

# SKY HIGH NEWS

The Sky Lake-Highland Lakes Area Homeowners Association Newsletter

## 2017

[www.skyhighhomes.com](http://www.skyhighhomes.com)

### OUR MISSION

To serve as the collective voice for the Sky Lake - Highland Lakes area neighborhoods and to promote an exceptional quality of life for our community through advocacy and involvement.

### OUR VISION & OBJECTIVE

Through an engaged, interactive and vibrant community, we intend to enhance security, safety, infrastructure, commercial development, traffic, schools, beautification and other areas with a three-step process:

- **Communicate:** Hold gatherings and discussions open to all residents to identify issues of critical concern.
- **Educate:** Obtain, share and disseminate accurate information to fully understand these issues and potential impact.
- **Advocate:** Bring forward our issues to our county and state officials for action.

Please contact us if you are interested in attending or hosting an informal gathering in your neighborhood to discuss how we can best address these issues, at [skylakehighlandlakeshoa@gmail.com](mailto:skylakehighlandlakeshoa@gmail.com)

### OUR COMMUNITY

We represent residents who live between North Miami Beach (including Sky Lake) to the South, Hallandale Beach to the North, Aventura to the East and I-95 to the West.

## President's Message

Our HOA has had another busy year. It's been my first year as President, and supported by a strong Board of Directors, we have been able to work on a wide array of issues. My view of our HOA is that it serves to improve our collective quality of life.

The most important message I'd like to convey is that it truly does take a village to address so many concerns, and we welcome everyone's help in the form of committee participation and volunteerism.

Below are short updates on some key areas:

**Membership:** Our HOA is voluntary, but the more members we have, the more clout we carry when liaising with government entities. The annual dues are \$30, and can be paid online via <http://www.skyhighhomes.com/membership-account>.

**Communication:** When you become a member, you're added to our email list, which we use a few times a year to pass along important information. We also utilize NextDoor.com to pass information. In addition we hold three general members meetings annually, as well as several Board of Director meetings that are open

to general members to attend.

**Government Liaison:** The HOA Board maintains regular contact with various government entities. Our most regular coordination is with County Commissioner Sally Heyman's office, our local county Police sub-station, the county's Special Taxing District Office, which now includes the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces

Department, Miami-Dade Department of Transportation and Public Works, and Florida's Department of Transportation. As other issues arise, the HOA Board will work with various

other local and state entities as well.

**Krop iPrep:** As many residents are aware, the county had a plan to build a Krop High School iPrep Annex on the grounds of the Highland Oaks Middle School. The HOA's efforts contributed to the Annex being built on the high school grounds.

**Security:** Crime in our area has been cyclical. The HOA maintains a healthy relationship with the County Police Substation that covers our neighborhoods. There is a robust system to track statistics via [crime-mapping.com](http://crime-mapping.com). Our best advice is to keep



your cars locked at night and make sure your homes are well-lit. If you see anything suspicious at all, please notify the police on their non-emergency line - 305-4-POLICE.

FDOT: The Florida Department of Transportation has plans to re-configure the Ives Dairy-US1/Biscayne intersection, to raise the west-bound traffic above the railroad tracks to accommodate an expected 100 trains a day (comprised of cargo, All Aboard Florida/Brightline, and a commuter train service that will have a station between Ives Dairy and Miami Gardens Dr.). The state's original plan had a loop that would mean the elimination of up to 25 businesses along West Dixie Highway just north of Ives Dairy. We have worked in close



coordination with County Commissioner Heyman and State Senator Watson and their staffs to push for a less intrusive design while maintaining our ability to reach our neighborhood via NE 26th Ave. The State has come back with a revised plan - it is somewhat better but not what we were hoping for. However, it does seem it's the best we're going to get. The revised plan still calls for a loop, but is less intrusive and does not eliminate as many businesses. We expect to receive a briefing from the state for the community shortly.

Development: As everyone is no doubt aware, development continues along the West Dixie Corridor between Ives Dairy and Miami Gardens Drive. While we have expressed our concerns regarding traffic and zoning to county officials, we have been told there is not much that we can do to stop the projects or prevent others from being approved. For residents who are interested in becoming involved on this issue, we are starting up a Development Committee which will coordinate citizen impact such as appearing before the county commission and zoning board to address zoning variances and traffic patterns.

Special Taxing Districts (STDs): We have been working closely with the county's STD office to ensure costs are controlled while improvement requests are met. We are in communication with the county regarding improvements to the guard houses and replacing the signs, amongst other items. As an information item, during the recent elections, a county proposition passed allowing municipalities that have incorporated to take over control of STDs, meaning areas that are their own cities can control the administration of their security gates, instead of the county. The HOA is also interested in

looking at ways to beautify the various STD boundaries, and we have heard from State Senator Watson's office that her office is exploring options for a sound retainer wall along both sides of Ives Dairy Rd.

Incorporation: The Board has de-

ecided to play an educational role to-date. At two county public hearings of the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC), the HOA voiced its recommendation for an election to take place. The MAC has since voted to recommend an election, and we expect that to happen in the Spring.

There are many other areas that the HOA has addressed, and you can read about them in other articles in this Newsletter.

Our annual General Members Meeting and Board Elections are Feb 1 at 7pm, at the Highland Oaks Park community building, just east of the Middle School (our calendar can be viewed and subscribed to via [www.skyhighhomes.com/calendar](http://www.skyhighhomes.com/calendar)).

I consider it an honor to serve the community and I look forward to hearing from anyone that would like to help make a difference!

Marc Hurwitz  
President,  
Sky Lake - Highland Lakes Area HOA  
[SkyLakeHighlandLakesHOA@gmail.com](mailto:SkyLakeHighlandLakesHOA@gmail.com)



## HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

This year our Home Owners Association partnered with the Intracoastal Miami-Dade County Police Department for a holiday toy drive. These toys helped make the holiday season a much happier one for children in our MDPD district.

The toy drive started out very slowly, but we wound up donating a significant amount of toys. Thank you, neighbors, for your response.

We would like to give a special thank you to an anonymous donor of a large cash donation, Krop Senior High School students, Kent Security for allowing the guard gates to be drop off points, Chabad Chayil for promoting the drive in their weekly bulletin, Isaac Bendrao owner of Learning Express, Bill Clayton, Ben Lechner and Jacky Needelman who picked up donations from the guard gates and to the Officers and Board of Directors of our HOA for their support and donations.

Neighbors, you really made a BIG difference in the lives of underprivileged children in our district. A great big thank you for your generosity!

Sincerely,

Trudy Lechner  
HOA Member, Board of Directors

## Improvements Continue for Infrastructure, Traffic & Code Enforcement

By: David Miller & Bill Clayton - HOA Vice Presidents and Co-Chairs for Infrastructure, Traffic & Code Enforcement

From chasing alligators out of the park to struggling against the threat of a massive Ives Dairy Road “jug handle” towering over our neighborhoods, it has been an adventurous year for the Infrastructure Committee.

The Committee reached out early in the year to management in the Miami-Dade County Parks Department to seek repairs and improvements. The Committee hoped to establish relationships that could lead to gradual progress. Instead, the Department sent several top managers to meet with us and walk the Park. Before we could ask, they had identified a whole program of projects and committed time and money to accomplishing them. Almost all are now done and the others are slated for completion this fiscal year.

Park enhancements include: resurfacing cracked and sunken parts of the asphalt trails; repairing, replacing and adding benches; painting and repairing Park buildings; some trimming and clearing of invasive species in edge areas; and review of the maintenance and possible uses of the natural mitigation areas east and north of the ball fields. We regarded it to be a major coup when County Public Works allowed Parks to take control of the blocked off and disused end of Northeast 24th Avenue between the Park and Virginia A. Boone-Highland Oaks Elementary. This area of mud and broken asphalt will be greened and planted with grass, trees, and shrubs.

Late in 2016, the County Public Works Department constructed drainage improvements in the swales along the northeastern corner of the Park. The projects installed water-permeable pavers that provide a hard parking surface that still permits flow-through of rain and runoff. This work will eliminate the rutted mires that appeared every time it rained.

A highlight of neighborhood involvement and service from Parks and Florida Fish and Wildlife came when an alligator estimated at 9 to 10 feet was photographed within feet of the playground in the Park. Parks reacted within 15 minutes of being notified and the alligator was captured and relocated within two days.

The Committee and the Board and many concerned neighbors showed up in force at meetings on the Florida Department of Transportation’s plans to build a huge looping “jug handle” flyover to carry westbound traffic on Ives Dairy Road over the railroad tracks at Biscayne Boulevard. The flyover would loom over eastern streets in Highland Lakes and destroy businesses on part of West Dixie Highway. Our concerns have gotten the attention of some state elected and appointed officials. This battle is ongoing.

Our periodic “code drives,” in which Board members drive the neighborhoods north and south of Ives Dairy to identify



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major code violations have born fruit. Early in the year, an abandoned and derelict house in Sky Lake was cleared. The most recent drive turned up very few and only minor issues, a welcome development.

After years of discussions, we finally determined that traffic-calming devices such as speed bumps would be impossible to install in Highland Lakes because of engineering and county regulatory requirements that cannot be met.

We did obtain a commitment from the county officials who oversee special taxing districts, of which there are several in our Association area, to be more transparent and forthcoming in how revenue is used and for what. The security districts for Highland Lakes and Highland Gardens received commitments for improvements to the guard houses and surrounding areas. Some work has been completed and more on the way.



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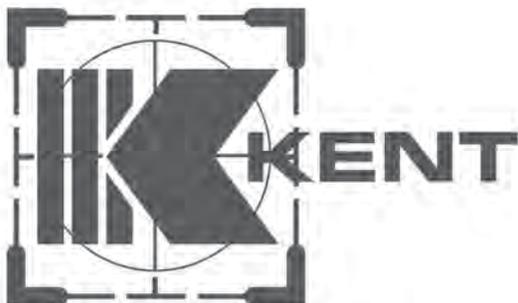


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# SCHOOL UPDATE

## Aventura Waterways K-8 Center

By: Mr. Luis Bello, Principal & Ms. Ileana Robles, Assistant Principal

There is much to offer at Aventura Waterways K-8 Center. We currently have 68 students enrolled in our International Finance Academy (IFA). In June of 2017, our inaugural class of students will complete the three year program. Students engage in a course of study that combines economics, personal and business finances, marketing, globalization, and international trade. The goal of our academy is to create young entrepreneurial minded leaders/students with a strong foundation to advance their studies in high school and beyond. Additionally, we attempt to give our students real world experiences and extracurricular activities beyond our localized classroom instruction.

For example, we have gone on field trips to Chicago and San Francisco where our students have been given individualized learning seminars from industry leaders such

as Whole Foods, and eBay, respectively. We also been given a behind the scenes look at the marketing programs at Wrigley Field and AT&T Park. We also have a championship caliber Model United Nations program that IFA students participate in. Our IFA students have won many Best Delegate awards, including awards at the Global Classrooms International Middle School Conference in NY City, which we participate in every year. In fact, last year students took home awards on the International Labor Organization and the Security Council. IFA students have been instrumental in our team winning overall Best Delegation at our district wide competition, sponsored by the Foundations for Leadership organization.

Another highlight of our program is the Florida Council on Economic Education Stock Market Challenge. In the challenge,

which we participate in each semester, students engage in a real time simulation where they invest a \$100,000 portfolio. Students compete with high school and middle school students from across the state to gain the most value in a \$100,000 portfolio over a 10 week period. I'm proud to say that our IFA students have won numerous regional awards and we currently have one student who is 4th place in the state with a 7.95% return after only two weeks.

Finally, a couple of our current short term goals are to establish our students in the Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA) program and to add a certification in Microsoft Office component to our program, while we explore the possibilities to partner with local business and civic leaders/programs in our community.

## HIGHLAND OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL

By: Principal Cheryl Kushi

The school year 2016-2017, has been the best school year so far! We had another wonderful opening of school in August and continue to promote the District's campaign of Values Matter, as well as, our own Manners Matter campaign here at school. By the end of the first few weeks of school, our clubs and sports programs were underway and quite successful. Our Soccer teams, both girls and boys, came back with district trophies, our cross country team came back with medals. Our swim team and volleyball teams are currently being very successful with their seasons too. Our students are participating in many after school clubs and sports and are doing amazing things here at HOM. We have a coding club, robotics club, art club, drama club, chess club, aikido club, music club, SECME club, 5000 Role Models, and more. Our students and staff are working hard in class and at home as evident by 344 students making the honor roll for the first nine weeks of school and over 300 students at HOM take one or more high school credit courses.

We have participated in many field trips and are looking forward to some upcoming trips to Key West, the Broward IMAX Museum of Science, and Skate-Wheels in December. Our school has been selected as a STEAM school where we will strive to incorporate and infuse, with the help of community partners and district support Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Music (STEAM) at HOM.

We are looking forward to an exciting year in 2017. We will be getting ready for testing in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies classes, as we take this year's Florida State Assessments (FSA) and End of Course Exams (EOC) beginning in February through May. Our students will be gearing up to take end of the year trips as well to Orlando and Chicago. In addition to the numerous activities and events, our school has participated in giving back to those in need in our community such as collecting socks for the homeless and making Thanksgiving baskets for families in need in

our community. For the month of December, we are collecting toys for Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, toiletries and supplies for our local homeless shelter and domestic abuse shelter, and pet supplies for the Humane Society. We are also participating in the district H.O.P.E. contest to raise awareness for the Humane Society. Our school, with the support of our PTSA, has a food pantry that is stocked with canned goods, dry goods, and refrigerated goods for those who are in need in our community. We take donations daily to keep this initiative going. In addition, we are collecting gently used jackets and sweaters for the winter months and we partner with Lauren's Kids as we collect clothing for those children in great need in our community. At Highland Oaks Middle School, we are diligently striving to not only reach and teach students in academics but also grow their hearts. This year our theme is "Dream Big!" We love to partner with our families and communities so please stop by or write us an email to see how we can make our students and community a wonderful place to be!

# Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School

By: Dr. Allison Harley, Principal

This year (2016-2017) is going to be another amazing year for Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High School (MKHS) as we continue to offer a world class education right in your back yard. At Krop High School our students have the opportunity to participate in 25 Advanced Placement courses, several dual enrollment classes, and an award winning fine performing arts academy. Our students can also choose to part of our Academy of International Business and Finance or the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism. Other choices available to students include the AP Capstone Program in conjunction with the College Board.

In addition to our outstanding academic offerings students can participate in over 40 honors, interest and service clubs. Our students play in just about every sport offered by the Florida High School Athletics Association. We are most proud of our students' participation in numerous school and community service projects including helping Veterans in the Miami Veterans Hospital and feeding the disadvantaged in the Feeding South Florida (FSF) project.

We focus on the whole student with our philosophy of the 4A'S: Academics, Athletics,

Arts and Activities. This philosophy has contributed to a 90% graduation rate with 97% of our graduates going on to two or four year colleges and universities. We are looking forward to the opening of an iPrep Academy on our campus in the school year 2018-2019. This academy will provide students with a technology-rich environment and opportunities for internships and community-based projects. We encourage you to come be part of this incredible school by volunteering, attending athletic events and art performances and joining the best PTSA in the county.

## Ojus Elementary School

By: Dr. Mildred M. Mejia, Principal

Ojus Elementary School is a Kindergarten through fifth grade school whose focus is on increased academic rigor and the social development of children. Last school year, after a rigorous application process, we were awarded a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) School Designation by the district. Ojus employs full-time reading and math coaches, as well as a part-time science coach, in order to ensure that state standards and district curriculum are implemented with fidelity. We believe in challenging our students, and participate in the Miami Herald

Spelling Bee, as well as the school district's Battle of the Books. In fact, our students won last year's Battle of the Books competition! We also offer after school tutoring and a before school conversation club for our English Learners. An Extended Foreign Language (EFL) program is offered on all grade levels, and a Gifted and Talented program is offered in grades one through five.

Ojus Elementary School is a ten-time recipient of the Governor's Five Star Award, proving the school's commitment to parental involvement

and community service. In an effort to promote social development and enhance the educational experience of our students, Ojus hosts a variety of after school clubs, including Art Club, Safety Patrol, Gardening Club, Science Club, Robotics, Chess Club, Future Educators of America, Pep Squad, Youth Crime Watch, and a writing club for Kindergarten and first grade students. Additionally, Ojus hosts an annual talent show and several musical programs, such as a Winter Concert. We look forward to welcoming you into our Ojus family!

## Virginia A. Boone Highland Oaks Elementary (VABHOE)

By: Mr. Scott Saperstein, Principal

Every day, the staff at Virginia A. Boone Highland Oaks Elementary work hard to provide our students with the finest educational experience. Our instructional staff takes great pride in their work and continuously hones their craft through effective planning, sharing best practices and attending professional development workshops. Mathematics Topic assessments and iReady diagnostic tests are being admin-

istered and the data collected is continuously used to drive instruction and provide remediation and intervention as needed. In addition, through our Parent Teacher Association's (PTA) fundraising efforts, we have been able to hire hourly teachers to support our instructional program. To supplement instruction, we encourage all of our students to read 30 minutes daily and commit 60 minutes per week to

complete iReady lessons in Reading and Math. If you would like to learn more about our wonderful school, please visit our new website at [vabhoe.org](http://vabhoe.org).

We thank the Home Owner's Association for being such an active partner in our quest to provide all students within our community with the best educational experience.

### STAY INFORMED

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2. Email us at [Freddimark@aol.com](mailto:Freddimark@aol.com) with your name and address for periodic e-bulletins.
3. Join the real-time community portal [www.Nextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com) with nearly 1500 neighbors.

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# PROPOSED SLATE FOR 2017 HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### PRESIDENT:

Marc Hurwitz *Highland Gardens*

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Lenny Feldman *Highland Ranch*

### TREASURER:

Lynn Wenguer *Highland Lakes*

### SECRETARY:

Freyda Hyman *Enchanted Lakes*

### VICE PRESIDENTS:

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 Bill Clayton *Highland Lakes*  
 David Miller *Highland Lakes*  
 Jacky Needelman *Highland Gardens*  
 David Promoff *Enchanted Lakes*  
 Stephanie Ruiz *Highland Gardens*

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Fein, Howard	<i>Highland Lakes</i>
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Gorin, Eli	<i>Highland Gardens</i>
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Lichy, Max	<i>Presidential</i>
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Needelman, Leigh	<i>Highland Gardens</i>
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Rodman, Andy	<i>Coventry</i>
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# Park and Beautification Update

## Meet Me At The Park!

By: David Miller, HOA Vice President, Infrastructure & Traffic Co-Chair

Want to meet a duck nose to beak? Want to glide across the water like an iguana? Want to see what's around the bend of the Oleta River in Highland Oaks Park?

Miami-Dade Parks Department's Meet Me At The Park is coming to Highland Oaks Park in January 2017. Plans are in the works for our own park manager, Robert Carmona, to partner with the state Fish and Wildlife Commission to provide kayaks and all the equipment for paddle trips in the lake and on the Oleta, the headwaters of which are right here in our own back yards.

The fun is open to ages 9 and up, in trips of about 10 at a time. No experience is required. Robert is an experienced kayaker and guide and can tell kids and adults alike all about the ecology of the river and the animals and plants that live there. Trips are expected to last 45 minutes to an hour.

These trips are great for picnics, school groups, kids or adults. There will be information coming soon to your mailbox and on the Next Door website. You can contact Robert at (305) 932-2164. Or just walk on over to the office in the Park at the Ives Dairy Road entrance.



## Beautification Update

By: Trudy Lechner, HOA Beautification Chair

In an effort to beautify the entrance of our community on 26th Avenue, the HOA planted Bridal Bouquet bushes along 209th Terrace. They started off small and have now grown into beautiful, flowering bushes and have given the street an upgraded

curb appeal. Unfortunately, there have been two instances that some of the bushes have been deliberately plowed down by vehicles. Those bushes will not be replaced until further evaluation is conducted.

Our next beautification project will take place on 207th Street by VABHOE once the construction is complete. The committee plus community volunteers will paint the guard rails in the Highland Lakes area next to the park.

We will continue to find projects that will benefit everyone in the community and welcome any suggestions that will enhance our neighborhood. We are also in need of volunteers and if you are a student in need of community service hours please contact me or the HOA via our website for upcoming projects.



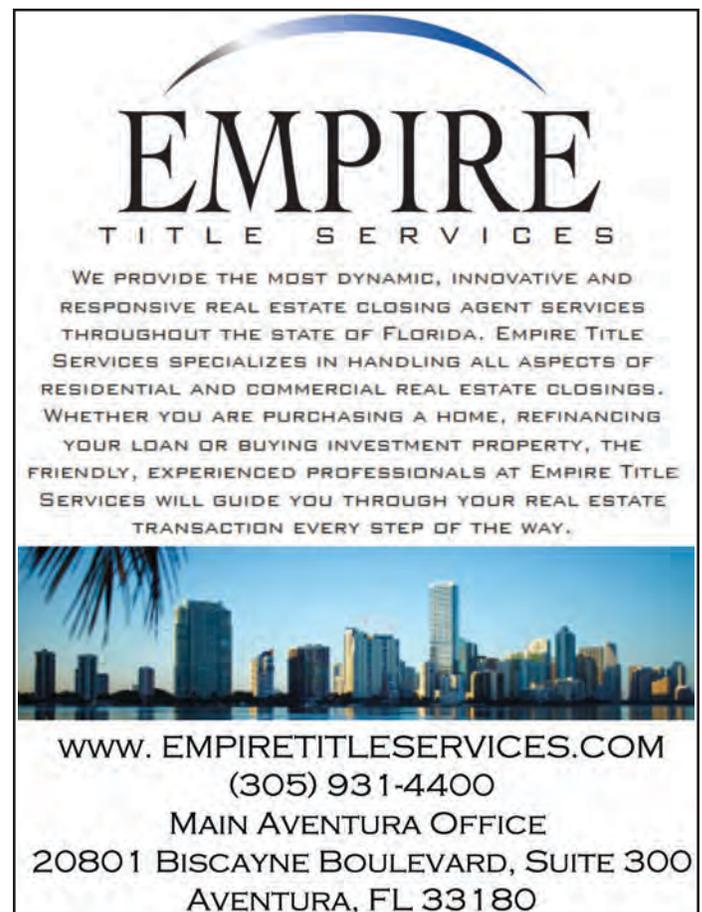
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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR COMMISSIONER

Dear Residents,  
2017 promises to be a year of interesting and challenging events at all levels of government. Please remember, as it relates to local government issues, my office is available by phone at 305-787-5999 or by email at [district4@miamidadegov](mailto:district4@miamidadegov) to assist you.

*Commissioner Sally Heyman and Staff*



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## Domestics, Independent Contractors and your homeowners coverage

By: Leigh Needelman, HOA Member, Board of Directors

Today, young families are subjecting themselves to the idea of having domestic caregivers such as live-in-nannies or housekeepers and staying at home with the kids or maintaining the home is not a viable option. As home owners, we utilized the services of roofers, plumbers and even gardeners. And yet, we hire these workers without even thinking about our liability exposure to injury and/or lawsuit exposure. Although I cannot speak for all insurance companies, I can address the typical common coverage policy forms for these situations.

Purchase a workers compensation policy to cover your domestics in case of injury on the job. Although a policy for workers comp coverage is ideal for this situation; it is not widely purchased. We recommend workers comp coverage so that you can sleep rather than worry about the what if's and your legal responsibility.

Although the law does not require the homeowner to purchase workers compensation for domestics; nor does it deny the right of the domestic to sue for their injuries. Florida Statute 440.02(15) (c) 1 exempts "domestic servants in private homes" under the definition of "employment." So, if you do not have workers compensation and your domestic gets hurt; what typical coverages do I have under my homeowners policy that may help you?



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There are two homeowner policy coverages that may respond: Medical Payments and Liability. Medical payments coverage which typically deals with medical bills of an injured domestic regardless of negligence on the part of the homeowner with common medical payments limits of \$1,000. to \$5,000. If the contractor was not required to have workers compensation in force by law, then the medical payments coverage would typically deal with the injury of an independent contractor subject to the medical payments policy limit. The medical payments coverage should respond regardless of negligence should the contractor be injured on the homeowners premises. Lost wages is not covered under medical payments coverage.

The second coverage under the homeowners policy is liability coverage which deals with domestics and independent contractors only if the homeowner is considered legally liable and obligated to pay for the injury. Otherwise, the homeowner would only have medical payments as a remedy and only if the independent contractor was not required to have workers compensation coverage in force by law.



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Please support our neighbors who have placed ads in this newsletter! To include your business in the future, please contact Stephanie Ruiz at [sruizmd2@aol.com](mailto:sruizmd2@aol.com)



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# BE IN THE KNOW

- The HOA has a volunteer program with different committee projects throughout the year. If your son or daughter is in need of community service hours, the HOA works closely with the local schools to meet all requirements. Please contact us via the website and let us know your students availability.

- If you would like to make a dedication in honor or in memory of a special person in your life, you can arrange to have a commemorative plaque placed on a bench at Highland Oaks Park. A simple plaque costs \$500. Other options are available for additional costs. Your donation goes directly to sustaining our beautiful park. Please contact: Susan Ervin, Director of Development & Marketing, Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Department, 275 NW 2nd Street, Suite 546, Miami, Florida 33128, 305-755-7804 for additional information.

- If you really want to be in the know... please join one of our eight committees. We have added two new committees: The Welcome Committee and the Education Committee. There's no better way in meeting new neighbors or finding out the latest education news and how it effects our neighborhood than staying involved.

- The police depend on each one of us to report anything that is suspicious in the area, and burglaries, robberies or any other crime that has occurred to your property. Call 911 for an emergency or 305-476-5423 (or 305-4-POLICE) to help keep all of our neighborhoods safe

- If you notice a specific problem in the community that needs attention (trash piles, abandoned property or cars, etc.) please report it to the county hot line at 311.

- You can get accurate information about what is happening in our community and share your ideas or get involved as a volunteer by attending the HOA meetings. Your participation as a member of the HOA is an investment in your neighborhood and home. For more information visit the website at [www.skyhighhomes.com](http://www.skyhighhomes.com) for the next meeting or watch for the yellow lawn signs in the hood!

- Many of your neighbors have joined the Nextdoor social media free platform ([www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com)) to share or find out about things going on in their neighborhood. You are invited to join by going to [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) to sign up. Once you join, you will receive notifications based on the settings you designate in your profile. This has become a very important means of communicating to the community by the HOA President and Board. Please join to stay in the know!

## HOA WELCOME COMMITTEE

By: Madeline Langbaum, HOA Board Member

THE HOA has established a Welcome Committee with the goal of welcoming new residents to the neighborhood with a basket. We have started delivering Welcome Baskets to the new homeowners and the response has been very positive. "A lot of smiles and thanks." Not everyone was home at the time but we will try again.

If you would like to contribute to the baskets, we can always use something. This is a great opportunity to promote your business or service by providing brochures, coupons, or merchandise to new homeowners in our community.

Please contact Madeline Langbaum via [madeline.langbaum@buyproperties.com](mailto:madeline.langbaum@buyproperties.com) to make arrangements. Also, we would like to be informed about new residents that have moved into the area so that we may give them an official WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!



A very big thanks to our current contributors:

- The Learning Express, Promenade Shops
- Fox's of Aventura
- Kokoa Downtown Ojus
- Am La Downtown Ojus
- Yvette Ray Downtown Ojus
- Benjamin Lechner, Md. of Hallandale, Florida
- Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center

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To:



## Why Join the HOA?

By: Eli Gorin, HOA Member, Board of Directors

Membership in the HOA has its benefits and none more important than being connected with a community of like-minded individuals, passionate about making the most and the best out of what our neighborhood has to offer.

The HOA has been vital in representing the community for many years and helping take a stand in matters which affect you the most. From county expansion plans to park services to security and more, the volunteers and members of the HOA are here not just as the eyes and ears of what is going on around us, but as the hearts and minds to make living in our community that much better.

Here are a few reasons why joining the HOA can make a difference:

- **Inform:** Receive current and accurate information about security, traffic, commercial development, schools and initiatives impacting you and your family.
- **Educate:** Exchange ideas to maintain and increase home value, enhance home/personal safety, and minimize homeowner costs (e.g., taxes, insurance, utilities).
- **Support:** Enable hard-working community volunteers to maintain communication through the HOA website and newsletter, hold events, and improve our neighborhoods.
- **Network:** Gain support for your business and find others with similar interests by building relationships with other engaged neighbors.
- **Advocate:** Become part of the voice that shares concerns and works to find solutions - increased membership attracts the attention of officials to address our needs

## COMMITTEES— GET INVOLVED!

**Membership** - The backbone of the HOA! Communicates the value of membership and develops programs/events to promote a strong membership base.

**Beautification and Parks** - Work on projects to improve our common areas.

**CERT** - Community Emergency Response Team- Residents are trained in emergency communication.

**Code Enforcement** - Set up teams to deal with issues that impact our neighborhoods.

**Crime Watch** - Establishes networks of neighbors to promote safety in our neighborhood.

**Security** - Security concerns within the HOA community boundaries and special taxing districts.

**Infrastructure, Development & Traffic** - Monitors commercial development and suggests improvements for roadways, utilities and common areas.

**Education** - Communication liaison between schools and the HOA and the impact they have on the community as a whole.

**Welcome Committee** - Welcomes new home owners to the community.

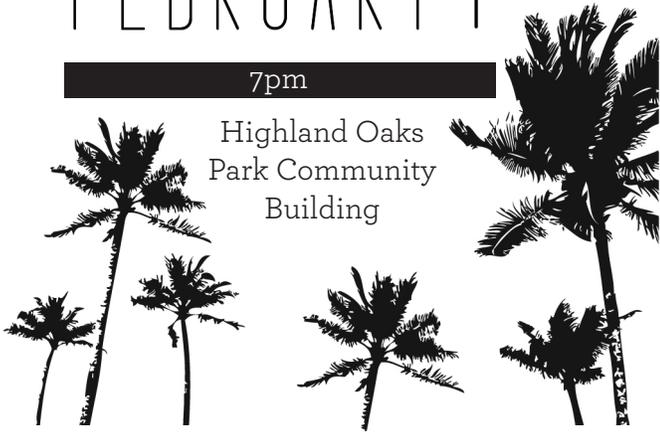
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## Become a Member

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Phone # (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

(Please include zip code)

Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Only used for HOA communications. Please print clearly.*

Special Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

### Committees:

Beautification and Parks \_\_\_\_\_

Code Enforcement \_\_\_\_\_

Education Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Security \_\_\_\_\_

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) \_\_\_\_\_

Crime Watch \_\_\_\_\_

Infrastructure, Development & Traffic \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome Committee \_\_\_\_\_

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PO Box 630721 Miami, FL 33163-0721  
Or pay on-line via credit card: [www.skyhighhomes.com](http://www.skyhighhomes.com)



HOA Board Members meet with County Park Officials to discuss Highland Oak Park improvements.



HOA and a large group of neighbors attend FDOT public hear in Aventura regarding the Ives Dairy/US 1 Overpass.



Recent HOA Presidents: Marc Hurwitz, Lenny Feldman and Bari Schanerman.



Kent Security guard receives the Exceptional Service Award.



HOA protests plans for a Krop iPrep Annex located at HOM.



HOA VP, Stephanie Ruiz presents the HOA Outstanding Community Service Award to HOM student, Leah Stephens.



Community supports the 6th Annual Dog Walk for H.O.P.E. at Highland Oaks Park to benefit the Humane Society of Greater Miami.

