



PHS Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1

March 2010

Annual Meeting – March 23rd 180 Palm Avenue

The Annual Meeting & Election of Officers for the Palm-Hibiscus-Star Islands Association is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23rd and will be held at 180 Palm Avenue. This important meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

President Hans Mueller indicates that the agenda will include an update on the **Undergrounding Project** and the important **Watson Island Tunnel Project**. Representatives will be on hand to cover the Tunnel project in detail and issues that face us during construction. They will also take questions from residents.

The **PHS Police “Officer of the Year” Award** will be presented and updates on other current topics such as the completion of the **MacArthur Causeway Project**. **Code Compliance Issues** will also be covered.

We will have a report from the Nominating Committee offering a slate of Officers for the coming year, followed by the Election of Officers. You will also have the opportunity to sign up for a Committee of your choice. Refreshments will be served. Please plan to attend.

Watson Island Tunnel to the Port

Construction on the Watson Island Tunnel to the Port of Miami is scheduled to *begin on **May 24, 2010*** and be completed in the Spring of 2014. The Tunnel is designed to take the large cargo trucks that currently travel through the streets of downtown Miami, from I-395 to Watson Island and through the Tunnel, under the Bay, to the Port. The project will be covered in detail at the **Homeowners Meeting on March 23rd**.

You can view an animation of the Tunnel at our website, www.phsislands.org, under the heading “Hot Topics”. County Officials tell us that in order for the Port to continue to grow and prosper, this project is needed. Obviously this project will impact our community and the surrounding traffic patterns. We will work with local and County Officials to minimize the impact on our lives. For more information you can go to their website, www.portofmiamitunnel.com.

Undergrounding Project Update

Both Palm and Hibiscus Islands have collected the number of signed Petitions required by the County in order to move the Undergrounding Project forward. The County will validate those Petitions and schedule the issue for two County Commission Meetings. The second of those meetings will also be a Public Hearing.

Following a successful vote by the County Commission, the County will mail out ballots to each resident in the impacted area for a “**Yes or No**” vote on proceeding. Those ballots will be returned directly to the County. A majority vote is required in order to obtain funding by the County and proceed with the project. Bids will be put out and construction will follow.

This long-awaited project will then begin. Your attention to those meetings and the ballot vote is important to this process. Special thanks goes to the Undergrounding Task Force—**Ian Kaplan, Brad Meltzer, Neil Fairman** and **Hans Mueller**.

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Watch Your Speed—Please!

We are fortunate to live on these beautiful Islands. We are somewhat isolated and may, in the hustle and bustle of our daily activities, forget about the posted **speed limit of 25 MPH** and the posted **Stop Signs**.

During **April**, the City of Miami Beach Police **Motorcycle Patrol** will be visiting our community to monitor our traffic behavior. While we have never had a serious incident involving a vehicle and a pedestrian, we want to make sure one does not occur in the future. Help us keep the community safe! Please—watch your speed!

City Election

This November, there will be an Election for Mayor of Miami Beach and 3 members of the City Commission. The City Commission is very important to the issues that face our neighborhood. You are encouraged to exercise your right to vote. You must be registered to vote at least 30 days in advance of the Election Day, November 2nd. Registration forms can be obtained by calling **305-375-4600**, or by picking up one from the Palm Island Guardhouse. Please register and **please vote!**



Crime Prevention

The City of Miami Beach Police Department indicates that our neighborhood has one of the lowest crime rates in the City and Miami-Dade County. Working together with the Police Department, as residents, we can continue that status.

The Police Department has assigned a Neighborhood Resource Officer to our community. She is available to come to your home and perform a **Residential Crime Survey** that is totally confidential, while at the same time lets you know the weaknesses, if any, in your home security. Please contact the **Police Department, Officer Deborah Doty at (305) 673-7813** for questions or to set an appointment for the survey.

Street Sweepers – March 26th

The City of Miami Beach will be visiting our 3 Islands on Friday, March 26th in order to clean the streets. They will dispatch 2 Street Sweepers and cleanup crews to Palm, Hibiscus and Star Islands beginning early in the morning.

In advance of that visit we would ask that resident and workers assist the effort by removing their vehicles from the street during that time. Also if you have any visitors or service personnel visiting at that time please try to ask them to park off of the street. Street Sweepers work best in areas where there are no vehicles parked in the street during their visit.

Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping of landscape debris and other trash takes place almost weekly in our community and hurts us all. It is virtually impossible to catch those responsible, but it is harmful to the neighborhood and causes the use of resources that might be spent in other ways in our community. *Please* make sure that your landscaper does the right thing and takes your debris out to the proper dumping sites. Also be on the lookout for those who violate the City Code for dumping.

Homeowners Meeting Agenda Items

The upcoming Homeowners Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 23rd, at 7:30 PM at 180 Palm Avenue will contain several important items with respect to our community. Among the items to be discussed are:

PHS Officer of the Year
The Undergrounding Project
The Watson Island Tunnel Project
MacArthur Causeway Construction
Monument Island Restoration
Code Compliance Issues
Committee Sign Up
Election of Board of Directors
Refreshments

Please plan to attend!

MacArthur Causeway Project

The project to improve the MacArthur Causeway, which began in July 2009, is almost completed. The improvements included new pavement and lane markings, new curbing and traffic lights. We have all been inconvenienced from time to time due to the project that was done by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Miami-Dade County. The PHS Islands Association worked with both agencies to minimize the disruption and to correct any areas that were of concern to the residents. In addition to work on the MacArthur Causeway, the project also provided **new signs for the Resident Lane and Visitors Lane, new lane markings on the Hibiscus Island and Star Island Bridges and at the entrance around the area of the Palm Island Fountain**. Thank you for your cooperation and support during this time.

Permits for Palm Island Park

We are very fortunate to have beautiful **Palm Island Park** located in our community. This public park is part of the City of Miami Beach Parks Department and as such, you are required to have a park permit to have functions at the Park. Without a permit your event may be in conflict with other events at the park and may be subject to cancellation. The City's Parks Department has been very cooperative with our Association and continues to work with us to make improvements in the Park. To obtain a permit to use the Palm Island Park, please call The **Parks Department at (305) 673-7730**.

Garbage & Recycling Days

Garbage Pickups are on **Mondays** and **Thursdays**. Recycle Pickup is on **Wednesdays**. Your materials should be placed at the street in the morning and empty cans or bins retrieved in the evening of that day. City Code states that Garbage must not be placed in the swale more than 24 hours before or after a scheduled collection. To schedule a **Bulk Pickup, please call (305) 471-4444**.

Calendar of Events

MARCH 23	ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS 180 PALM AVENUE 7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 28	HOMEOWNERS MEETING TBA 7:30 PM
OCTOBER 31	ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY PALM ISLAND PARK 5 TO 7 PM
NOVEMBER 2	ELECTION DAY VFW POST #3559 650 WEST AVENUE 7 AM TO 7 PM

THANKS TO:

- **The Undergrounding Task Force: Ian Kaplan, Brad Meltzer, Neil Fairman and Hans Mueller**, plus a host of others—including **Ginger Mendoza, Barbara Hagen and Gib Oxios** for assisting with the Petition Collection phase of the project.
- **Neil and Lisa Fairman** for graciously hosting our Homeowners Meeting on March 23rd. They also hosted the last meeting in October. Thanks a lot!!
- **The Parks & Recreation Department, Director Kevin Smith, and the Sanitation Department, Director Al Zamora**, for going the extra mile and scheduling 3 Palm frond pickups during each week in our community. This helps keep our neighborhood beautiful!
- **The FDOT and Miami-Dade County** for the work done on the MacArthur Causeway Improvement Project. The finished result looks great!
- **County Commissioner Bruno Barreiro** for helping us work through the difficulties with the MacArthur Project during construction.
- **Olympia Cabinet Design** for sponsoring this issue of the PHS Newsletter.