

# Naranja Lakes News

A Publication of the Naranja Lakes Community Redevelopment Agency

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPTS ACTION PLAN FOR REDEVELOPMENT**
- **GUIDE TO COUNTY RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES**
- **MEET YOUR CRA BOARD MEMBERS**
- **WHAT IS A CRA?**
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR NLCRA BUSINESSES**

## Board of Directors Adopts Action Plan

On February 23, 2009 the Naranja Lakes CRA Board approved the Naranja Lakes CRA Action Plan. This plan identifies and prioritizes projects that reflect the goals and objectives of the CRA Plan and supplements the ongoing Mandarin Lakes development to encourage redevelopment of the entire CRA District. Projects address improving the physical, economic, educational and social deficiencies that are found within the Naranja Lakes District.

The Action Plan was created by reviewing existing planning documents, resources, conditions and needs. Over 60 residents and business owners participated in a public CRA Action Plan Workshop held at the Revolution Marketplace.

Needs and service delivery gaps were organized into economic development, housing, infrastructure, environmental and cultural resources and general CRA administration categories.

A series of strategies—both long and short term were developed to address unmet needs within the CRA District. The strategies include funding identification and responsibility for implementation.

Short term projects include community outreach, creating an economic development grant program, conducting a lighting feasibility study, and creating marketing materials to inform residents and businesses about available resources that may help improve the physical and economic vitality of the District.

Long term projects include a Naranja Lakes CRA signage and wayfinding program, creating a financing plan for capital improvements, and implementing a full service economic development program. Long term projects will be undertaken as funding becomes available from the CRA and outside funding agencies.

The Action Plan is not just a planning document—it is a good source of demographic information about the Naranja Lakes District. It contains a market analysis that may be useful to businesses in the District as well.

To read and download it online, visit [www.miamidade.gov/crepad](http://www.miamidade.gov/crepad).

## New Naranja Library Coming Soon!!!

A brand new state-of-the-art 7,500 square foot library facility will be opening soon at 14850 SW 280th Street.

The building construction has been completed and the inside build-out is scheduled to be completed by August. The facility will allow patrons to



enjoy a collection of over 10,000 books, CDs, DVDs, 32 personal computers and 20 laptop computers in a

WiFi environment. Watch out for a grand opening announcement and be among the first to tour this beautiful facility.

## Upcoming CRA Meetings

Get involved with your CRA by attending one of the regular monthly meetings held in Room 203 of the South Dade Govt. Center, 10710 SW 211 Ave. Miami, FL at 6 p.m.

**June 22**  
**July 27**  
**August 24**

# Meet Your CRA Board Members



The CRA Board is the link between the community and the realization of redevelopment goals

## STUART ARCHER

After graduating from the University of Miami, Mr. Archer was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force and retired as Colonel while serving at the Homestead AFB. He enjoyed a career as a pilot for Pan Am and served on the Naranja Lakes Condo Board and has coached youth sports. He is married with four children and ten grandchildren.

## DANIEL LIPE

Mr. Lipe joined Community Bank in 1997, currently serves as Executive Vice President and has been in the banking and investment industry for 18 years. He has served on the boards of the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce, the South Florida Banking Institute and Open Door Health Care. Mr. Lipe holds an MBA in Finance from the University of Notre Dame.

## KENNETH FORBES

Mr. Forbes was born and raised in Miami Dade County. He has served on the CRA

Board since its inception in 2002. He is a Resource Management Consultant and Community activist. He is married with five grown sons.

## RENE INFANTE

Prior to joining the Naranja Lakes CRA Board when it was formed, Mr. Infante served on the Princeton Naranja CAA Board for many years. In 1988, Mr. Infante founded the Bargain Town Flea Market, which after its post-Andrew relocation and subsequent expansions, now employs 450 and draws over 40,000 visitors a week.

## MOE HAKSSA

Mr. Hakssa has been a South Florida resident since 1979. He opened Lumo Print in Naranja in 1981 and has expanded his businesses to include Sign City and Lumo Embroidery. He gives back to the community through the Homestead Chapter of Rotary International, the Homestead Reserve Air Force Base and the Homestead Speedway. He and his

wife Naggy have two children.

## MARLEEN VOLKERT

Ms. Volkert has been on the Naranja Lakes CRA Board since 2006. After working for years in the airline industry and city government management, she is now retired. Her community activism dates back to 1980 and was most recently member of the Naranja CAA/CD Advisory Committee. She is a graduate of Barry University and resides in Naranja.

## KERI-LYN COLEMAN

Ms. Coleman is the newest appointee to the Naranja Lakes CRA Board. She has ten years experience as a Federal grant administrator, community consultant and local program director. Her work has focused on drug prevention programs. As founder of Community Solutions, she provides organizations with strategic planning and fundraising assistance. She holds a MSW from the University of Georgia, is a Mandarin Lakes resident and mother of two.



Miami-Dade County Commission Chairman and District 9 Commissioner  
Dennis C. Moss

# Commissioner Moss Elected MDBCC Chairman

After serving as District 9 Commissioner since 1993 for five consecutive terms, Commissioner Moss was elected Chairman of the Miami Dade County Commission. In his first 90 days Chairman Moss assessed the challenges facing Miami-Dade County—the housing market crisis, unemployment and job loss, transit funding, falling property values, the financial status of the

County and its capital needs for the future.

Commissioner Moss is proud of implementing The Moss Plan—a community revitalization plan that was created in 1993 in the wake of Hurricane Andrew. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated \$73 million in funding for The Moss Plan which includes business expansion and development, street

paving and improvements, affordable housing, community centers, recreation facilities, community gateway features, park redevelopment, crime prevention and homebuyer's assistance.

Commissioner Moss has been instrumental in the creation of Team Metro, 311 and the yearly award of over 250 Mom and Pops grants to small businesses in District 9.

# Commissioner Sorenson Hosts Small Business Assistance Workshop



On April 22, Miami Dade Commissioner Katy Sorenson held a Small Business Assistance Workshop at the Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center. Hundreds of business owners attended. The goal was to help many of the small business in South Dade that are struggling during this economic downturn and let them know that there is hope by providing informa-

tion that will give them access to some new tools to help businesses through this difficult time. Speakers from six different resource providing agencies spoke about the mission of their organization, the type of business assistance programs provided and how the new Federal Stimulus Bill has expanded their programs to help businesses survive and expand.

**Miami Dade District 8  
Commissioner  
Katy Sorenson**

To learn more about business assistance programs that may help your business, contact any of the following agencies.

*“Miami Dade County has one of the highest rates of new business startups in the country.”*

**U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)**

South Florida District Office  
100 S. Biscayne Blvd.  
7th Floor  
Miami, Florida 33131  
PH: (305) 536-5521 ext. 104  
Fax: (305) 536-5058  
[www.sba.gov/fl/south](http://www.sba.gov/fl/south)

**SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC)**

8500 SW 8th St, Ste 224  
Miami, FL 33301  
PH: 305.261.1638  
Fax 305.264.3567  
[www.floridasbdc.com/](http://www.floridasbdc.com/)

**SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (SFRPC)**

3440 Hollywood Boulevard  
Suite 140  
Hollywood, FL 33021  
PH: (954) 985-4416  
Fax (954) 985-4417  
Attn: Cheryl Cook  
[www.sfrpc.com/rf.htm](http://www.sfrpc.com/rf.htm)

**SCORE MIAMI DADE CHAPTER**

[www.scoremiami.org](http://www.scoremiami.org)  
For counseling, please fill out a request on-line.

For information, send an e-mail:  
[admin@scoremiami.org](mailto:admin@scoremiami.org)

**SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE**

7300 Corporate Center Drive,  
Suite 500  
Miami, Florida 33126  
PH: (305) 594-7615 Ext. 369  
Fax: (305) 470-5523  
TTY: (305) 470-5529  
[www.southfloridaworkforce.com](http://www.southfloridaworkforce.com)

**ACCION USA Florida**

111 SW 5th Ave.  
Miami, FL 33130  
P: (305) 548-3360 or  
(305) 548-3360 Ext 1822  
[www.accionusa.org](http://www.accionusa.org)

**NEIGHBORS AND NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION (NANA)**

180 NW 62 Street  
Miami, FL 33150  
PH: (305) 756-0605 or  
(305) 756-8998  
Fax: (305) 756-6008  
Attn: Sebrina Johnson  
[nanasjohnson@bellsouth.net](mailto:nanasjohnson@bellsouth.net)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

South Miami-Dade, Inc.  
900 Perrine Avenue  
Palmetto Bay, Florida 33157  
305-378-9470 Voice  
305-254-0805 Fax  
[www.pcrc.com/site/default.aspx](http://www.pcrc.com/site/default.aspx)

**MIAMI DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 N.W. 1st Street  
19th Floor  
Miami, FL 33128-1900  
PH: 305-375-3111  
[www.miamidade.gov/sba/](http://www.miamidade.gov/sba/)



Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 NW 1st Street, 22nd Floor  
Miami, FL 33128

## What is the Naranja Lakes CRA? NLCRA Business Grants

CRA stands for Community Redevelopment Agency. The Naranja Lakes CRA was created by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners in 2003 to implement community redevelopment activities outlined in Chapter 163, Part III, Florida Statutes. Implementation activities are outlined in the Naranja Lakes CRA Plan and the Naranja Lakes CRA Action Plan ([www.miamidade.gov/crepad](http://www.miamidade.gov/crepad)). The main focus of the Naranja Lakes CRA is the development of the Mandarin Lakes

residential community. The Naranja Lakes CRA is governed by an appointed Board that functions under the jurisdiction of the Miami-Dade County Commission. The CRA is funded by Tax Increment Financing—a funding mechanism where rising property values generate additional tax revenue that is reinvested into the Naranja Lakes CRA District. The Board welcomes community involvement and input. To learn more, attend the next board meeting or visit us online.

The NLCRA is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds to encourage the economic development of businesses in the CRA District. If you have a business in the Naranja Lakes CRA and would like to expand your operations, make a capital improvement, or hire additional employees, you may qualify. Start-up businesses are eligible for funding also.

The CRA is currently accepting applications and the deadline for submittal is June 15, 2009.

To read about the grant guidelines, process and to download an application, go to [www.miamidade.gov/crepad](http://www.miamidade.gov/crepad). For assistance in filling out the application or to see if you are eligible for funding, contact Kris Mory at

954-297-0075

Or email

[krismary@gmail.com](mailto:krismary@gmail.com).

