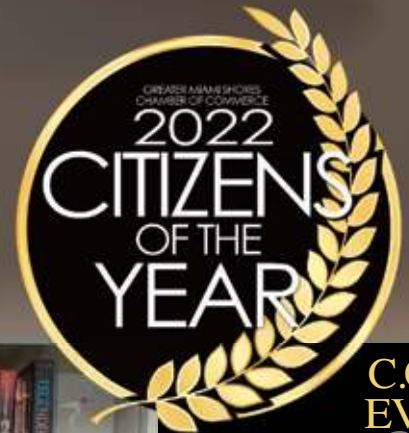


Egret

June 2022 | Volume 76 | Issue 6
Miami Shores | Biscayne Park | El Portal | Little River



C.O.T.Y.
EVENT
JUNE 9TH@6PM



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Chamber of Commerce
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Meet the 2022
Citizens of the Year
**Powering
THOUGH A Crisis**
WITH INNOVATION & TEAM WORK

PAGE 4

WES PEARCE

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2022 STATS

- ▶ 10 Listings Sold
- ▶ Listings Sold for Average of 7% Over Ask!
- ▶ 8 Buyers Closed
- ▶ \$15M+ Sold & Under Contract So Far!



The Market is Still Hot!



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RECENT LISTINGS

SOLD!

Under Contract in 6 Days!



163 NW 102nd Street | Miami Shores
Sold @ \$745,000

SOLD!

Under Contract in 5 Days!



102 NE 108th Street | Miami Shores
Sold @ \$890,000

SOLD!

Under Contract in 5 Days!



9802 NW 1st Avenue | Miami Shores
Sold @ \$845,000

SOLD!

Under Contract in 1 Day!



11121 Griffing Blvd. | Biscayne Park
Sold @ \$1,365,000

SOLD!

Under Contract in 6 Days!



1184 NE 91st Terrace | Miami Shores
Sold @ \$1,300,000

SOLD!



189 NW 102nd Street | Miami Shores
Sold @ \$840,520



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Egret Editorial: Liangy S. Fernandez-Calli,

Arts Correspondent, Susan Ackley

Thank you for your awe-inspiring support on Green Day, in downtown Miami Shores. We were thrilled to have the opportunity to bring our small businesses together for a showcase, to our community. Thank you to our Partners and Sponsors. I would like to especially recognize Graber Realty Group, and the Miami Shores Village for their partnership which brought over 120 vendors, and exhibitors for our community to discover the varied small businesses, and learn green friendly practices. On June 9th, we are excited to honor the Citizen of the Year at Barry University. Every year the Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce recognizes someone from the community who has gone "above and beyond" to magnify their skills, and bring our community together. Due to the extraordinary circumstances that the pandemic created, we are honoring eight outstanding educators, who are leaders of their schools. Many of us were fortunate to benefit from each school's innovative approach to education for their student population and staff. Through their caring efforts to keep our children, and young adults safe, engaged, educated, and on track, during this unprecedented crisis, they are being honored for their exemplary academic delivery, leadership skills, and kindness shown to our community, during these trying times. We applaud each and every one of the honorees.

As a parent I am very proud of the education offered in our community. I feel fortunate to have my son attend one of the schools being honored. The honorees are from Barry University: Dr. Mike Allen, The Cushman School: Dr. Arvi Balseiro, Doctors Charter School of Miami Shores: Dr. Edwin Acevedo, Horace Mann Middle School: Dr. Lita Thompson, Miami Country Day School: Mariandl Hufford, Miami Shores Elementary School: Brenda Swain, Miami Shores Presbyterian Church School: Anita Stevens and St. Rose of Lima Catholic School: Dr. Stephen Brown. Each one of the recipients has received this distinguished award for all they have done through their leadership, while spearheading their schools through innovative strategies to deliver education challenges, during the global pandemic. Please join us in honoring them at Barry University on June 9th. Tickets and details about this spectacular event, can be found on our website MiamiShores.com. We look forward to you cheering our educational leaders on, at this prestigious venue. Thank you again for your continued support. You are the mainstay of the Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce. Let's continue to bring our community together, and thrive once again!

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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 Little River 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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2022 CITIZENS OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

THEIR INSIGHT, ADVICE AND LESSONS LEARNED

By LIANGY CALLI

This year, The Citizen of the Year Award goes to...all of our compassionate, dedicated, selfless, local schools' staff, faculty and their courageous leaders. We see you.

This article will focus on the Heads of Schools who led their institutions during an unprecedented time of uncertainty, confusion and fear. Their roles, significant to begin with, now included the handling of a pandemic, with never ending and ever-changing protocols, lockdowns, virtual learning, and many more challenges that loomed and threatened to break their commitments to their students.

The process of interviewing each featured Principal included an immediate disclaimer from each one, that this recognition is a representation of what their individual teams achieved and they could not have gotten through this moment without their support and commitment. They are humbled by this recognition, and forever grateful and proud of the way their schools performed.

In March 2019, all of our lives changed forever. COVID-19 was officially declared by the World Health Organization. Ultimately, the United States surpassed all other nations to rank first in number of cases (James M. Shultz, "Pandemic March: 2019 Coronavirus Disease's First Wave Circumnavigates the Globe", National Library of Medicine, October 2020). First came social distancing, masks, then came the lockdowns, and inevitably, a forced online homeschooling experience. Parents got to see firsthand what the day in the life of an educator looked like and literally saw them transform themselves at rapid speed and pivot a number of times to keep up with the exhausting demands of the pandemic. Let's not forget, many of them going through their very own family reconfigurations and some even

dealing with loss. As a parent, I found myself relying on their guidance and direction more than ever. I often include them in the category of first responders, as their dedication was fearless and unwavering.

With a strong team comes strong leadership, and our Principals responded to the call without skipping a beat. Amidst their usual daily responsibilities, they reinvented the traditional school model practically overnight. They continuously researched the ever-changing protocols and data, formed task forces, secured needed equipment and resources for their students, trained themselves and their faculty, counseled parents, dealt with shortages, managed budgets, and undoubtedly, dealt with the outside noise of politics.

In this article I will highlight some of our local Principals' responses to my crafted questions regarding the pandemic. They share their challenges during this time, their insight, advice for parents, and their focus for the future.



Dr. Edwin Acevedo

Joining Doctors Charter as Executive Director in September 2020, Dr. Edwin Acevedo came in the midst of an emergency and he hit the ground running. He shared that his top priority was to maintain everyone's safety and make sure that learning instruction was continuously taking place. His challenge became to stay on top of scientific jour-

nals and crucial information provided by the CDC and other health organizations.

He shares that this experience taught him the resilience of human beings, evidenced by his team. He feels proud to represent such an outstanding body of faculty and staff that is continuously and tirelessly committed to making sure the students were the top priority. His team understood how critical it was to keep the children engaged and conform to a new medium. Dr. Acevedo shares that, "Throughout the pandemic we had very brave men and women that were resolute in their commitment to the students. They never stopped, even when at home while in quarantine."

Dr. Acevedo indicates that through this process they have identified the need to secure additional training, to continue to seek internet providers and other sources to secure discounts and make sure there are more hot spots available.



Dr. Mike Allen

"I would advise parents and students to keep moving forward and to pursue their educational goals uninterrupted, and to not let the external chaos deter their path."

Dr. Mike Allen, President of Barry University began his tenure during the summer of 2019. Given the juncture of the pandemic at the time, his challenge and priority was to make sure the students' experience met their expectations safely. His approach was to help his team adapt with the crisis and always look at everything from the students' point of view. Every semester was met with a different set of challenges, new

health protocols and criteria. They remained focused and considerable resources were secured for the classrooms to meet the demands of different hybrids. Dr. Allen, "We created an environment predicated on choice, for faculty, staff and students."

During the pandemic, they learned how much in-person interaction matters to people. Dr. Allen explains, "Prior to the pandemic, people believed that online would be better, for most that is no longer ideal. The pandemic served as a reminder of the importance of human interaction in learning. It also allowed for expanding on what is offered." The student now has a choice and the opportunity to ask themselves, how do I want to learn? In person, hybrid, or totally virtual? They can make a determination, based on newfound flexibility around modalities and methods for teaching and learning that are now robustly available.

Dr. Allen expressed how proud he is of his community, how they rallied together and demonstrated what a single community can accomplish. They all committed to moving in the same direction, to be flexible, creative and stood strong throughout.



Dr. Arvi Balseiro

Dr. Arvi Balseiro has been with The Cushman School for a total of 35 years, serving as The Head of the School since 2013. She credits the level of swift response during this critical time to the consistency and the culture they have built together, with the right people in place. The school immediately created an in-house Covid Task Force composed of doctors, experts in the field, family members and some faculty and staff. Dr. Balseiro states that it remains a crucial group that she intends to keep in place and meet with periodically. At the time, with policies changing so fast, from hour to hour, her mantra quickly became, "Al-

ways be divergent thinkers, always look at things with fresh eyes". She offers that their families were exemplary. They all became partners, they were teams amongst teams to remain connected throughout the whole process. She believes this partnership to be crucial to getting through something like this. "Success comes when both school and parents can come together, discuss and mirror philosophies."

When it came time to switch to online learning, they were fortunate in that they had already been preparing to launch their virtual campus, as part of their efforts to always offer specialization and find the right formulas for their families. In essence, they were ready; however, knowing what she knows now, she specifies that she would create more opportunities for children to be together outside (socially distanced) during a lockdown. Once the kids returned to campus, it was clear the social component needed significant attention.



Dr. Stephen Brown

Dr. Stephen Brown, St. Rose of Lima School Principal shares, "This experience was a vivid reminder that with trust in God and respect for one another, anything is possible. Our parish and school have served as beacons of hope, faith and love for over 70 years; our strength is found in the community of our Church. Collectively, our students, parents, teachers and staff worked tirelessly to maintain a high level of excellence throughout the pandemic. Although we experienced a few minor hiccups along the way, I don't regret any decision. Each hiccup was another lesson learned and only made us stronger together."

When addressing disparities, Dr. Brown mentions that despite their own personal and professional challenges, their faculty and staff believe in service to others first. Throughout the pandemic, numerous

service projects were initiated to provide food and other household goods to those who were struggling in our community. He emphasizes his appreciation to all parents, for their unwavering support during the pandemic.



Mariandl Hufford

President and Head of School at Miami Country Day, Mariandl Hufford joined the school the same year Covid hit. Despite the new additional challenge, continuous shifts and reinventions, she shares that there were a lot of moments of appreciation. "I hope they know how much they mean to us and how we admire the work they do. I am continuously in awe of their dedication" she says of her team. Together, every phase of the pandemic was examined and narrowed down to what worked and didn't work and how it could be adjusted for the better. For example, Headmistress Hufford explains that concurrent teaching was not the right fit for their school. This was a hybrid of teacher and students in the classroom, and students via-zoom class. She says, "While it seemed like a good idea at the time, it greatly impacted the teaching and learning dynamic." Ultimately, they abandoned that practice and made the decision to work with Constellation Learning. This is an online program they were already familiar with, which provides access to the students' curriculum and offers an online coach who assists with the work that is being covered in the classroom. This equips the students with what they need instead of watching from a distance. Other changes they identified and maintained, include the increase in participation during live streamed school events. Having live-streamed events afforded the opportunity for all family members, near and far to attend. Even PA meetings and Parent/Teacher Conferences saw a rise in attendance. They looked for silver linings everywhere.

"If there is one thing that I have learned from this experience, is that we need each other and that we are all connected in this beautiful, complicated and messy world we live in and how impressed I am at how my community pulled together."

"Don't sweat the small stuff; your anxiety can be contagious. Focus on building independence and confidence; avoid fighting battles for your children. Be a positive role model; this includes teaching with tough love."



Dr. Lita Thompson

"The biggest challenge during the pandemic was lack of devices. The school district was able to assist, but many families were unaware or afraid to take advantage of device distribution. I recall many of our staff members expressing sadness about the conditions which our families and students were experiencing."

Principal Dr. Lita Thompson of Horace Mann Middle School started her position in late August 2020. She did not meet every member of the faculty in one room until late November. Dr. Thompson shares, "My appointment occurred just before the beginning of the school year. Students/staff were told to remain at home. We did not have clear direction when everyone would return to in-person learning or how our educational offerings would continue. We did not have enough devices for all students and teachers were unsure of the programs/materials that would be utilized. And...I was brand new!" Nonetheless, she forged ahead and at every turn she was reminded to be flexible and compassionate. She learned firsthand of the less-than-optimal conditions in which some of her students lived, not ideal situations for off-site learning during a pandemic.

When the students returned to school, they were different students. Some had lost loved ones. They even lost a school friend. During this time, Dr. Thompson's main focus was to address mental health, food and promote and provide technology assistance. Online counseling was offered to students and their families, their school counselors visited homes to ensure that families were made aware of community resources available. At school, counselors created peer group sessions, one-to-one sessions, classroom observation schedules and after-school programs. It was a trying time that they continue to navigate, "I try to encourage, motivate, and cheer for the teachers. Their hearts are in the right place, and it is a difficult job. At Horace Mann, our goal is to move each student to high school while providing them with a pleasant middle school experience and preparing them for the rigors of high school learning. This task is not always easy. Teachers must work from the heart because with all the challenges, they would not be successful unless they truly desire to help our future leaders."



Anita Stevens

"Be aware of the social emotional aspect. Everyone goes through things differently and we have to respect each other through that, we have to be a support to others as much as we can. That's what I know helped our school."

Miami Shores Presbyterian Church School Principal, Anita Stevens has been with the school since 2018. Although somewhat new to the school during the pandemic, she had already managed to establish strong relationships within the community. She quickly understood that the school and our overall community rallies together when there is a crisis. She is very proud of how the school performed, how everyone quickly played a role and pivoted in just days. Communication was key and due to the size of the school, they were able to keep up with information that constantly changed. She relied on her in-house task force, the school board, the CDC, the Florida Department of Health and ultimately the Church, which had different guidelines.



When it came time to transition to in-school learning, they implemented Social Emotional Learning (SEL), something they continue to rely on as a tool to give the students the space to express themselves. This activation entails prompt questions from their teachers, leading them to ask questions of their own, address their fears and concerns, share anything they have on their minds. The teachers really focused on their students' mental health, making sure to set them up for success during class instruction. In essence, children lost two years of social skills and needed some time to adjust emotionally. Families and teachers worked closely to make sure children got what they needed. In some situations, teachers reached out to parents with updates, sharing feelings that children shared with them. Principal Stevens recalls, "In the end, there was some academic loss, but as a whole, the

school did amazing and when comparing our MAP scores against other schools, we did really well."



Brenda Swain

"I learned that life changes at the drop of a hat! Lives are turned upside in the matter of days! The pandemic also confirmed my strong belief of just how resilient children are."

Principal Brenda Swain of Miami Shores Elementary has been with the school since August 2008. She has been blessed with a long-standing team, some of whom have been working for the school for 20 years. She explains that the bond that exists between her faculty and staff made things go a lot more smoothly. For them, the biggest challenge was the internet and securing devices for the families. She explains the process, "We worked to get the devices to them. We made home visits and spoke with students and their parents. We used communication apps to accept assignments and supported our parents who only had a phone. It was extremely hard on the parents and students." Ms. Swain also petitioned the District to have their Mental Health Coordinator on campus two days a week in anticipation of the children returning to campus. In retrospect, she wishes she would have asked for more days. "Students are struggling and teachers and staff members are struggling to get back to what we knew before. I tell them that in my opinion, it will take the same amount of time, two years to regain what we have lost."

When asked for advice for parents, Principal Swain stated adamantly, "Communicate with your children! Communicate with your child's teacher, coach, tutor! Communicate with other parents and share situations! We cannot stop talking and engaging with each other!"

...

If you'd like to join us in celebrating our 2022 Citizens of the Year, tickets are still available at **MiamiShores.com**

The event will be held at:

**Broad Center for the Performing Arts
at Barry University
11300 NE 2nd Ave., Miami Shores, FL 33161
Thursday, June 9, 2022
6:00pm - 9:00pm**



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1470 NE 123rd St. #A706 \$169,000

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1290 NE 100th St. \$1,999,000

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UNDER CONTRACT

780 NE 69th St. #1502 \$499,000

Welcome to one of the most desirable CORNER units at The Palm Bay Yacht Club! EXQUISITE VIEWS OF THE BAY, BEACHES & CITY.

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TIP OF THE MONTH

When shopping for a new condominium home, be careful that your views are protected. If there is an empty lot, no matter how small, in your view, it is a safe bet that there will be a building built there one day and your view is not protected. I have seen units with beautiful water views end up looking at a new building 10 years later.

Properties Exclusively For Sale By The Jack Coden Group



UNDER CONTRACT

1800 NE 114th St. #1807 \$349,000

AMAZING WIDE BAY VIEWS from this 1,460 Sq. Ft. REMODELED 1 BR/2BA unit at The Cricket Club! Features include a HUGE 30 ft balcony with breathtaking views.



3041 Oak Ave. \$2,150,000

Never before listed, this rare historic home is zoned residential and commercial giving this property unlimited possibilities. Built in 1921 and hidden behind privacy walls, this home is one of a kind in the heart of Coconut Grove.



NEW PRICE

310 Shore Drive E \$2,500,000

Rare to market, lovely 3bed/3 bath single family home, is totally remodeled & located on a corner lot in Bay Heights. 2863 sf per Seller. Features include impact windows & doors, brand new metal Roof.



JUST CLOSED

2386 SW Island Creek Tr. \$721,000

This exquisitely remodeled 2,750 sf simple townhome with river views features a stunning new kitchen with built in kitchenaid SS appliances, wine cooler, granite countertops with peninsula waterfall.



NEW LISTING

4269 SW 13th St. \$1,075,000

DRIPPING IN CHARM! Located in one of Little Gable's nicest blocks, this adorable & updated 2,250 SF. home is 4 beds & 3 baths (main house is a 3/2 & attached 2 story loft is 1/1 w/ SEPARATE ENTRANCE).



UNDER CONTRACT

795 NE 77th Ter. \$1,999,000

Attention boaters & investors, rare to market, this iconic Belle Meade pre-war cottage with a pool is located on deep water with no bridges to the bay. Restore this charming 2/1 or build your 4,500 sf dream home.



17704 SW 83rd Ct. \$1,449,000

This southern style Miami home is like living in a resort! Located on the canal, this 2 story masterpiece features 4 beds & 3 beds plus a fully FINISHED BASEMENT & a 4 car garage!



NEW LISTING

1540 N. Treasure Dr. \$1,650,000

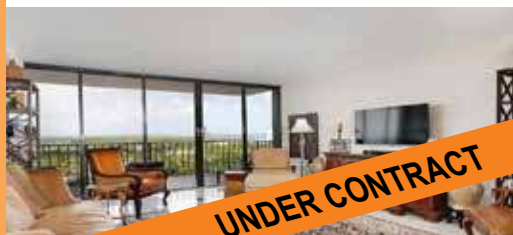
RARE TO MARKET on TREASURE ISLAND in charming North Bay Village, this 2,500 Sf 4/2 split plan DESIGNER HOME has been COMPLETELY REMODELED w/ no expense spared!



NEW LISTING

11111 Biscayne Blvd. #21C \$429,000

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UNDER CONTRACT

780 NE 69th St # 2208 \$479,000

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8001 Crespi Blvd. #7A \$184,000

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JOIN US IN HONORING OUR 2022 CITIZENS OF THE YEAR!

Dr. Mike Allen ~ Barry University
Dr. Arvi Balseiro ~ The Cushman School
Dr. Edwin Acevedo ~ Doctors Charter School
Dr. Lita Thompson ~ Horace Mann Middle School
Mariandl Hufford ~ Miami Country Day School
Brenda Swain ~ Miami Shores Elementary School
Anita Stevens ~ Miami Shores Presbyterian School
Dr. Stephen Brown ~ St. Rose of Lima Catholic School

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Miami Shores School , Community News & Events

DCS Receives Accreditation Recognition

DCS once again has received accreditation by the coveted North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI).

The accreditation process was a comprehensive one which began last year and was finalized by the Cognia accreditation team in late February, 2022. Thank you to the many parents, students, teachers, administrators, Board members and community members who provided artifacts and participated in focus group discussions about our school. Our school received a score of 311 which surpasses the national average of 281. The accreditation process measures standards relating to leadership, learning, and resources and recognizes strengths of the school as well as areas where it needs to improve.

Congratulations to the class of 2022, which on June 7, 2022, at Barry University, at 7:00 p.m., will be honored to receive its keynote address by the Honorable Lisette Reid, a U.S. Magistrate Judge of the Southern District of Florida. Ms. Reid is a Miami Shores Resident and former DCS Board Trustee.

Congratulations to Dr. Edwin Acevedo, our Executive Director for being recognized as one of Miami Shores' Citizens of the Year, 2022. The recognition ceremony will take place at Barry University on June 9,

2022. It's great to be a Hawk!

The **Heidi Hewes** members have been busy fundraising to support the Silver Ladies Fund and provide grants for Cancer research. After two years, we were finally able to gather at the Miami Shores Country Club in March for the annual Silver Ladies Luncheon. \$34,000 was raised to assist cancer patients in need while receiving treatment at Sylvester by giving them a small stipend each month to cover expenses such as, electricity, food, transportation, childcare, and more. In addition, we were once again to meet in person at the Miami Country Day School Walk for Purpose. Half of the money raised at the walk goes to support cancer research at UM.

It was great to see all our neighbors at Green Day! Thank you to everyone who stopped by our tent and purchased items from the Bargain Box. The Bargain Box is the WCA thrift store, raising money

News continued on page 14

ANNOUNCING OUR NURSERY PROGRAM (6 WEEKS AND OLDER)



MSPCS is opening a Nursery Program! We are now accepting Fall '22 applications for students ages 6 weeks through 5th grade.

Our mission is to offer a Christ inspired, nurturing, and academically excellent school where students are treasured and respected. Our experienced teachers provide a loving environment for your child. Schedule a tour today.

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Country Walk

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Miami, FL 33177
305-585-9200
8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Cutler Bay

18910 South Dixie Hwy.
Cutler Bay, FL 33157
305-585-9230
8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Doral

7400 N.W. 104th Ave.
Doral, FL 33178
305-585-9250
8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Keystone Point

13120 Biscayne Blvd.
North Miami, FL 33181
305-585-9210
8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

North Dade

16555 N.W. 25th Ave.
Miami Gardens, FL 33054
786-466-1900
Monday - Saturday:
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sunday: Closed.

Our charges for medical services are less than the charges for comparable medical services at Jackson Memorial Hospital.
*North Dade Urgent Care is closed on Sunday.

for Sylvester, reducing waste in our landfills, and encouraging upcycling. The Bargain Box Thrift Shop is located at 1350 W. Flagler St., Miami, FL 33135 and is looking for high quality donations, including gently used furniture, household items, collectables, and clothing. Please call 305-643-2945 for more information.

For more information and/or to become a member, please email heidiheweswca@gmail.com.

MSPCS The 2021-22 school year is winding down and we are celebrating our 5th grade graduating class! Many of our graduates have been at MSPCS

for most of their lives. We wish them well as they matriculate to middle school, attending area schools including American Heritage. Congratulations!

The whole school participated in Earth Week! Every day the Parents' Association organized a different activity to teach our students more about their environment. Monday included a visit from Wild Animal World, Tuesday students worked in the garden, on Wednesday Bound By Beauty helped children identify different plants in the park that attract butterflies, Thursday they used recycled materials to make life sized animals, and Friday Pelican Harbor Seabird Station shared rescued animals.

Parents, teachers, and students were excited to share composting, gardening

and more MSPCS environmentally friendly activities at the Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce Green Day event. Thank you for all who stopped by the MSPCS tent.

All are welcome to join us for Vacation Bible School Summer Camp, from June 13-17. We offer a full day, from 8:30 AM- 12noon is Bible Study and from 12noon - 4:00 PM: Mad Science. It is the perfect combination, scripture, and science!

The Preschool is now accepting applications for the Nursery Program (6 weeks and older). Schedule a tour today. There are still a few spots open for the 2022-23 school year in the Elementary (K-5th grade) and Preschool (6weeks – PreK). For more information and to schedule a tour, call 305-759-2548 or visit www.mspcs.net.

Miami Theater Center Summer Camp is almost here! Looking for a creative, fun program for your kids?

Join us at MTC to create and star in your very own play at our Musical Theater Summer Camp!

Our talented Teaching Artists will be leading interactive and imaginative days of exploring acting, dancing, music, and design right in the heart of Miami Shores.

Session 1: June 13-July 8, 2022

Session 2: July 18-August 12, 2022

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Please contact Terrence Brunn, Education Manager

terrence@mtcmiami.org

305-751-9550 ext 223.



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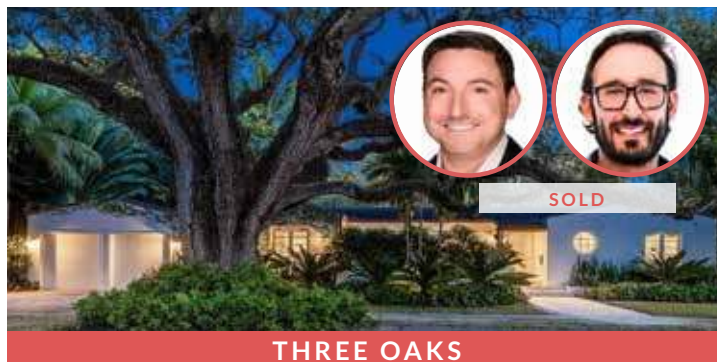
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