc David Sarnoff

15 years and butting heads with the City of Miami for 10 years. It shouldn’t be,” he said, “that residents have to fight their City to get what they need. I have had to fight the City on some inane issues.”



Maria “Betty” Gutierrez

committed to “gaining more greenspace” for the residents of Miami if elected. She also said consideration of the scale of development projects and their impact on neighborhoods had to be better addressed city-wide.

Marc David Sarnoff, a Coconut Grove resident for 20 years, said he has been a volunteer activist for

15 years and butting heads with the City of Miami for 10 years. It shouldn’t be,” he said, “that residents have to fight their City to get what they need. I have had to fight the City on some inane issues.”

Maria “Betty” Gutierrez said that greenspace and parks are of critical importance, and she would be committed to “gaining more greenspace” for the residents of Miami if elected. She also said consideration of the scale of development projects and their impact on neighborhoods had to be better addressed city-wide.

Another race of interest at the Forum was the race for the District 107 seat in the Florida House of Representatives, now occupied by term-limited **Gus Barreiro**. The primary election for this race is Sept. 5.

Five Republicans are vying for the seat with **Robert Fernandez**, **Eric Padron** and **Xavier Suarez** in attendance at the Forum. The one Democrat running, **Luis Garcia**, was also present for the evening. Two of the contenders are BHA residents. Xavier Suarez, who has served in public office for the City in the past, and Eric Padron, a Miami-Dade prosecutor, are both Brickell neighbors.

In both contests, Miami’s development boom, and the lack of control, oversight and equity perceived by many, was the hot topic of many of the audience’s questions. The City’s highly touted *Miami 21* plan did not receive high praise from any of the candidates. A building moratorium was endorsed by a few.

“If the municipalities don’t rein in some of this out-of-control development, then we’ll legislate it [in Tallahassee],” Xavier Suarez said.

Luis Garcia said it’s simple: “Everyone wants to live in the State of Florida, but everyone can’t. It’s not for everyone. We have to control our growth.” •



BHA extends its thanks to Forum partners: Brickell Area Association, Miami-Roads Neighborhood Civic Association, South Miami Avenue Homeowners Association and our host, Miami Museum of Science.

House of Representatives candidate Eric Padron addresses the Candidates Forum audience with Grace Solares, President of Miami-Roads Neighborhood Civic Association, listening, along with candidates Robert Fernandez, Luis Garcia and Xavier Suarez.

Important Community Contact Numbers

Coral Way NET

Administrator Liza Walton
(305) 329-4750
lwalton@ci.miami.fl.us

Downtown NET

Administrator Eddie Padilla
(305) 579-6007
hpadilla@ci.miami.fl.us

City of Miami Police

Officer Jeffrey Giordano
(305) 710-5222
Commander Ron Papier

Miami-Dade County Commissioner

District 7: Carlos A. Gimenez
(305) 375-5680
District7@miamidade.gov

Miami-Dade County Commissioner

District 5: Bruno Barreiro
(305) 643-8525
District5@miamidade.gov

City of Miami Commissioner

District 2: Linda Haskins
(305) 250-5333
jwinton@ci.miami.fl.us

Miami-Dade Public Schools

Board Rep District 3: Dr. Martin Karp
(305) 995-1334
martinkarp@dadeschools.net

Florida Senate

District 39: Senator Larcenia J. Bullard
Tallahassee (850) 487-5127
Miami District Office (305) 668-7344
bullard.larcenia.web@flsenate.gov

Florida Senate

District 35: Senator Gwen Margolis
Tallahassee (850) 487-5121
Miami District Office (305) 993-3632
margolis.gwen.web@flsenate.gov

Florida House of Representatives

District 107: Rep. Gustavo Barreiro
Tallahassee (850) 488-9930
Miami (305) 643-7324

U.S. House of Representatives

District 18: Congresswoman
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
D.C. (202) 225-3931
Miami (305) 275-1800

U.S. Senate

Senator Bill Nelson
D.C. (202) 224-5274
Coral Gables Office (305) 536-5999

Senator Mel Martinez

(202) 224-3041
Orlando (407) 254-2573
mel_martinez@martinez.senate.gov



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Action Sought on Unsightly News Racks, Doggie Do

BHA passed a Resolution in May asking the City of Miami to examine their news rack program that has produced more consolidated clutter than convenient news outlets. The Resolution (on the opposite page) relays the objections BHA heard from many residents, and requests action by the City to remedy the situation.

The multi-slot, modular news-racks, when the concept was first presented over a year ago, were supposed to reduce the clutter, but many have questioned the nature of the material going in there. It's all free advertising flyers, not real for-purchase news media that residents would be interested in. Plus, the boxes, which anyone can open, collect trash. The residents especially object to the advertising "billboards" on the backsides of these large boxes, which obstruct the sidewalk as well as the aesthetic values of the neighborhood.

Staffers from the City of Miami Public Works Department were planning to meet with the advertising vendor to review the program. BHA is awaiting word from the City. •

Leading Complaint Gets Action

After traffic, dog poop — and the owners who don't bother to pick it up — are at the top of the list of residents' complaints heard via email, at meetings and one-on-one in not-so-polite conversation. Walkers, joggers and other users of sidewalks and public right of ways have been increasingly irritated by the foul packages left behind by residents and their dogs. The topic has become a major bone of contention as the area's residential population booms, matched only by their accompanying favorite pet species.

There is a City of Miami ordinance, albeit seldom enforced, requiring dog owners to pick up after their canine friends. Many believe education is key to changing people's attitudes and understanding about their obligation concerning their dogs' deposits.

NET Administrator Liza Walton has had signs installed on Brickell Avenue advising residents

of the ordinance and possible fine for violators. BHA will continue to monitor the progress in this area and looks forward to hearing whether residents think the signs are helping. •

Reporting Construction Noise, Code Violations

Residents are asked to use the following contact information for noise and other suspected violations relating to construction.

- Mondays through Friday, Between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. — Call Code Enforcement at (305) 329-4770.
- Holidays & Mondays through Friday Before 8 a.m./ After 6 p.m. — Call Police (305) 579-6111 to request a marked unit to come to the scene.
- Saturdays before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. and Sundays All Day — Call Police (305) 579-6111

If you feel you are not getting adequate response, please call NET Resource Officer Jeffrey Giordano at (305) 710-5222. •

Airplane Noise Abatement Task Force Recognized

The Airplane Noise Abatement Task Force was recognized by the City of Miami for their many years of volunteer service. The group of citizens, community organizations and public officials has worked to convince airlines, pilots and the Federal Aviation Administration to implement an airplane noise abatement program in Miami-Dade.

At the urging of Commissioner Regalado, the Task Force's work over the years was proclaimed at City Hall one day in July. President Tory Jacobs,



standing between Mayor Manny Diaz and Commissioner Joe Sanchez, and Ron Smith, BHA Deputy General Counsel, on the other side of Commissioner Sanchez, were recognized for their service on behalf of BHA. •



RESOLUTION

The following Resolution has been duly adopted by the Brickell Homeowners Association on May 17, 2006.

WHEREAS, members of the Brickell Homeowners Association seek to maintain a residential, non-commercial ambiance in their neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Brickell area are strong supporters of our Constitutional Right of Freedom of the Press and Freedom of Speech; and

WHEREAS, all of the newspapers and other publications with newsworthy and/or opinion content are readily available in many locations throughout the Brickell Area; and

WHEREAS, the modular, multiple-box newsstands that the City of Miami's outdoor advertising vendor installed in the past year are unsightly, contain predominantly free, undesirable advertising flyers and ephemera that are not news sources or sources of political comment; as they are free to anyone, with the easy access and disposability, attract the curious pedestrian or person waiting for public transportation, with nothing better to read for the moment, who then create clutter and trash; and

WHEREAS, the new newsstand system was supposed to reduce the visual clutter of multiple publication boxes and offer up newspapers and periodicals with newsworthy content, to area residents, who would want to purchase and/or read in a convenient location; and

WHEREAS, the large advertising panel created on the back side of these boxes is a visual blight to our neighborhood and totally commercializes what is otherwise a residential zone where light pole banners, billboards and the like are otherwise not allowed; and

WHEREAS, the continued maintenance of such modular newsstands cause a form of both visual and trash paper pollution to occur in the neighborhood, thereby reducing the value of the properties located within the neighborhood, and therefore reducing the value of the properties and consequently their assessed valuation on the tax rolls and the income derived therefrom to the City by ad valorem taxation.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the BHA voices its strong objections to the City of Miami to the current newsstands and the eyesore and pollution they create on Brickell Avenue and asks that the City find alternatives and a plan and protocols for the future be established with BHA input.

WITNESS OUR HANDS and seal of the Brickell Homeowners Association, this 17 day of May 2006.

BRICKELL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

T. Sinclair Jacobs, President Date 05/17/06

Joe Diaz, Secretary Date 05/17/06

Safeguarding Brickell residential neighborhood

Brickell 25 Building
145 SE 25th Road, Suite 1002
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Phone: (305) 858-9699
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tjacobs@jacobsmith.net
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