



ONLINE AT GGG-NEWS.WIX.COM/GGG-NEWS# • **NOV/DEC 2014**
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COMMENTS ABOUT CATHY SWANSON-RIVENBARK, OUR NEW CITY MANAGER

Coral Gables finally has a new City Manager. After a 6-month search, the City Commission unanimously appointed **Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark**, Hollywood's current City Manager. Cathy met with the Mayor and Commissioners individually, and was also publicly interviewed for 2 hours. She passed the background check on Oct. 30th, and accepted the position on Friday, Nov. 8th. Her contract with Hollywood requires her to give 45 days notice. When GGG did a survey back in May, Cathy's name came up 10 times more often than all the other suggested candidates. We've received lots of great feedback about Cathy:



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
Carlton and I are delighted to learn that Cathy has, at last, been recognized for her outstanding abilities, comprehension of our City of Coral Gables, and her experience as a wonderful city manager in Hollywood. I had the privilege of serving on the **Coral Gables Cultural Development Board** while she was head of the economic sustainability department. Cathy was extremely knowledgeable about the city laws, rules, and time frames. In addition, she always

objectively presented to our board what our role was and then sat back to let us deliberate, without any indication of hers or the City's viewpoint or agenda. We were highly respected for our views as residents and were allowed to discuss and vote independently. Our Board loved Cathy and held her in the highest regard as a professional.

-Andrea Lynch Cole, Vice-Chair
CG CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Dear Editor,
We welcome Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark back to Coral Gables, and look forward to working with our neighboring city, and to their involvement with our **League of Cities** once again.

-Cindy Lerner, Pinecrest Mayor
President, MIAMI DADE LEAGUE OF CITIES

Dear Editor,
I was so happy to hear that Coral Gables has gone "Back To The Future" in hiring Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark as the new City Manager. From my perspective as a former Assistant Fire Chief as well as a Fire Union leader, I had the unique perspective of viewing Ms. Rivenbark's tenure here from two angles. In both cases, I was impressed by her in so many ways: high level of competence and confidence; easy to talk to and work with; innovative; a uniter and not a divider. Most important to me and the Fire Department was that she is a "straight shooter." And in Hollywood, people I know up there say the same thing. She has done an excellent job while

dealing with some very challenging situations. The City spent a lot of time and money looking for the right Manager. Maybe it was a necessary travail before they realized that the "man" they needed was the "woman" right up the highway.

-Timothy Daniels
Former CG ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

Dear Editor,
I have known Cathy since she taught my young children Sunday School. From that time to today, I knew she was a special person. I have watched her ascent with admiration even though I was sorry she left Coral Gables. She is intelligent, caring, respects people and knows how to be an outstanding administrator. Under her leadership and the leadership of the mayor and commission, I look forward to witnessing the next transformation of Coral Gables as it once again respects and honors the past and its people as it plans for the future based on core values set almost 90 years ago by George Merrick, the City's founder.

-Arva Moore Parks

I am so upset. It is so sad. Cathy is a great City Manager. She was professional, talented and dedicated. She has led us through some of the worst times, trying to move the City forward. It's a great loss for Hollywood and a great win for Coral Gables.

-Patricia Asseff, Hollywood Commissioner
Source: SUN-SENTINEL

Christmas comes early this year to the Gables with the selection of Cathy. She is home-grown, having graduated from Gables High. She still lives in her Gables home where she resided for the 20 years she was employed by the City. Cathy already has

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CATHY...

(LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED)

a stellar record of achievement. She is unique in her ability to balance the needs of the residential community with the business enclaves, and she has demonstrated this innate creativity distinctively. While Economic Director, Cathy introduced the popular annual Farmers' Market and the wildly anticipated 4th of July celebration, all the while enticing prominent national businesses to establish their headquarters in the Gables. She also engineered the business deals that renovated the Coral Gables Country Club and brought The Palace to our City. She seamlessly embraces both family-oriented and commercially-focused entities. She shows favoritism to neither and is successful at both.

-Dorothy Thomson

former Coral Gables Mayor (1985-87)

As the former CG Assistant Chief of Police of the Field Operations Bureau, I had the pleasure of getting to know Cathy as the Development Director and found her to be an utmost professional when coordinating with the police department security at special events. Whether it was an event at the Village of Merrick Park, the tree lighting in front of City Hall, or the Farmers Market, we worked seamlessly and there were never any glitches. She always made sure to look at every possible scenario and different angles of an event. The City is very lucky to have her back and now we can gain from her prior experiences at the City of Hollywood. She also has a pleasant and cheerful demeanor, which is always a plus in a business environment.

-Ana Baixauli

Retired Asst. Chief [CGPD]

Dear Editor:

Recently, when purchasing groceries late at night, I noticed that a few of the lights on the side streets around Publix on Le Jeune are out. This concerns me as a safety issue in light of recent robberies. Also, while jogging around the perimeter of the Granada Golf Course, I noticed there are a number of streetlights out. With the end of daylight savings time, many of us are now exercising in the dark.

-Miguel Mendez

Editor's Note: Public Works is responsible for maintenance of fountains, plazas, and streetlights. Call: 305 460 5000 Mon-Fri 8 AM-4 PM or email: pwdepartment@coralgables.com.

RALPH CABRERA IS RUNNING FOR MAYOR

Ralph Cabrera has announced he will run for Mayor in April 2015. A former City Commissioner



for 12 years, Ralph announced his candidacy to the MIAMI HERALD on November 10th. According to the HERALD, Ralph felt he lost the 2013 mayoral election because "voter participation was

abysmal." Cabrera said submitting his paperwork early will allow him to start campaigning before the holidays. SOURCE: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/coral-gables/article3686529.html>



DAILY MATINEES

Watch a different film every day at 11:00 AM from Dec. 20th to Jan. 4th for only \$5 per show including a free soft drink and popcorn. Films include: **E.T., Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were Rabbit, Miracle on 34th Street, Life of Pi 3D**, and more. A full list is at gablescinema.com/filmpage.php?ID=168.

Coral Gables Art Cinema

Tickets at movietickets.com or call:

786.385.9689 | 250 ARAGON AVENUE
gablescinema.com @GablesCinema

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WHO'S RUNNING?



Every 2 years, Coral Gables elects a new Mayor (2-year term), and 2 of the 4 Commission seats are filled (4-year terms). In 2015, the "Group IV" and "Group V" Commission seats are up for grabs and candidates

are starting to appear: Commissioner **Frank V. Quesada, Esq.** (above) running for re-election to his Group IV seat, and **Ariel Fernandez** (at right) running for the open seat in Group V). We are waiting to hear if **Vice Mayor Bill Kerdyk** will decide to run for Mayor (he has termed out as Commissioner). Elections will take place on April 14, 2015. Candidates are required to:



- Make a **Declaration of Intent**
- Submit a **Statement of Candidate**
- File a **Candidate Oath**
- Submit a **résumé**
- Prove **registered voter status/residency**
- Make a **Voluntary Declaration and 1st Amendment Waiver**
- Pay an **Assessment Fee** (1% of the salary: Annually, the Mayor earns \$34,736 and Commissioners earn \$28,225.60) plus a \$200 **Qualifying Fee**
- Designate a **Campaign Treasurer** and file **Statement of Financial Interests**
- Establish a **Campaign Depository**

Qualifying Week will be from 12:00 noon Feb. 16th, to 12:00 noon Feb. 20th, 2015. Up until the end of Qualifying Week, candidates may switch Groups and run for a different seat. Call City Clerk Walter Foeman for more info. 305 460 5207.

Register to vote before March 16, 2015.



ACTORS PLAYHOUSE

A **CHRISTMAS CAROL**, the Musical, will be performed through Dec. 21st on Saturdays at 2 PM. There will also be Holiday Performances Dec. 20th at 7 PM and 21st at 5 PM. A special "All Kids Included" sensory-friendly Saturday performance will be held on Dec. 13th at 11 AM.

Actors' Playhouse At The Miracle Theatre
305.444.9293 | 280 MIRACLE MILE
actorsplayhouse.org @APMiracle

"GIRALDA UNDER THE STARS" BEGINS

Every first Friday of the month through March, the City will close Giralda Avenue between Ponce and Galiano and more than a dozen restaurants and bars will fill the street with tables and chairs and live music and entertainment from 7 PM to 12 AM. The next event will be on December 5th.

Participating restaurants and bars include:

Bangkok Bangkok II • The Bar • Castelluccio Ristorante • Divino Ceviche • GreenLife Miami • Ikura Sushi Lounge • La Dorada • The Local Craft Food & Drink • Miss Saigon Bistro • Pete's Authentic Cooking • Spritz • Talavera Cocina Mexicana • Threefold Cafe • Vicolo Restaurant (formerly Spizzigo)



TREE LIGHTING and HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR

The City of Coral Gables presents its **Holiday Spectacular** on Saturday, December 5th, from 5:00 to 10:00 PM in Merrick Park (across from City Hall, at 405 Biltmore Way). There will be fun activities for the entire family, including food, carnival games and prizes, rides, face painting, arts & crafts, the stage presentation of **Miami Childrens' Theater, Maria Verdeja School of the Arts, Actors' Playhouse, Center Stage Dance Center**, and more.

At 7:00 PM Santa Claus will accompany the Coral Gables City Commission in the **Tree Lighting Ceremony**. Take pictures with Santa (\$6) that night 7:30-10:00 PM, or Thursdays & Fridays 5:00-10:00 PM, Saturdays & Sundays 12:00 noon-10:00 PM, and Monday & Tuesday, December 22 & 23 12:00 noon to 10:00 PM. For more information, contact Parks & Recreation at 305 460 5600.



TROW KNOWS C.E.O.s DAVID LANDSBERG

The Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce series "Trow Knows CEOs" features **David Landsberg**, CEO of **Goodwill Industries South Florida** on Friday, December 5th, 8:30-9:45 AM at **RightSpace2Meet**, 100 Miracle Mile, Suite 200. For more information, visit coral.gableschamber.org or call 305 446 1657. \$20.00 for Chamber Members.



ROXY BOLTON'S HOME DESIGNATED HISTORIC



Roxcy Bolton's home at 1301 Alhambra Circle, has been recognized as an historical landmark. On Monday, November 10th, the City honored the women's rights activist at City Hall with the unveiling of a special commemorative photo of her house. Bolton, 88, was one of the first Florida women to join the **National Organization for Women** after its founding in 1966. She founded and presided over the Miami-Dade Chapter of NOW in 1968 and fought for the **Equal Rights Amendment** in the 1970s. Bolton also established the nation's first Rape Treatment Center at **Jackson Memorial Hospital** in 1974, which became a nationwide model for treating rape victims.



This photo (circa 1928), taken by **William A. Fishbaugh** (1873-1950), is courtesy of the **State Archives of Florida**, at floridamemory.com/items/show/165770.

(Roxcy is pictured above with GGG President Jeannett Slesnick.)

READ MORE: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/coral-gables/article3499524.html>



LOCAL HONORS, PROMOTIONS, AND MILESTONES

Here are a few of the latest local job changes, hires, promotions, awards, and other milestones:



Olga Ramudo is chairing "Sautee, Sip and Away" benefiting **Baptist Health's Breast Cancer Center**. The event will take place on May 2nd, 2015, at the **JW Marriott**

Marquis with the theme "Come and Fly with us to find the Cure". This interculinary cooking experience will be a fun evening that will take you around the world to various destinations. Contact Olga at oramudo@expresstravelus.com.

Congratulations to **Roland Sanchez-Medina, Jr.**, who has been appointed Chairman of the **Miami-Dade County School Board Budget & Advisory Committee**.



Tennis legend **Martina Navratilova** has been named Honorary Chair for the 53rd annual **Junior Orange Bowl International Tennis Championship**, December 14-23.

Tournament officials are also pleased to announce tennis coach **Nick Bollettieri** will be the guest speaker for its **Main Draw Reception** to be held on December 16 at the **University of Miami Field House**. Bollettieri has helped 10 players achieve No. 1 in the world rankings, largely through his pioneering **Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy** located in Bradenton, Florida.



COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS LEADERS PARTICIPATE IN PRINCIPAL TODAY

More than 385 business and community leaders participated in the **Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Principal TODAY** event by serving as school principal for a day. This annual event offers principals and business leaders the opportunity to build long-term business-school partnerships that benefit our students.

The event is a partnership with **Bank of America** and other sponsors, including: **Davis Vision, Delta Dental, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, MCM Corporation, Pearson, and United Way of Miami-Dade**. The event enjoys the support of all chambers of commerce in Miami-Dade County.



Adolfo Costa Principal at **Coral Gables Senior High** poses next to Principal TODAY **Carolina Rendeiro** from **eMergeAmericas**.



Principal TODAY **Maria Figueroa Byrd** (Junior League of Miami President) honored **The English Center Principal Yamila M. Carballo** with a proclamation issued by the City.

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HOW TO JOIN GGG

Send a letter to:

Gables Good Government
1825 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Box #448
Coral Gables, FL 33134
or, email us at info@slesnick.net.

ANNUAL DUES

\$50 Member (household)
\$250 Sponsor/Advertiser
\$500 Donor
\$1,000 Corporate Donor



*At our November Board meeting Dorothy was unanimously elected. She served for 16 years on the City Commission including a term as the first and only female mayor (Elected 1979-87 / 1993-2001).

GGG was organized to support issues and causes that preserve and improve the quality of life in Coral Gables and promote the effective and efficient management of its government. Paid Political Advertisement paid for by the Gables Good Government Committee (GGG), a non-profit organization. GGG and its officers, agents, information providers, affiliates, service providers, licensors, and licensees make no representations, warranties, covenants or guarantees (a) as to the quality, suitability, truth, accuracy or completeness of (1) any content contained on or in GGG, including without limitation, the content of electronic newsletters, (2) website or information accessed through GGG.