

SKY HIGH NEWS

The Sky Lake-Highland Lakes Area Homeowners Association Newsletter

2022

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

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,

Our community is constantly undergoing change. Whether it's a new neighbor moving in, the grand opening of a new local business, or old friends moving out, the residents of the Skylake Highland Lakes area come together. Our community continues to see challenges both simple and complex in our day-to-day lives. You will see in the following pages what our volunteer organization has been able to accomplish recently with strength and perseverance.

With that in mind, I want to thank everyone for making the past three years serving as your HOA president a memorable experience.

As you can see on the slate of proposed board members for 2022, Enrique Muller will be taking over as president. He is joined by both long standing board members and our newest additions to the board, including a few long-time area residents from both the north and south side of Ives Dairy Road. I wish the 2022 board continued success in effecting change while advocating for our neighborhood.

The HOA also works closely with State Sen. Jason Pizzo, who works tirelessly on behalf of our area, along with State Rep. Christopher Benjamin. We are also fortunate to have School Board Member Lucia Baez Geller advocating for our children.

Our Miami Dade Police Department Intracoastal Division is now under the leadership of Major Luis Almaguer, who brings with him, years of experience and a long-standing relationship with our community.

We would like to thank Miami Dade County Commissioner Sally Heyman, who after 16 years of representing our community will be leaving office in late 2022. During her tenure, she has led the way to implement numerous enhancements to the community including upgraded storm sewers, sidewalk replacements and a proposed beautification of the Ives Dairy Road walls.

If you are not already a member the HOA, please consider becoming one. 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 skylakehighlandlakesHOA@gmail.com. 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 fill out a membership application and be part of the change.

Rick Schermer



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

By Bob Weisblum

The Government Affairs Committee serves as a liaison to our County and State representatives. We work on issues that influence our community, hopefully positive, and regardless of outcome disseminate the information to the community so that the residents can be well informed.

Some highlights of the past year and ongoing issues going forward:

The Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) has started an intersection project, the overpass, along NE 203rd. (Ives Dairy Road) from West Dixie Hwy. to US 1/Biscayne Blvd. The project cost is an estimated \$41.3 million and expected to be completed by late 2024.

The scope of the work includes elevating westbound NE 203 St. over the railway tracks and West Dixie Highway; constructing a pedestrian bridge over the tracks; widening the roadway along southbound US 1 and eastbound NE 203 Street, including the bridge; updating pedestrian ramps, signage, pavement markings and lighting; and installing a bicycle lane along West Dixie Highway between NE 206 St. and NE 202 St.

The county has received a pre-application for West Aventura Town Center, a mixed-use project. The development, covering 5.65 acres, would span two full blocks from Miami gardens Drive/NE 186th St. north to NE 187th Street, and from NE 23rd Court east to NE 24th Place. The two buildings will contain seven hundred apartments, commercial and retail space and 1377 parking spaces.

While these developments are happening, the county is beginning to start the building of the train station in our neighborhood. We have advocated very strongly to build the pedestrian walkway from the station over to the Aventura Mall parking lot simultaneously thereby alleviating the traffic in our neighborhood.

We are working on a plan with Commissioner Heyman to beautify the Ives Dairy Road walls. We hope to be completed by the end of 2022.

After many years we had the county repair and replace some sidewalks in the Skylake area.

The HOA has plans in place to advocate on behalf of our community, as well as Miami Dade county, to control the short term rental situation. Short term rentals continue to be the biggest problem in our community.

Finally, regarding the growth and new development that keeps coming to our community and negatively impacting us with traffic etc. we had requested that the county pass an ordinance requiring that developers meet with the HOA Board to get feedback on their projects. That was rejected by the county.

Although we are in a weak position since we are not a city, we will continue to advocate strenuously on behalf of our community.

Infrastructure

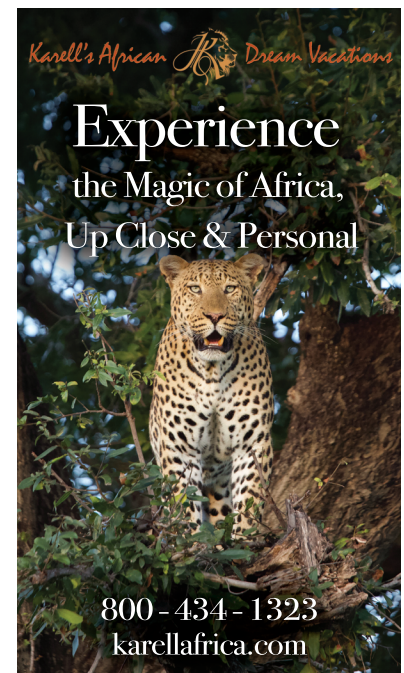
By Enrique Muller, DMD

During these trying times as we attempt to get back to some semblance of normality, the HOA continues to address infrastructure issues affecting our community

The proposed westbound flyover ramp over the train tracks that will connect Biscayne Boulevard to Ives Dairy Road due to the forthcoming dramatic increase in Brightline activity, is no longer a mere proposal and despite concerns from the community it began Phase A of construction on November 15th, 2021. The projected completion date is Q4 2024 as explained to HOA representatives during one of our many meetings with FDOT representatives on June 9th, 2021. We continue to meet with FDOT staff and project contractors to voice our concerns and needs as it progresses.

The project is divided into three phases: A. new ramps over FEC railroad and West Dixie Highway, B. new pedestrian bridge with two elevator towers, C. expanding the roadway and new turn lanes. The phasing is intended to minimize lane closures and diminish impacts to businesses and neighbors, however, we have been told to expect the usual nuisances from construction like noise and vibration as well as traffic impacts, detours and closures during the day from 9:00am to 3:30pm and at night from 9:00pm to 5:30am.

The HOA continues to aid homeowners as a liaison to the various government agencies to address any issues impacting our quality of life and address ongoing traffic and safety issues.



Looking forward to *an even better 2022!!*



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incredible 2021.

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- 2010 NE 211 TERRACE
- 20701 NE 21 COURT
- 2156 NE 187 STREET
- 1865 NE 197 TERRACE
- 2555 NE 202 STREET
- 19601 NE 19 AVENUE
- 19600 NE 19 AVENUE
- 21180 NE 20 COURT
- 20920 NE 21 COURT
- 1875 NE 197 TERRACE
- 513 OLEANDER DRIVE
- 277 GOLDEN BEACH DRIVE
- 1941 NE 197 TERRACE
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Esther Sabag-Peart
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Cathy Pieters



OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Our Home Owners Association partnered once again with the Intracoastal Miami- Dade County Police Department to collect toys to put smiles on the faces of children in need.

Donations from so many of our generous neighbors enabled the HOA to buy/collect toys, for all ages. A special thanks goes to our Kent Security guards for collecting and keeping the toys safe at our guard houses, and to our schools for promoting the drive. I also want to thank, HOA Board member, Erica Chao who advertised and schlepped all the toys from the guard gates to my house! In addition, thank you HOA Board Members for your continued support of our Annual Toy Drive.

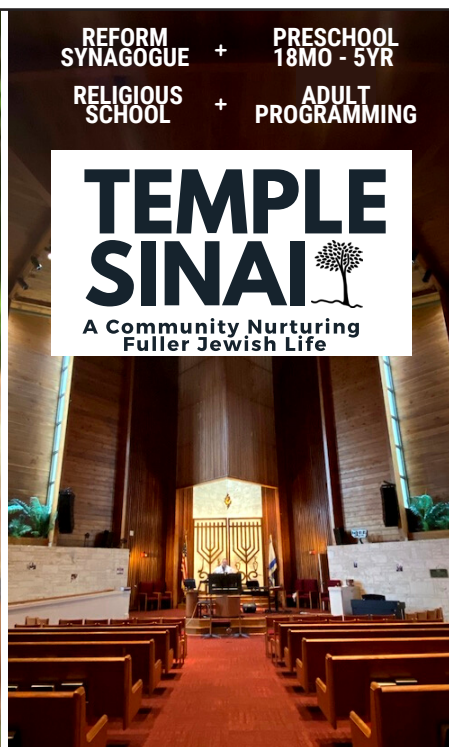
Neighbors, you really made a BIG difference in the lives of underprivileged children in our district. A great big thank you for your generosity!

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES ARE BACK!

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!

UPCOMING 2022 COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS:

- Business Networking Events- Meet and greet your neighbors! Enjoy networking and get to know who's who in our neighborhood.
- THE GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD TRUCK FESTIVALS RETURN! Look out for future dates.
(Pending Covid restrictions)



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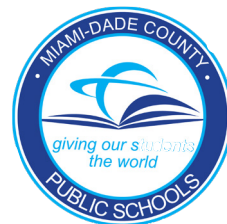
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SCHOOL UPDATE

By Sharon Curtis

The first day of school following summer vacation brings with it so many emotions...This year the first day of the 2021-22 school year was certainly filled with them all. After more than a year and half out of the building our neighborhood schools were "open for business".

Sure there were new rules to be followed masks, social distancing and plenty of hand washing, but it was certainly all worth it to see your BFFs and experience the in person learning that had been so dearly missed. While zoom and on-line learning got us through the tough times there is nothing better than being in school live in-person in the classroom.



All of our schools: Ojus elementary, VABHOE, Maddie Ives K-8 and Aventura Waterways, Highland Oaks Middle and Krop and Iprep all prepared for the "new normal" as they looked forward to welcoming students back into the building.

As we adjust to all of the changes that have come as a result of the pandemic we must acknowledge all of the teachers, staff and administrators who have morphed on a constant basis to ensure that all of our students continue to thrive. As a community we will be forever grateful for all of these educators who deserve not only a huge thank you but an A+.



Madeline Langbaum

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PROPOSED SLATE FOR 2022

HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Rick Schermer Oak Forest

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Mort Braverman	Highland Lakes
Dailyn Mills	Skylake
Jacky Needelman	Highland Gardens
David Promoff	Enchanted Lake

TREASURER:

Marc Frankel Highland Lakes

SECRETARY:

Freyda Hyman Enchanted Lake

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Brenda Auerbach	Highland Gardens
Helena Bendjouia	Enchanted Lake
Erica Chao	Highland Gardens
Sharon Curtis	Country Squire
Doron Friedlander	Enchanted Lake
Madeline Langbaum	Sunswept
Leigh Needelman	Highland Gardens
Joy Pargman	Enchanted Lake
Cathy Pieters	Highland Lakes
Norman Pieters	Highland Lakes
Aaron Rubin	Highland Lakes
Celia Ruiz	Highland Gardens
Marilyn Santiago	Highland Lakes
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Bob Weisblum	Skylake

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GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 2, 2022
7:30 p.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting



(Please scan QR Code to join.)
Passcode: 174965

Parks, Lakes and Beautification

By Marc Frankel

Parks

We would like to welcome Highland Oaks and Ojus parks new manager, Mr. Ray Lleonert. We look forward to working with him in 2022.

This past year, important achievements were made to the park's infrastructure. Inspections, repairs, and renovations were made to the foot bridges and lamp posts. After three years of advocating and lobbying, the HOA is excited to announce construction of a new shelter in Highland Oaks Park, located in the northwestern area near the playground. The shelter will allow people to get their kids out of the weather or give them a break from the sun and enjoy a covered picnic area. It will be available to rent for parties or other events, approved by park management. Ground breaking is scheduled early 2022.

Lakes and Waterways

After 18 months of advocating with the county Department of Environmental Resource Management and Department of Public Works, the HOA succeeded in getting the county to install Crocodile Exclusion Devices on the culvert pipes leading from the canal in Highland Oaks Park to Sunswept Lake. As of this writing, the HOA has not received any complaints of crocodiles in Sunswept Residents' backyards since the installation of the gates, August 2021. In addition, we continue to address the conditions of Sunswept Lake with the county. Our goal is to repair the water control structure in Highland Oaks Park and restore the balance of Sunswept Lake. This has been a long and uphill battle, but we continue to advocate on behalf of our community to have the county fix the problems. Highland Lake continues to be doing well, and will have another round of stocking of Triploid Grass Carp to help with weed control and forage fish to enhance the food sources for the Peacock and Largemouth Bass. Residents living on the lakes and waterways in our community are encouraged to reach out with any questions or issues they may have. The HOA will be happy to advise and help where we can.

Beautification

As always, we continue to advocate with the county for better upkeep and improvement of the landscaping on the central thoroughfare and the Ives Dairy Road corridor.



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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A quick update on District 4 activities in your area.

- FDOT is moving ahead on preliminary infrastructure work for the Ives Dairy Road/Biscayne Boulevard flyover.
- Brightline OJUS-Aventura stop is advancing, and negotiations are continuing for the Biscayne Boulevard pedestrian bridge linking the stop with the Aventura Mall on the East.
- Multiple road repaving and sidewalk repairs have been done and will conclude end of 2021.
- Finally, my office is in discussion stage with County attorneys on a new beautification plan for the Ives Dairy Road Residential Wall, North and South. Hopeful this can happen in early 2022.

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 Legislator of the Year, the highest award given by the Florida Fraternal Order of Police, for our office's continued commitment to public safety.

We head back to Tallahassee in January for legislative session concluding in March, where I serve on five Senate committees, including the high honor of chairing Criminal Justice. The Florida state legislature is officially designated as a "part-time 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

Greetings,

I am pleased to announce that, once again, we have reduced the number of robberies, burglaries, and auto thefts. Nevertheless, we will never let our guard down. I want to reassure you that the men and women of the Intracoastal District are vigilantly patrolling our neighborhoods, serving as a daily reminder that we are committed to providing you with a safe and secure environment, free from crime or the fear of crime. Our Community Oriented Policing Services Unit remains dedicated to improving police-community relationships. We have two dedicated motorcycle units routinely conducting traffic enforcement. And the General Investigations Unit continues to thoroughly investigate crimes.

Dial 911 for emergencies, (305) 4-POLICE for non-emergencies, and email sta06info@mdpd.com to contact me.

Luis Almaguer, Commander
Intracoastal District

It is an honor to represent the neighbors of the Skylake and Highland Lake area, and it is always a pleasure to listen to your concerns and give a voice to those concerns. In Tallahassee, it is not always easy to get serious conversations on very important issues that affect our daily lives but it is always reassuring that I have the support of the neighbors in our D107 community. We are preparing for yet another very difficult legislative session which will see a variety of new legislation introduced. I continue to look at ways to improve the quality of life for our elderly and aid in strengthening the ecosystem for our small businesses; which are vital to the economic success and growth of our communities.

Christopher Benjamin,
FL State Representative

As your District 3 School Board Member, I am here to support you, our teachers, our parents, and most importantly, our students. As a District, we aim to provide every student with access to a world class education. I strive to ensure that our schools have the resources they need to help our students flourish, and I am committed to advocating for those needs and to creating a strong framework for academic success. My district priorities include ensuring that our students have mental health resources, increasing academic opportunities, and keeping our students safe from the pandemic and other security risks. Please know that I am always accessible, so please reach out to me at district3@dadeschools.net and together we will work to strengthen our community.

We are so happy to be working with you. Please, keep in touch!

Warm regards,

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



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BECOME A MEMBER



Scan to join!

Name(s) _____

Phone#(s) _____

Address _____

(Please include zip code)

Email* _____

*Only used for HOA communications. Please print clearly.

Special Interests: _____

Which committees are you interested in?

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

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To:



SKY HIGH NEWS

The Sky Lake-Highland Lakes Area Homeowners Association Newsletter

2022



SKY LAKE HIGHLAND LAKES AREA HOA MEMBERSHIP

By Freyda Hyman

Why should you join and get involved in the HOA?

1. Protect the community's property values. Our HOA has direct communication with our County officials to make sure that individual properties and communal areas are properly maintained. This can directly affect property values for all of us.

2. Meet new neighbors. During normal times, the HOA sponsors several community events each year (Food Truck Nights, Movies in the Park, General Membership Meetings, etc.) when you can meet neighbors and make new friends. Attending these events, discussing issues, and planning additional events will bring you closer to your community.

3. Fix problems in the community. HOA committees and task forces give residents a platform to address important issues. We've worked on speeding, traffic patterns, security, short term rentals, infrastructure, beautification, Code Enforcement, parks, and so many more.

4. Be in the know. As a member, you're at the forefront of knowing what is happening in the community. You get to hear recommendations for changes and improvements, you know what construction projects are slated to occur, and you get to be a part of supporting or fighting these plans.

All for \$30 a year or 8.2 cents per day! Join or renew today! (Think of it as a donation for the benefit of our neighborhood.)

GET INVOLVED WITH OUR COMMITTEES!

Beautification & Parks: Recommends and implements projects to help beautify the common areas of our neighborhood.

Communications: Maintains the website as well as all electronic communications and social media presence.

Community Events: Plans and coordinates food truck events and other community wide events.

Government Affairs: Acts as a liaison between residents and our elected officials.

Code Enforcement, Infrastructure & Traffic: Reports and tracks complaints regarding code violations, dangerous conditions in the neighborhood, and other issues that fall within this category; Monitors commercial development; Suggests improvements for roadways, utilities and common areas.

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

Schools: Involved with the public schools in our community; Liaison between the schools and the community; Hosts gatherings to introduce the residents to the leaders of the schools.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) & Security: Volunteers are trained to assist and assess basic needs in the first 72 hours after an emergency such as a hurricane. During non-emergency times, the committee focuses on security concerns within our community.