

Annual Village Celebration Picnic scheduled for Mar. 4



Pictured during the 2022 event.

BY GARY ALAN RUSE

Each year the Village of Palmetto Bay has a picnic for the entire community to celebrate the incorporation of the village as a municipality on Sept. 10, 2002.

The date for the picnic was changed several years ago because of the frequency of rainy weather in September. It is the single largest event in Palmetto Bay each year.

This year's picnic celebration will take place on Saturday, Mar. 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Coral Reef Park, 7895 SW 152 St. As in past years, there will be dance and musical performances, the Mayor's Cup Baseball Game, food and beverages, with rides and face painting for the children.

And this year something new is joining the list of activities, according to Village Parks and Recreation director Fanny Carmona.

"I am happy to announce that this year we added an exciting new component to our Picnic Celebration," Carmona said. "We will host a Pickleball Exhibition Game and Instructional Clinic. This, along with great food, games, rides, face painting, balloon artist, stilt walkers and performances by our talented students from local area schools, will certainly be one of

our biggest picnics yet."

Pickleball is a game resembling tennis in which players use paddles to hit a perforated plastic ball over a net. It was invented in 1965 and has elements of tennis, ping pong and badminton, played on a small court.

Village Mayor Karyn Cunningham is excited about the popular annual event and what it means to the village.

"This is going to be another amazing event bringing our community together," Mayor Cunningham said. "It truly is the signature event for the Village of Palmetto Bay."

In addition to the usual parking in front of Coral Reef Park and along SW 77th Avenue, there also will be parking at Holy Rosary St. Richard Catholic Church, 7500 SW 152 St.

Sponsors for the event this year include South Motors, Westminster Christian School, Mosquito Joe, Baptist Health, Palmer Trinity School, The Corradino Group, Old Cutler Presbyterian Church, Kimley Horn, Stantec, SFM Services, Christ Fellowship, Coldwell Banker, Waste Connections, Sports Grill and others. Those interested in being sponsors should call 305-259-1234 or send email to events@palmettobay-fl.gov.

Villagers' Garden Tour to feature five private gardens in Pinecrest



A Tour of Pinecrest's Most Heavenly Gardens

TO MIAMI'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

The Villagers will host "Pinecrest Paradiso," a tour of Pinecrest's most heavenly gardens from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Saturday, Mar. 4.

Garden lovers will have the opportunity for a special view into private gardens featuring lush landscaping, water features, unique plantings, sculptures, and more. Members of The Villagers will be on hand throughout each garden with insider details about the flora, fauna, and what makes each garden special. In addition to five unique, private gardens, participants are invited to tour Pinecrest Gardens (formerly Parrot Jungle and Gardens), featuring the newly renovated Upper Garden by renowned landscape architect Douglas Thompson of Landscape DE and award-winning architect William Lane. Pinecrest Gardens is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and recognized for its significance by the Cultural Landscape Foundation.

Pinecrest Gardens will be one of two starting points for the Garden Tour as well as the site of The Villagers' Boutique. Featuring a variety of vendors offering unique gifts and plants as well as Villagers' Jewel Box Gems, angels, and breads, the Boutique will be open until 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 and may be purchased in advance from Villagers' members and can be purchased through Eventbrite at <https://thevillagersinc.org/gardentour/>. Tickets also will be for sale at The Villagers' booth at Pinecrest Gardens Farmer Market on Sundays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The day of the tour, tickets will be available for \$55 at Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave., and at one of the private gardens located at 6201 SW 96 St., both in Pinecrest, FL 33156. Tour-goers will re-

ceive a map to guide them as well as detailed information about landscaping highlights. There are no refunds and no rain dates.

"We are delighted to showcase Pinecrest Gardens along with five private gardens in the beautiful Village of Pinecrest," said Garden Tour co-chair and Villager first vice president Alana Perez. "It's a tribute to the late Pinecrest resident Karen Mashburn, whose tenacity and unwavering love of gardens was a catalyst in the early days of Pinecrest Gardens' transformation. Tour participants will share her incredible vision for Pinecrest Gardens while seeing her own lovely private garden on the tour."

This is a no-smoking event and venues cannot accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, or strollers. Commercial photography is not allowed. Carpooling and comfortable walking shoes are encouraged. Food trucks will have food available for purchase. Ticket holders drive their own vehicles between the properties and will receive tour directions with their ticket purchase.

Proceeds support The Villagers' historic preservation projects and university scholarships for students studying historic preservation.

Miami-Dade County's oldest historic preservation organization, The Villagers, was founded in 1966. The not-for-profit, all-volunteer group has grown to identify and award more than 200 grants to endangered sites and organizations. Through educating, advocating, fundraising, restoration, and documentation The Villagers work to preserve the cultural and architectural heritage of local historic sites and neighborhoods. For more details about the Garden Tour, projects funded, scholarships, membership opportunities, and the full scope of The Villagers' legacy, visit www.thevillagersinc.org.



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