

Barbara Jordan

Miami-Dade County Commissioner

*"One District,
One Community"*

District 1 Newsletter Fall 2015



Commissioner Jordan's Employee Ideas Program recognizes three employees at BCC meeting



Michael Page of the Parks Department, Alphonso Bruton of Corrections, and Rafael Dominguez of Water and Sewer, are three employees who were recognized at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on September 1. They were honored for epitomizing the characteristics set forth by the Employee Ideas/Suggestion Program, which is the brainchild of Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan. Page developed a plan and created a format for tracking, evaluating and maintaining records of piling inspections and replacement/repair work in all marinas managed by the Parks Department. For his idea, he was awarded \$300.

Dominguez, of the Water and Sewer Department, suggested changing the meter relocation process. He recommended letting the contractor move the meter, which reduced the time that homeowners were without service. This effort also required less staff, which saved the Water and Sewer Department in its first year \$75,370. He received a \$5,000 award.

Bruton recommended moving inmates assigned to the Weekender Correctional Program from Unit 5 to F1 at the Training and Treatment Center. This move reduced staffing levels by one Correctional Officer, which was a first-year savings of \$93,888. Officer Bruton was awarded \$5,000.



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Jordan gives award to fire fighters who taught water safety for kids

The Progressive Fire Fighters were honored at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on October 20. The dedicated firefighters volunteered during the summer to provide a free 10-week water safety and swimming skills program for 92 children.





From left: State Representative Barbara Watson, Councilman Frantz Pierre, Chairman Jean Monestime, Mayor Carlos Gimenez, Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, and Director Sola. (Photo by Michael Fullana/Miami-Dade County)

Chairman Monestime, joined by Mayor Gimenez, Commissioner Jordan and Director Sola, host groundbreaking ceremony for a 72-inch Wastewater Line Replacement Project

MIAMI-DADE, FL – Chairman Jean Monestime joined Mayor Carlos Gimenez, District 1 Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan and Water and Sewer Department Director Lester Sola hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 29 for a 72-inch Wastewater Line Replacement Project. Florida State Representative Barbara Watson and North Miami Beach Councilman Frantz Pierre were in attendance. The event took place at Oak Grove Park in northeast Miami.

“This 72-inch Wastewater Line Replacement Project will help alleviate many of the issues faced by the residents of both Districts 1 and 2,” Chairman Monestime said. “The replacement of this wastewater line will improve service reliability in the North Dade area and protect our coastal environment. Having a sustainable and safe sanitary sewer system that will function for decades to come will help build a more sustainable county and improve the environment.”

The new 72-inch wastewater line will be installed along NE 159 Street from NE 9 Avenue to NW 6 Avenue, along NW 6 Avenue from NW 159 Street to Biscayne Canal then along the Biscayne Canal from NW 6 Avenue to NW 17 Avenue.

“Throughout Miami-Dade County, an estimated \$13.5 billion is being invested in our water and wastewater infrastructure to ensure that the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department is able to

continue providing high quality drinking water and wastewater services,” Mayor Gimenez said. “This is the pipe that ruptured in 2010 and impacted the canals in the area; the replacement of this pipeline will ensure that this doesn’t happen again.”

This project came out of a consent decree entered into in May 2013 between the County, the state and the federal governments for improvements to the County’s wastewater collection and treatment system.

“Maintaining our public water and wastewater infrastructure is critical to preventing system backups and break downs,” said Commissioner Barbara Jordan. “We cannot afford to go a day without water and wastewater services, and the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department is taking steps to ensure that our infrastructure is updated and provides for increased sustainability.”

“In order to continue to fulfill the department’s vision of continuous delivery of high quality drinking water and wastewater services in compliance with all regulatory requirements, system upgrades such as this are necessary,” Water and Sewer Department Director Lester Sola said. “We are dedicated to investing in our water and wastewater systems for the benefit of our children, grandchildren and future generations that will look back and ask what we did to help improve their lives.”

Family-friendly Movie Nights draw large crowds in October and November



District 1 residents were treated to free Movie Nights in October and November. On October 30, children sported their best Halloween costumes, received free Halloween candy bags, and watched “Monster’s University” at Lake Stevens Park. Commissioner Jordan even joined in on the fun, wearing a costume for the occasion. On November 13, moviegoers munched on popcorn and hotdogs while watching “Toy Story 3” at Madie Ives Elementary School.

Movie Night is funded by Commissioner Barbara Jordan and is administered by the Miami-Dade County Parks Foundation.

Jordan’s Hispanic Heritage Festival draws diverse crowd

(Miami, FL) – Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan’s free annual Hispanic Heritage Festival took place on September 19, from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., at Country Village Park, 6550 N.W. 188 Terrace, in Miami. In the past, long lines have formed to celebrate the Latin cuisine cherished by South Florida residents.

“We have to keep our children apprised of the rich cultures in our neighborhoods,” said Commissioner Jordan. “The Hispanic Heritage Festival is a time to educate and celebrate the diversity in District 1.”

The popular petting zoo, face painting and live entertainment kept families interested and inspired. Additionally, children enjoyed the bounce house, rock climbing, and pony rides.

Sponsors for the 2015 Hispanic Heritage Festival included the Munilla Family Foundation, Miami Dolphins Foundation, Related Urban, Odebrecht, Horsepower Electric, Lehman Autoworld, El Dorado Furniture, Amerigroup, The Hispanic Coalition, The Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce, Jackson Health System, and the Office of Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan.



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Commissioner Barbara Jordan gives away record 900 turkeys for Thanksgiving



Miami Gardens, FL - Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan gave away a record 900 turkeys to families in need at her 11th annual turkey giveaway at Landmark in Northwest Miami-Dade County. Jordan and sponsors handed out turkeys and fresh produce to give to the elderly, handicapped, and social organizations that service the community.

“I am so proud to announce that this year, because of our wonderful sponsors, we received more than 900 turkeys! The most donations we’ve ever received.” said Commissioner Jordan. “Our sponsors recognized the need in my community and stepped up to

the plate to help provide turkeys and fresh fruits and vegetables.”

Later that morning, Jordan and record mogul Ted Lucas teamed up to deliver Thanksgiving baskets with all the trimmings to several impoverished families in North Miami-Dade County.

The donated turkeys were accompanied by fresh produce provided by Farmshare. This year’s turkey basket distribution was made possible by World Waste, Miami Dolphins, Landmark Aviation, Orion Jet Center, Fontainebleau Aviation, attorney Robert Holland, Farmshare, and the Ted Lucas Foundation.



From Left to Right: Commissioner Jordan greets and embraces District 1 residents at the giveaway, Turkey giveaway sponsors are pictured with Commissioner Jordan at the Landmark auditorium, Commissioner Jordan greets District 1 residents as they fill their trunk with Thanksgiving items, Ted Lucas and Commissioner Barbara Jordan bring Lois Jackson and her family a basket full of Thanksgiving items donated by sponsors.

Legislative Matters Important to You

Commissioner Barbara Jordan is committed to serving the residents of District 1 by sponsoring legislation that positively impacts their lives. Below are several resolutions that have been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

New Opportunities for High School Students

The Miami Dade County Board of County Commissioners approved legislation spearheaded by Commissioner Barbara Jordan, that would provide high school students with the opportunity to obtain certifications as First Responders and/or Emergency Medical Technicians while in high school. The resolution provides employment preferences to high school students interested in careers as firefighters in Miami Dade County.

Street Named in Memory of Officer Thelma Harris

Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan sponsored, and the Board of County Commissioner adopted, legislation to honor the memory of Officer Thelma Harris. She was the first black female police officer in Florida and a 20-year veteran with the Miami-Dade Police Department. The resolution codesignates NW 175th Street from NW 27th Avenue to NW 37th Avenue as “Officer Thelma Harris Way.”

Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Commissioner Barbara Jordan sponsored legislation amending her item establishing the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, to alleviate the increasing affordability gap in Miami Dade County. The ordinance sets aside 50 percent of the money in the Fund to meet the housing needs of very low and extremely low income individuals.