

#### 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** 

#### 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

Dear Neighbors,

No one could have imagined what would take place in 2020 as we entered the new year. Many did not know that they would take long walks around the neighborhood and ride their bikes outside. If you were told you would get to know your neighbors as never before, would you have believed it? Well, 2020 gave us all this and more.

During the early stages of staying at home, The Skylake Highland Lakes HOA community rose to the occasion. Calls and messages were put out from those trying to find essential items for themselves or to help others. We were able to set up collections for those in need and distribute these items throughout the community. We had volunteers going to the grocery store and pharmacy for those who were unable. We also had a special volunteer, Mark Schanerman, who drove over 100 miles round trip multiple times per week picking up fresh fruits and vegetables from a local farm to deliver to our area residents.

You will read more about what other HOA members are doing in the pages to follow.

The HOA works closely with our elected officials including Miami Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman, State Senator Jason Pizzo, our State Representative Christopher Benjamin, and School Board Member Lucia Baez-Geller. I would like to thank former School Board Member Dr. Martin Karp, and former State Rep. Barbara Watson, for their years of service and support for the community. I would also like to thank the HOA board members, committee chairs, as well as the general membership for everything you have done to make the Skylake Highland Lakes area what is today.

If you are not already a member the HOA, we would love to have you join us. We face many challenges in the upcoming year including traffic and transportation, growth and public safety concerns. If you are involved, and would like to become part of a committee, please reach out to me, or any HOA member. You can also email us at <u>skylakehighlandlakesHOA@</u> <u>gmail.com</u>.

The HOA is a voluntary advocacy organization with a household membership of \$30 per year. These funds are used to enhance neighborhood beautification, provide security in times of emergencies and provide scholarships to area public school students along with countless other projects that we take on each year, both short and long term. Please take the time to <u>fill out a membership</u> <u>application</u> and help keep our community vibrant.



#### **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

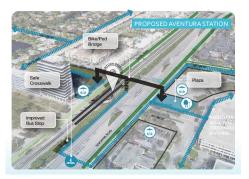
By Bob Weisblum

The Government Affairs Committee works with governmental entities on issues relating to our community in order to keep our residents well informed and preserve our quality of life. The following informational events were held during this election year:

1) A forum and debate with the candidates for the School Board moderated by Ari Odzer of NBC 6  $\,$ 

2) A Zoom interview with Mayoral Candidates Esteban Bovo and Daniella Levine Cava

Although the HOA fought hard to find an alternative plan for the Ives Dairy flyover, FDOT has given the final approval for work to begin in the Fall of 2021.



The project is expected to take five years to complete. We are hopeful that the negative impact on the community, during the construction and after, will be felt far less than the positive impacts.

We are monitoring a planned new development for the Ojus neighborhood. A developer has proposed five apartment buildings totaling 172 units at a height which varies from 6 to 9 stories just west of the proposed train station. Another developer is requesting to change the zoning from Residential and Neighborhood Business to a Mixed-Use Corridor District in the area west of West Dixie Highway between NE 211th Terrace and NE 212th Terrace. What both developments have in common is bringing increased traffic to the neighborhood which is already saturated with too many vehicles. Your HOA will monitor these issues and will try and advocate to mitigate the traffic impact.

Regarding the Aventura Train Station, which like Aventura Waterways School is in our area and not Aventura, we are in favor of a project that will get more cars off our streets. The train station project includes a Bike-Pedestrian bridge to Aventura Mall. The intent of this bridge is to allow train passengers to park their vehicles at the Mall and walk over to the station. Originally, the bridge was to be built four years after the station (2024). We have been informed by FDOT that there is no guarantee that the bridge will be constructed. Without the bridge, access to the train station via West Dixie Highway will be ineffectual. We are working with our elected representatives to advocate that the bridge be built in conjunction with the opening of the train station.

## Infrastructure

#### By William Clayton

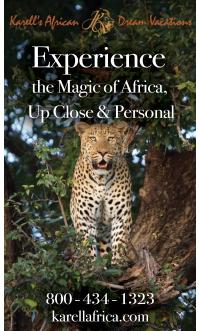
During these trying times, and with limited government operations, the HOA has continued to pursue traffic issues that affect our community.

Regarding the proposed flyover ramp, we have been in contact with both State Senator Jason Pizzo and the new transportation secretary to address our ongoing concerns with this project. Community input was not considered during the design phase. Recommendations for the flyover and Ives Dairy corridor have been submitted and we are awaiting their review.

On a local level, there are several long-term traffic requests that have not been addressed. In conversations with newly elected Mayor Levine Cava, the Mayor gave us assurances that our community will receive greater attention with traffic issues and other community concerns under her administration and we intend to hold her to her word.

As soon as in person meetings are possible, we will host a traffic meeting to help develop a comprehensive list of all traffic concerns. These concerns will be provided to the Mayor and traffic department. We hope to receive input from each subdivision of our community with suggestion that will address traffic and safety concerns that directly impact those areas.

The HOA continues to aid homeowners while acting as a liaison between government agencies to address any issues impacting quality of life issues.





# Thank You For A Successful 2020! Please Stay Safe In 2021!! — We just sold these homes — *Meet Your New Neighbors*



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#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Cathy Pieters



Our community comes together in times of need. As we reluctantly ventured into this unfamiliar world we are living in now, our neighbors sprang into action. From food donations, to drive-by celebrations as well as donations for those affected by disasters. Our community rose to the occasion!

Top, left: Mark Schanerman of Highland Lakes started a veggie delivery service which was a resounding success and appreciated by all. Collections were made by residents for those in dire need of help for Honduras which was hit not once, but twice by devastating hurricanes Category 4 Eta and Category 5 Iota.

Top, middle: In conjunction with the Miami-Dade Police Department our annual Toy Drive was a great success. Thanks to all those who donated so generously to bring joy to the lives of so many kids!

Girl Scout Troop 1820 would like to thank the community for their ongoing support. GS Cookie Season is here - please text 305-979-4434 for a cookie menu and to place a No Contact order delivered to your door!

Thank you to all our neighbors for helping our community stay strong.











Please support our neighbors who have placed ads in this newsletter! To include your business in the future, please contact Stephanie Ruiz at <a href="mailto:sruizmd2@aol.com">sruizmd2@aol.com</a>





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WISHING THE HIGHLAND LAKES & SKYLAKES COMMUNITY A HEALTHY HAPPY NEW YEAR! 18205 Biscayne Blvd. #2205 Aventura, FL 33160 www.Beachfrontonline.com



Like the rest of the world, our neighborhood schools have had to make a huge adjustment to the everyday norm. Following what was supposed to be an extended spring break in March, schools were forced to pivot to online learning with little time to prepare. Our teachers and administrative staff wasted no time making every effort to ensure a continuity in learning but made every effort to ensure the services that many families depend on from our schools environment such as healthy meals and technology to those who needed it.

As we moved closer to August it became evident that the school year would not begin with in person learning. On October 15, families were given the option to send their children back to school in person or continue their studies remotely. As is human nature the results were divided. With no one size fits all solution our schools have adjusted to both ways of teaching in order to accommodate the vastly different needs of the student- body population as well as teachers and staff. The split between in person and remote learning is at about 50/50.

Through constant communication each school is monitoring the progress of its own students, both in the building and online. There have been daily attendance checks as well as technology sign up for devices to ensure that the children have the proper access to the necessary tools to continue their education journey. If the school identifies a potential problem or feels that a student might "be falling through the cracks" the family is asked to report to the school for follow up.

With the promise of a vaccine on the horizon we can hope that perhaps we can return to normal in the coming months. Regardless of the timing we have proven that the job that these teachers and administrators have certainly goes further than just the classroom. A huge thank you to all of our teachers, administration and support staff who have taught us all a lesson or two about perseverance, flexibility and most of all dedication.



A heartfelt "thank you" to our first responders and healthcare workers.

With gratitude and respect, Your Sky Lake - Highland Lakes HOA

#### COST OF MEMBERSHIP

Sky Lake - Highland Lakes Area Homeowners Association. Become a member or renew your membership for only \$30.00 per year. You can pay online via **www.skyhighhomes.com** 

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## PROPOSED SLATE FOR 2021 HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### EXECUTIVE

**PRESIDENT:** Rick Schermer

Oak Forest

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:Marc HurwitzHighland Gardens

#### VICE PRESIDENTS:

Mort Braverman Bill Clayton Marc Frankel Jacky Needelman Stephanie Ruiz Highland Lakes Highland Lakes Highland Lakes Highland Gardens Highland Gardens

#### TREASURER:

David Promoff

**SECRETARY:** Freyda Hyman

Enchanted Lake

Enchanted Lake

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Brenda Auerbach Erica Chao Sharon Curtis Howard Fine Doron Friedlander Philip Holcman Madelyn Langbaum Max Lichy **Dailyn Mills** Enrique Muller Leigh Needelman Cathy Pieters Norman Pieters Aaron Rubin Marilyn Santiago Cyd Sinai Ahuva Stadtlander Bob Weisblum

Highland Gardens Highland Gardens Country Squire **Enchanted Lake** Enchanted Lake Highland Lakes Sunswept Presidential Skylake Oak Forest Highland Gardens Highland Lakes **Highland Lakes** Highland Lakes Highland Lakes Coventry Highland Lakes Skylake

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### **BECOME A MEMBER**

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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_

(Please include zip code)

Email\* \_\_

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

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

#### **Committees:**

Membership	 Parks &	
Communications	 Beautification	
Security & CERT	 Government Affairs	
Traffic, Infrastructure & Code Enforcement	 Community Events & Schools	

Send \$30 check made payable to:

Sky Lake-Highland Lakes Area HOA PO Box 630721 Miami, FL 33163-0721

Or pay online via credit card: www.skyhighhomes.com

## Parks, Lakes and Beautification

By Marc Frankel

Despite social distancing requirements, we have fortunately not seen a decline in the maintenance level or the appearance of our neighborhood parks. It was nice to see our community taking walks, riding bikes, and jogging, as we quarantined and socially distanced together as a community. Parents and kids alike are excited to once again be able to visit the playground area for some fresh air outdoor fun.

At Highland Oaks Park regular cleaning of the jogging path continues and repairs are being kept up with critical infrastructure. One major accomplishment has been the complete repair and enhancement of lighting along the jogging path, thus increasing security and comfort for those utilizing the path during twilight hours.

Other capital improvement projects slated for the park have unfortunately been postponed; however, we are hopeful they will be readdressed in 2021 as things begin to get back to normal and have the return of our Free Movie Night.

Beautification of the surrounding areas continues to be a top priority for the HOA. We are working endlessly with the county for better upkeep and improvement of the landscaping on the central thoroughfare of our area the Ives Dairy Road Corridor. Our area does not receive the attention that it should, but we are dedicated to ensuring that changes in the upcoming year with additional improvements.

Here's to a safe and healthy 2021!





## **BE IN THE KNOW**

By Erica Chao

•Follow us on Facebook! For all the latest news and events happening in the community, be sure to give us a like and follow - https://www.facebook.com/ skyhighhoa.

•Join our mailing list! http://eepurl.com/gLMYcj



• Neighbors are using the NextDoor and RING/Neighbors app to communicate and stay vigilant. However, we shouldn't be stopping there - 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.

• Did you know there's an app for that? Yes, 311 now has an app. Noticed a problem in the community that needs attention (trash piles, broken sidewalk, swale tree trimming, etc.)? Please report it to the county hotline by dialing 311 or download the app.

• The HOA is here for you. Please email us (skylakehighlandlakeshoa@gmail.com) with any issues or areas you feel can be improved and we will do our best to get it done.

• Volunteer with the HOA via our numerous committees. Have a teen that needs community service hours? We have them to spare! Have ideas for ways to improve what we are already doing? We have a committee that needs you!

• The HOA recognizes outstanding students in our neighborhood - for their scholastic achievement, community service, and extracurricular involvement. These awards are reserved only for HOA members. Would you like your child to be considered for this year's HOA Outstanding Service Award? Send us an email with your nomination!





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While COVID-19 and a very active hurricane season have consumed much of the virtual, Zoom and remote meetings and calls; I hope you have found my office and staff responsive to your local government issues and needs.

In mid-summer our County District Office relocated to 1380 NE Miami Gardens Drive, Suite 282, Miami, FL 33179. Same phone numbers and same staff. We are still working remote and virtual whenever possible on ongoing Northeast Dade projects: repaving roads; speed humps; WASD pipe repairs; beach renourishment; Brightline commuter rail; Mom and Pop Small Business Grants; increased police presence; drainage improvements and COVID relief efforts to residents and businesses.

My staff and I hope for all to be safe and healthy, working through these uncertain times. As always, we are a phone call away.

#### **Commissioner Sally Heyman**

This year has been incredibly challenging, and yet rewarding, as our office has successfully assisted thousands of our constituents on issues ranging from housing and food insecurity to navigating the State's unemployment system. I was recently named the Defender of Home Rule, the highest award given by the Florida League of Cities, for our office's aggressive fight against state preemption of local control.

We head back to Tallahassee in January for committee weeks, followed by a legislative session concluding in May, where I'll be serving on 6 Senate committees, including the high honor of chairing Criminal Justice.

The Florida state legislature is officially designated as a "parttime job", but I've committed to serving you on a full-time basis, so please accept our open invitation to connect with us, on any matter of importance to you and your family, at our local office 305-795-1205, or by email pizzo.jason@flsenate.gov.

#### State Senator Jason Pizzo

I'm happy to report that crime in your neighborhoods is down during the Covid-19 pandemic. Residential and commercial burglaries are down significantly as well as robberies. Please don't let your guard down and continue to report suspicious persons and activity!

I know that traffic enforcement is important to most of you. We have several Intracoastal District officers who like traffic enforcement and I have assigned them exclusively to traffic details. They are not required to respond to calls for service unless we are super busy so they can focus exclusively on traffic. Additionally, we have a new motorcycle officer who is finishing up his training and will be out very soon doing traffic enforcement.

Please stay safe and help us help you by calling 911 or the nonemergency number 305-4-POLICE when someone or something doesn't look or feel right. I can be contacted at tbbuchanan@mdpd.com.

#### Major Tom Buchanan

Intracoastal District Commander

I would like to thank the residents of Sky Lake - Highland Lakes Area Homeowners' Association for electing me as your State Representative for District 107 (D107.)

Our district is made up of many residents from different but similarly situated communities. Community is defined as a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and/or goals. I view D107 as a community and we stand together to advocate for our collective needs and desires of what makes a better community for us all.

The promise of 2021 brings with it lessons learned from a very difficult year, but the greatest lesson we have learned is we are one - one community! We move into a new year with respect for our differences and newfound strengths in commonalities. Let's make 2021 a year of new beginnings.

#### State Representative Christopher Benjamin

As your newly elected School Board member, I am looking forward to representing the Sky Lake - Highland Lakes community. Prior to my election to the Board, I was a Miami-Dade County Public Schools teacher for 15 years in a District 3 school. I am committed to ensuring that your neighborhood schools receive the necessary resources to remain highly competitive. The 2020-21 school year is reaching the midpoint and much of our attention has been focused on the challenges of delivering a positive educational experience during a pandemic. While the health and well-being of our students and employees is our top priority, we must also focus on finding ways to engage our students, so they are enthusiastic about learning. I look forward to getting to know you. Please feel free to reach out to me at district3@dadeschools.net.

#### Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, Miami-Dade School Board Member, District 3



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

To:

(Y H | G H)The Sky Lake-Highland Lakes Area Homeowners Association Newsletter

### **SKY LAKE HIGHLAND** LAKES AREA HOA MEMBERSHIP

By Ahuva Stadtlander and Freyda Hyman

Do you feel isolated due to Covid-19? Are you seeking self fulfillment? <u>Becoming a member of the Skylake</u> Highland Lakes Area HOA for only \$30 a year or 8.2 cents a day will help you and your family stay on top of the real news affecting our community. If you are asking yourself what would the HOA do for me? Ask yourself the following questions:

How much would it cost me personally to create and maintain traffic dampening measures? How much would it cost me personally to provided security during threats of hurricanes? How much would it cost me to provide a day of fun activities complete with entertainment for me and for my family?

Do I have the time to research and coordinate various neighborhood family activities that would be free to me and my family?

The HOA does all of the above and more. We need and want everyone to have a voice. Unity and numbers are what make the county think more critically in making any changes affecting our community. Without the HOA's presence and numbers the community has little to no clout to affect Miami-Dade county decisions.

## ΝΛΟΙΛΕ

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

Beautification and Parks - Work on projects to improve our common

**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.

Food Truck - Plans and coordinates food truck events.

**Government Affairs -** Communicating community issues with local government.