

SKY HIGH NEWS

The Sky Lake - Highland Lakes Area
Homeowners Association Newsletter
P.O. Box 630721, Miami, Florida 33163-0721
www.skyhighhomes.com

August 2009

Save the Date:
Wednesday, October 28, 2009 - 7 p.m.
General Membership Meeting

Benefits of Membership

- Access to view homeowners website at:
www.skyhighhomes.com
- Receive Association email bulletins, newsletters and other important information.
- Help drive projects important to the neighborhood.
- Opportunity to participate in decision-making.

To join, simply send your check for \$25.00 (annual fee) with your completed tear-off form (located on Page 4 of this newsletter) to this address:

Sky Lake - Highland Lakes Area
Homeowners Association
P.O. Box 630721
Miami, FL 33163-0721

Please include your email address so you can receive communication from our website.

Special Taxing Districts in Your Community

A special taxing district is established to provide a service to all of the residents within that district which the residents pay for through their annual tax bill. The annual cost for the service is prorated evenly to all of the residents in the district. The services provided are negotiated and supervised by the special taxing district's office within the Miami-Dade County government.

Committees within each special taxing district have formed or are in the process of forming to review and evaluate the current guard service as well as the security needs of the specific neighborhood. The purpose of the committee is to provide feedback about the level of service (*in the opinion of the residents*) which will in turn allow the guard company to continually improve their service.

50 States Security company provides the guard service for Coventry, Highland Gardens, Highland Lakes, and Oak Forest. U.S. Security Associates, Inc. provides the guard services for Enchanted Lakes.

Currently, there are two roving guard special taxing districts in the community. Oak Forest and the surrounding streets have a Florida State Trooper roving their community and Highland Ranch Estates has roving security provided by 50 States Security.

To get involved or share your thoughts or concerns, please contact Sam Katz, Vice President - Security for the Sky Lake - Highland Lakes Area Homeowners Association via email: SAK1@NTRS.com.

To obtain a gate card for your neighborhood, contact the Special Taxing District office at: 305-375-2203.

See Page 2 for new information relating to some of the Special Taxing Districts.

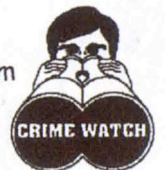
Crime Watch

The Crime Watch program has been supported by the county for many years and provides the opportunity to get to know your neighbors while protecting our homes. A crime watch area is made up of one to two blocks of homes that are located adjacent to each other. A designated leader gathers data from the homes within the

area and works with personnel from Miami-Dade County in the Crime Watch Department to complete the process of setting-up the territory.

The current economic situation makes it even more important to consider this especially in the areas where there are empty houses. Several

blocks have recently created new crime watch areas. The proposed cuts in the county's budget may impact this program. Start yours today! Please contact valeriegoodman@aol.com to get started.



Hello Neighbors,

The Sky Lake - Highland Lakes Area Homeowners Association represents all of the residents which includes many different subdivisions and private neighborhoods in our larger community bordered by I-95, County Line Road, West Dixie Highway and Miami Gardens Drive.

As a resident of the Highland Lakes community for 26 years, I have recently realized that there are a great many new residents to our community that may not know we have a voluntary association that promotes the quality-of-life for residents through advocacy, community and volunteerism. All of the Board members of our association - currently 27 - are volunteers that give their time addressing the issues and concerns of our community.

2009 has been an interesting year so far. There are many different concerns and challenges that we face in maintaining our outstanding neighborhood. Many of you have joined the association this year for the first time and I want to assure you that we are working hard to make the process of communication easier and more effective.

Currently several volunteers are working on improving and redesigning our website to give you more information that will provide answers to many frequently asked questions as well as keeping you up-to-date with current events that may impact our community. Additionally, many residents in our neighborhood have volunteered to get involved and I am working on creating a process to engage everyone in the area of interest you have requested.

Please read the information provided in this newsletter and send in any questions or ideas you may have so we can work together to make our community great.

Regards,

Bari Schanerman
President
bschanerman@aol.com

NEEDED:



Sky Lake - Highland Lakes Area Homeowners Association Board Members

Officers

Bari Schanerman - President
Mort Braverman - Vice President
Sam Katz - Vice President
Jonathan Morton - Vice President
David Promoff - Vice President
Rochelle Matza - Secretary
Lynn Wenguer - Treasurer



Directors

Brenda Auerbach	Madeline Langbaum
Bill Clayton	Trudy Lechner
Nancy Doyle	Karen Leslie
Kenneth Friedman	Ed Margolis
Valerie Goodman	Richard Sandler
Glenn Gopman	Amy Sherit
Scott Jay	Ronald Silver
Jose Klahr	Terri Sonn
Marvin Krutchik	Rhoda Stein
Diana Lustgarten	Robert Weisblum

What's New in the Special Taxing Districts?

Highland Lakes: Video monitoring cameras have been installed and set-up at the guard gates in this special taxing district.



Highland Ranch Estates: Some of the residents started the process to eliminate the roving guard. In September, each registered voter in the homes of this Special Taxing District will be asked to vote on whether they want to keep or eliminate the roving guard service.

Enchanted Lakes: Some residents have begun a process to perhaps change the service currently provided. As more information becomes available, we will keep you updated.

**Beginning in September,
our website is being
revamped with more
complete information.
Be sure to visit it often!**

www.skyhighhomes.com

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

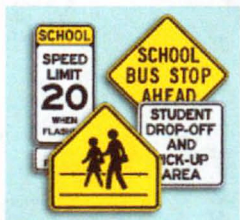
Volunteers in our community have been trained by County personnel to help in an emergency and will use the Highland Oaks Park Recreation Building as a command center.

We need more people to volunteer to assist the trained individuals or to get trained. Please contact Trudy Lechner @mammatrudes@aol.com

Education/Schools

As we have read over the last six months, the Miami-Dade County Public School system is working very hard to deliver a first-class education to the students even with the current budget constraints.

The Board is working on the traffic and parking concerns at VAB Highland Oaks Elementary school and Aventura Waterways K-8. It is a very slow process, but please keep looking for small changes and eventually the overall changes will be obvious.



One of the largest challenges we as a neighborhood face at this time is the lack of funding by the school district for the athletic and after-school activities at Highland Oaks Middle School. Because of the prime location of this school, they are exploring the use of advertising along the fence that runs on Ives Dairy Road to fund these programs.



As a residential neighborhood many of the residents have expressed their deep concerns about how the signs look on a fence and their desire not to have this occur. While we are all aware of the budget constraints and the need to raise the funds it would be great if as a neighborhood we could come up with alternatives to raise the necessary funds without putting up signs on the fence.

Please help us with this challenge by emailing any suggestions to dpromoff@mindspring.com.

Neighborhood School Information

Aventura Waterways K-8
21101 N.E. 26th Avenue
Principal: Mr. Luis Bello



The school opened its doors to students, teachers, and the community in August of the 2008-2009 school year. It is a state-of-the-art learning facility on five acres of land. The school serves a variety of students of diverse ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds. Parents are engaged in the education of their children and assist students in succeeding in their educational challenges.

Additionally, the school benefits from a variety of technology that enhances learning. Each classroom is equipped with voice enhancement technology, interactive white boards and four computers in each classroom for student and teacher use.

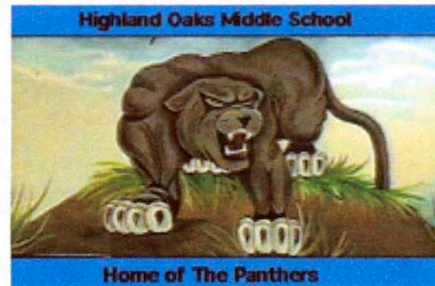
Aventura Waterways K-8 Center students scored above district averages on all portions of the 2009 FCAT.

To learn more about Aventura Waterways K-8 Center, please visit the website at: <http://aventurawaterwaysk8.dadeschools.net>



We need liaisons with each of the public schools in our community to attend their PTA/PTSA meetings and report back to the Association. Please contact Jonathan Morton, V.P. Education at: Jonathan.morton@klgates.com to volunteer.

Highland Oaks Middle School
2375 N.E. 203rd Street
Principal: Ms. Dawn Baglos



Highland Oaks Middle School is proud to announce its "A" school rating for the fifth year in a row. The school continues to promote strong academics and extracurricular activities. Strong partnerships within the community and a hard-working PTSA have further strengthened the foundation that fosters a school of excellence.

Highland Oaks Middle School received many accolades in the 2008-2009 school year. We received District awards in the Science Fair and SECME Brain Bowl while our chess team won the State title. Our Tennis, Soccer, Wrestling, and Swimming teams were District champions and our Arts program received several awards.

We continue to have strong parent involvement to ensure student success. We have monthly family nights at the neighborhood ColdStone Creamery. In the 2009-2010 school year we will begin to host monthly "Parent Academies." These informative classes will help parents help their children succeed academically and socially.

Volunteers are always welcome at Highland Oaks Middle School. We welcome you to support your neighborhood school in any way possible, including through the Adopt A Teacher program at adoptateacher.com. Please contact the school if you are interested in volunteering or making a financial contribution.

Parks and Recreation

Many of the parks in the county, including Highland Oaks and Ojus may have decreases in full-time staff due to the proposed budget cuts.

Highland Oaks Park

Danny Barcia, the Manager of the park is our liaison between the Parks Department and our Homeowners Association. The Homeowners Association, the Community Council, and many other groups use the Park Recreation Building for meetings.

Danny and his staff are extremely helpful in setting up the room for our meetings, providing updates on what is happening in this park and in the parks in general, and periodically coordinating events that try to bring the community together. Danny also keeps us informed of any current events between meetings that may impact the neighborhood.

Wish List for Highland Oaks Park

- School age books for reading
- Dictionaries
- Arts & Crafts - supplies

Please feel free to contact Danny at dbarcia@miamidade.gov with any concerns, ideas, or items from the Wish List that you may have for the park.

Ojus Park

Mrs. Hanson, the Park Manager has a list of improvements that she would love to see at Ojus Park. Some of these would include: painting and restriping the basketball court, adding foliage to provide shade for the seating areas, and resurfacing the tot lot playground. Please contact her at ohanson@miamidade.gov with any suggestions, concerns or ideas you may have for Ojus Park.

Wish List for Ojus Park

- Supplies for the after-school program such as books, colorful construction paper, markers, pencils, pens, and arts and crafts materials.
- Donation of a floor polishing machine to buff linoleum surface located in the Recreation Building.

As we do our cleaning and organizing in our homes, please keep our community parks in mind. Both of these parks have after-school programs and camps.

Beautification

There are several potential projects that we have agreed to support, but we need volunteers to lead and organize the residents that have said they are interested in working on beautification. Contact bschanerman@aol.com if interested.

- *Painting the wall on the north side of Ives Dairy Road.*
- *Landscaping at Highland Lakes Blvd. and Ives Dairy Road in conjunction with the Super Bowl (2-7-10).*

Incorporation/Annexation

Currently, there is no movement regarding either of these topics. The county put a moratorium on incorporation several years ago and has not opened it up for discussion again. Our board continues to watch for opportunities to begin conversations for either of these options.

Did You Know . . .

- You can water your lawn as follows: odd-number addresses - Wed. & Sat.; even-number addresses - Thurs. & Sun. Hours: midnight to 10 a.m. or 4 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.
- Call 3-1-1 to report graffiti, garbage, stray animals, and code and zoning violations.

Can You Help?

We are searching for anyone who has a copy machine and can periodically help us make copies of documents for meetings.

Know Your Neighborhood

Our next newsletter will feature articles on the topics that are important to the community and its residents. Please share your knowledge, questions, or topic requests by emailing: bschanerman@aol.com.

You are a vital link that plays an important role in our community!



Please complete this form, enclose your \$25.00 check made payable to Sky Lake - Highland Lakes Area Homeowners Association and mail to: Sky Lake - Highland Lakes Area Homeowners Association, P.O. Box 630721, Miami, FL 33163-0721

NAME: _____

ADDRESS (please include Zip Code): _____

PHONE NUMBER: Home: _____

Cell/Work: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

SPOUSE'S NAME: _____

2nd EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

(Circle areas of interest.)

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| Beautification | Security |
| CERT | Traffic |
| Code Enforcement | |
| Crime Watch | |
| Education | |
| Newsletter | |
| Office/Clerical | |
| Parks | |

