

# Food Drive a success, village heading for a new year



By Michael Miller

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## Food Drive a success, village heading for a new year



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Village Hall reports that the Village Food Drive was a big success, thanks to the generous support of residents who donated items. Staffers, with an assist from Mayor Flinn, boxed up the numerous Food Drive items and happily delivered them to various Community Based Organizations for distribution to local families in need. Good job, everyone, and just the right spirit of giving at this time of year. In fact, it's a good thing to keep in mind all year long.

Mark these on your calendar! The next Regular Council Meeting is on January 11 at 7 p.m. at the Deering Estate Visitors Center, 16701 SW 72 Avenue. On January 25, also at 7 p.m., is a Zoning Hearing. It's also at the Deering Estate Visitors Center. For more information call Village Hall at 305-259-1234 or visit the official village website at < <http://www.palmettobay-fl.gov/> >.

A reminder—the Palmetto Bay Village Policing Unit will be keeping an eye out for drivers who have been celebrating a little too early or too much on New Year's Eve, so if you're drinking, don't drive.

Coffee, juice and bagels at Mack's Cycle helped fuel bike riders who jingled-jangled their way along the M-Path on December 19, helping purchase and deliver gifts for youngsters helped by the Miami Rescue Mission. Riders tied sleigh bells to keep Christmas cheer audible along the way as the Green Mobility Network bikers did their bit to help Santa's elves this month.

Still time for some old fashioned Christmas cheer? Take a chapter from days gone by, says reader JW who offers free ideas, including a printed IOU: "I owe you a cup of coffee and a good long visit to catch up on old times." (Total cost:\$0.00); A telephone call (if local, charge it off to your good will); or hand-picked fruit from your backyard tropical tree with the wish for a Happy New Year of positive growth in 2010! You can't beat this...drums and yoga.



Rina Jakubowicz (left) and Jude Papaloko.

We hear that Rina Jakubowicz, Owner & Founder of Rina Yoga, has decided to welcome the New Year with a bang...literally. To help her students get on track with their New Year's resolutions, Rina has decided to bring back her popular Yoga With Live Drums class on Friday, January 1st from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at her studio located in the heart of Miami.

Together with local Haitian artist and musician, Jude Papaloko, Rina transforms regular yoga practice into a transcendental experience by choreographing sun salutations and other yoga moves to the hypnotic beat of Papaloko's drums. After class, students have the opportunity to make their own music so everyone is encouraged to bring with them their own drums or other instruments.

Rina says this is a perfect way to kick-off the year, live a healthier life and have fun. The class is only \$20. Rina Yoga is located at 2490 Coral Way, 2nd Floor, and free parking is available.

To sign up and for more information, please visit < <http://www.rinayoga.com> > or call 305-856-YOGA (9642).

Comish Joe Martinez reminds that Thursday, January 7, is the day that Christmas trees can be picked up by simply placing them at curbside by the county's waste management trucks. Of course, you must strip lights, tinsel, ornaments down to the bare branches, first. Trees will be recycled into mulch which will be offered free to service-area residents on a first-come, first-served basis, starting in mid-January. ...and a Happy 2010 to all!

Gary Alan Ruse and Richard Yager contributed to this column.



## Planas asks for early support

"Honk if you want a new Commissioner in District 10" read the hand-lettered placards, not asking for Christmas kettle donations, but votes!

Enthusiastic and youthful supporters waved at crowds of pre-holiday traffic in the midst of a Saturday afternoon shopping day on Kendall Drive at the bus stop adjoining the SunTrust branch bank and Dunkin' Doughnuts at the SW 117th Avenue corner.

Early vote solicitation by Miriam 'Mimi' Planas backers is part of a grassroots effort for "new leadership," according to the candidate, a 35-year District resident who is challenging veteran Javier D. Souto for his Commission seat. Planas, 41, first to file from Kendall for a Commission seat, is a graduate of Coral Park Senior High and a working mother who resides in the largest of Miami-Dade's 13 Districts.

"After having spent so much time integrated with the community and my neighbors, it's become evident that there is a sense of stagnancy amongst most residents," she states. "This is not to suggest that Commissioner Souto's leadership has been terrible, but in recent years, it certainly has not been what the residents have expressed they need."

Adding that she wants to "empower" voters who feel their voices have been lost during Souto's 16 continuing years, Planas will be "more delicate and efficient with the use of discretionary funds," prioritizing them to make their best use in "a less political way."

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**Thought for the Day:**

Never flinch, never weary, never despair.

- Winston Churchill

Richard Yager contributed to this column. Got any tips? Contact me at 305-669- 7355, ext. 249, or send emails to <[michael@communitynewspapers.com](mailto:michael@communitynewspapers.com) >.

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