April 2021 | Volume 64 | Issue 4 Miami Shores | Biscayne Park | El Portal North Bay Village



The Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce president

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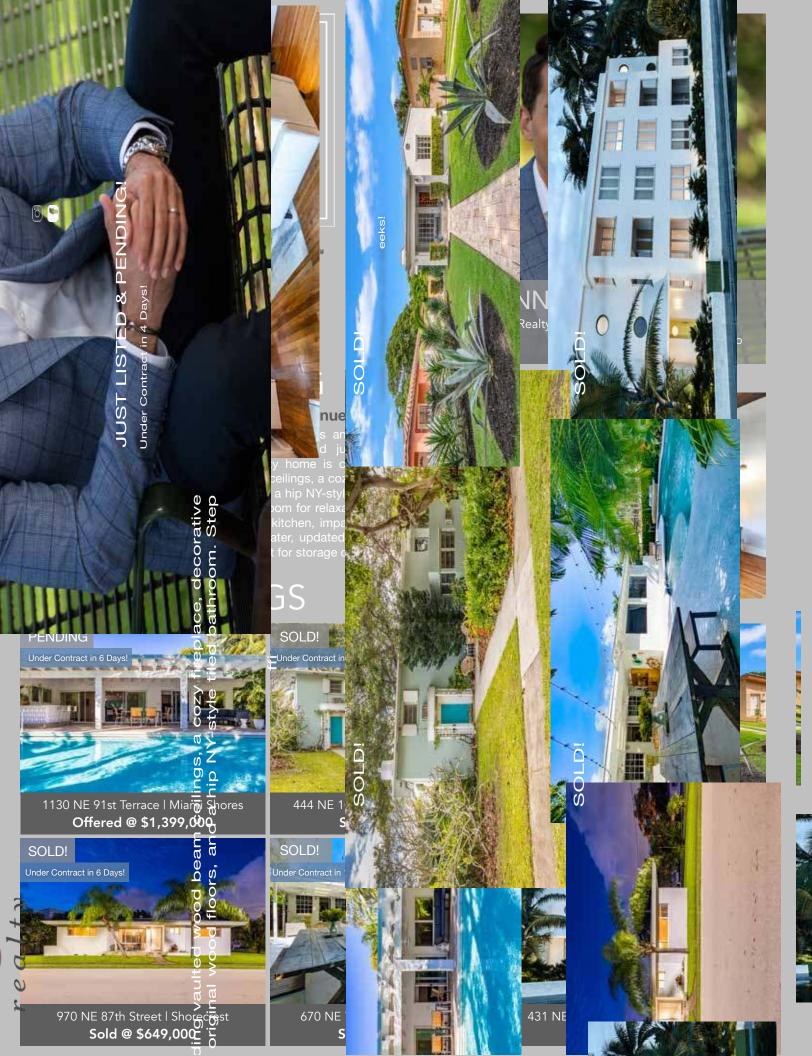


hosted by The Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce **April 8, 2021 6:00PM**



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President's Message Neil Kodsi, President, Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce

I hope everyone is noticing that downtown Miami Shores is getting more and more active every day as more of us get vaccinated from the dreaded Covid-19 virus. Indeed, many of our Downtown Merchants were hopping with customers on March 6th in support of Doctors Charter School's "We Love This Village" Event, where several downtown merchants donated a portion of their March 6th receipts to the school. I hope this trend continues and I hope to see more of you shopping at local merchants and dining at our local restaurants.

Now, as we enter April, we find ourselves busy with our biennial elections here in the Shores. We have four very good candidates running for three spots on our Village Council. In support of our elections, much of this issue of the Egret is dedicated to the elections. You can find statements from the candidates on pages 8-9. Additionally, as we have traditionally done for the last several years, the Chamber will be sponsoring a candidate forum on April 8th at 6 p.m. Although this forum will be done via Zoom and will not be in person, I assure you that it will be just as informative and lively as forums past. Please turn to page 8 for all the details. I am honored to be moderating this forum

and would love for you to send me questions that you would like me to ask the candidates. You can email your questions to me at neilkodsi@ miamishores.com. We will also be devoting the last 30 minutes of the forum to direct questions from the public.

Although it is still several months away, I also am pleased to announce that the Chamber is already beginning its plans for a 2021 Green Day Celebration downtown and we are also working on a return of our annual Golf Tournament. I hope to be able to provide you with dates for these and other live, in-person events in the May and June issues of the Earet. Finally, please check out our newly updated website, miamishores. com, where you will see all sorts of information about local merchants, restaurants and events that are being sponsored by the Chamber as well as other organizations here in the Shores. We hope that you will use the new and improved miamishores.com website as your new "one-stop shop" for everything you need to know about what is happening right here in the Shores.

The Egret • April 2021 • Volume 64 • Number 4 • 9620 NE Second Avenue, Suite 201, Miami Shores, FL, 33138 • 305-754-5466 e-mail: chamberinfo@miamishores.com • www.miamishores.com • facebook. com/MiamiShores, The Greater Miami Shores Egret is the official publication of the Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce, and is published monthly. 7,000 copies of the Egret are distributed to homes, apartments, and businesses within the villages of Miami Shores, Biscayne Park, El Portal, and North Bay Village free of charge. Views expressed in this publication are those of the editorial staff and do not necessarily reflect those of the Board of Directors. Information in it is intended for Chamber member organizations as well as the residents of our communities. Please contact the Chamber for more information on membership, advertising, distribution, or content.

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For contact information please go to the Chamber's website: www.miamishores.com Find a copy of the Egret at:

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Community and School News Check back monthly for news from our community and community schools

THE CUSHMAN SCHOOL

Creating a culture of empathy and civic responsibility has always been an important part of The Cushman School's curriculum. Extremely relevant to the times, the school's programming consistently focuses on instilling good character in its students as well as the virtues of courtesy, industry, responsibility and scholarship. In support of this mindset, Cushman's 8th-graders recently participated in the international Cadena Initiative. The students researched. developed and pitched ideas aimed at alleviating a problem within a community affected by a humanitarian or natural disaster. Cadena, an NGO organization that provides relief to communities around the world, selects winning teams to compete in the regional

CONFIDENT SMILES BEGIN

competition. The winner of the regional competition proceeds to the international competition, usually held in Mexico City. The winner of the international competition works with the Cadena team to have their "solution" come to fruition. Congratulations to all students who benefited from this crosscurricular experience between physical science and global studies and a special shout out to Cushman's student groups who were chosen to move on to the next round. Their innovative ideas include: fortune cookies that deliver facts/tips to educate about the dangers of human trafficking, soccer balls made of sustainable USDA certified cactus leather with proceeds going back to the environment, and educational masks to protect from viruses while delivering pictorial messages aimed at staying safe. This

WITH STRAIGHT TEETH /

middle school service outreach with organizations like Cadena is an excellent pre-requisite to the Society & Me (SAM) course work that begins in high school. For more information visit cushmanschool.org and/or cadena.ngo.

DOCTORS CHARTER SCHOOL

On Friday, March 5th, DCS Hawks wore green to show support for Say Something Week, which was established by Sandy Hook parents. By wearing green, we remember those who lost their lives to gun violence and demonstrate our commitment to helping prevent future school tragedies.

Thank you to all who supported DCS's campaign "We Love this Village" on March 6th, where 19 students volunteered to clean up 2nd Avenue, while various businesses also agreed to support our school. It was wonderful to see our community come together. A special thank you to Amaranthine Bistro, Carrot Express, Cote Gourmet, GG Salon & Spa. Home Crush Store, Mima Market, Pebble and Vine and Tinta y Café for supporting our fundraising efforts.

Our students are busy planning their course selections for the 2021-22 school year. Next year, students will have more Advanced Placement courses. two additional STEM courses and 4 new dual enrollment courses with Barry University,







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When shopping for a new home, spend the time getting a pre-qualification letter from your bank or mortgage broker. Our agents will help you to obtain this document. This makes you a much stronger buyer when an offer is made for your new dream home.

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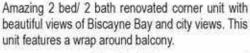
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Be a part of the discussion! Email your questions for the candidates to NeilKodsi@miamishores.com

VOTE APRIL 13TH TUESDAY

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Sandra Harris is a wife, mother, Miami native and a recently retired transportation professional. Sandra has lived in Miami Shores since 2003. She served as the Transportation Director for the City of Miami and was responsible for the oversight and coordination of various transportation projects to include but not limited to its trolley program, traffic studies, extensive collaboration with state and county government and regional transportation partners. She also serves as a section chief with Miami Dade Transit, responsible for all aspects of transits services. In addition, she holds a Masters' degree in Public Administration. Sandra has also been appointed for two (2) terms to the **Miami Shores Personnel and Appeals** board. She is running for office simply to serve the community that supported her family during her parenting and working years. She desires to give back to her community and remain a productive citizen. If elected, she pledges to support and introduce legislation that maintains our quality of life; facilitate the growth of local businesses; adopt best practices to address conservation and climate change; and identify additional sources of revenues for the Village. In addition, she believes in a government that is accessible and responsive to its residents.

Visit www.Sandra4miamishores.com to learn more about Sandra. Miami Shores Elections has a tradition of the highest vote earner becoming Mayor. The candidate with the second most votes garnered is Vice Mayor. They both serve four-year terms, the first two years as Mayor and Vice mayor respectively. The remaining two years of their term both serve as council members. The third highest voter-elected candidate serves a two-year term. After the election results have been confirmed one council member moves to appoint the two highest vote earners as Mayor and Vice-Mayor respectively. This serves to maintain continuity from one council to the next while also keeping an active participation of new council members.

2021, as we all know has not been a 'normal' election year. The convivial 'meet 'n greet' gatherings are being cautious, door to door canvasing, usually the best way for candidates to meet prospective voters, is awkward and candidates have relied on word-of-mouth and social media.



Daniel 'Dan' Marinberg is running for Council to help guide the Village and set its direction to support things that are important to all of our community. Dan graduated from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and Boston University's School of Law, and was a real estate partner in the Miami office of international law firm Greenberg Traurig. 7 years ago, he left Greenberg to help build a startup into what is now the largest privately owned cell tower company in the U.S. At his company, Dan serves as the General Counsel running a Legal and Asset Management Department comprised of almost 20 employees, and helping the company close on transactions ranging from millions to half a billion dollars in size, and financings and securitizations totaling in the billions. Aside from his work experience, Dan has been committed to community service by serving on the board of the National LGBTQ Task Force, chairing Take Stock in Children's Miami Leadership Council, and volunteer coaching the University of Miami's Club Volleyball program for 16 years. Dan is eager to bring his skillset and strategic abilities to help Miami Shores progress.

Visit Dan's website to learn more about him and his goals at: www.voteDan4MSV.com



Councilman Jonathan Meltz and his wife Evelin have lived in Miami Shores for almost 20 years. They are the proud parents of three daughters, Zoe, Cassidy, and Maddie. Jonathan is an attorney who handles complex matters for doctors, nurses, and health care professionals. Elected in 2017, Jonathan serves on the Police Pension **Board and the Miami-Dade Criminal** Justice Council. Jonathan has a long history of commitment to Miami Shores having served as President of the Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce and as **Chairman of the Miami Shores Village Recreation Department Advisory** Board. He also coached St. Rose of Lima Middle School girls' basketball, volleyball, and flag football. For the last 4 years, Jonathan has proven his leadership and commitment to the residents. However, he won't rest on past Village Council accomplishments. He knows there is much more to do to improve. He wants Miami Shores to act for today and plan for tomorrow. Jonathan continuously proves to be the voice of our residents. He carefully considers every issue and applies a common-sense approach: Asks tough questions. Holds people accountable. Puts aside personal interests. Makes the right choices and does only what's best for the residents of Miami Shores.



Katia Saint Fleur has dedicated the majority of her professional career to serving the people of Florida. Katia worked as a legislative aide for State Senator Oscar Braynon for six years and has also worked with the Department of Commerce building community partnerships for the U.S. Census Bureau in the Southeast Region of the United States.

Currently, she is the principal at KSF & Associates. A boutique governmental and community relations firm specializing in helping non-profit organizations and associations maneuver through the state legislative process. Katia has over 15 years of experience bringing together local governments, non-governmental agencies, and media outlets to educate Florida residents about laws, economic opportunities, educational opportunities, and health issues. As a candidate for Miami Shores Village Council, she looks forward to using all her acquired skills to make Miami Shores the very best it can be.

Visit Katia's website: www. KatiaforMiamiShores.com bringing the total dual enrollment courses to 18 next vear! It's great to be a Hawk! GO HAWKS!

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SCHOOL (MSPCS) Our students are once again reaching out and helping our community. We are collecting school supplies for the public schools in need. This is part of our Lenten Challenge. These supplies will be used to make "athome" bags for those students participating in school virtually. We are so proud of our students for having a giving heart and

showing love and compassion towards others. Our 5thgraders are also gearing up for several community awareness and community projects at Oleta River State Park. They will be helping our parks and learning about the outdoors during their 3 day, socially safe, experience at Oleta River State Park next month.

Registration has started for next school year. If you, or someone you know are looking for an amazing school, filled with dedicated staff and students that continue to perform well on testing, as well as have a strong social emotional grounding,

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ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC

SCHOOL (SRLCS) St. Rose of Lima Catholic School has established an outstanding spiritual and academic reputation in our community. This success can be witnessed in many ways through their local, state and national accomplishments. Most recently, the students of St. Rose of Lima were recognized by Mathletics for their incredible participation and achievement. Their 2nd grade class was honored to have placed 1st in the Nation in the Mathletics Hall of Fame. while their 3rd grade class placed 24th and 4th grade placed 26th in the country! Go Cardinals!

The mission of St. Rose of Lima is focused on helping each child reach his/her fullest potential. With the use of innovative instructional strategies, teachers work collaboratively with their administrative support team to plan engaging and meaningful lessons for students of all levels.

Be a part of a faith community that inspires young minds and places the needs of others first! Limited enrollment for the 2021-22 school year is now available. Prospective families are invited to schedule a Meet & Greet with SRL Principal, Dr. Stephen Brown by calling 305-751-4257.



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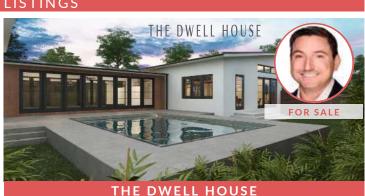
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