



Morningside Civic Association

MCA Brings Neighborhood Together for Year of Socially Distanced Events

In lieu of traditional gatherings, MCA's Social Committee hosted several outdoor, socially distanced events throughout 2021, enabling safe, fun opportunities for participants to catch up and enjoy the neighborhood together.



Festivities kicked off with the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 4, with over 140 children divided by age group. On April 22, the Roaming Wine Tour brought together around 30 participants grouped to allow for social distancing. Neighbors tried a different variety of natural wine at each home, curated by @GrapeCrushMiami. May featured a Kidical Mass neighborhood bike ride with over 50 participants, escorted by City of Miami Police.

On June 18, MCA hosted its first-ever adults-only Outdoor Movie Night with a screening of the Miami-based film *Wild Things*. The Billings family generously provided the

outdoor space, with movie equipment provided by Bob Stein and canned craft cocktails courtesy of Five Drinks Co.

On the last Sunday of June and July, MCA launched Coffee Playdates at the Morningside Park playground. A throwback to the original event started years ago by a neighbor, June's Coffee Playdate was sponsored by the Bijaou family, and July's by Tatiana Loza and Oscar Gonzalez. Coffee Playdates will continue on last Sundays through the rest of the year.

September brought another Kidical Mass community ride while October featured a Bay & Island Cleanup and Halloween Trick-or-Treating set along a pre-determined route with individually wrapped treats. Thanksgiving and December holiday celebrations and activities are also in the works. If you are interested in joining the Social Committee in planning these wonderful events, please email:

Lindsey Wolfson
linds.wolfson@gmail.com



Public Works, Capital Improvements Collaborate with MCA on Storm Mitigation

This year has been very productive on the storm mitigation front. MCA met with commissioner Russell and City of Miami's Public Works and Office of Capital Improvements and outlined a three-phased approach to addressing flooding in the neighborhood. In addition, city staff attended several MCA meetings to answer questions about potential solutions.

In June/July, the city cleaned all of the neighborhood sewer and drain lines so that storm water could be captured throughout the neighborhood rather than running off to the lowest elevation, saturating these

drains and causing the most severe flooding. Morningside has seen minimal flooding since this maintenance was completed. Next steps are upgrading the underground storm water line with a larger pipe along 55th Terrace with a filter system to discharge into the bay, as well as installing a pump station long term. The city has yet to provide specific dates and cost estimates for these improvements, which are tied to the stormwater master plan recommendations. Learn more or get involved by contacting:

Melissa Hege
melissahege@gmail.com

Community Service Highlights

Thanksgiving 2020 Food Drive: MCA worked with Miami Rescue Mission and Food Rescue US to donate three carloads of food packed by neighborhood volunteers.

December 2020 Toy Drive: MCA worked with Lotus House and delivered an entire car load

of unwrapped, brand new toys for their organization.

April 2021 Lotus House Clothing/Baby Drive: MCA collected 15 bags of clothing for children 2T-10, along with formula, pump parts, nursing essentials, etc.

Cont'd on P. 4

Welcome Wagon Update



The MCA welcomed more than 20 new neighbors over the last year. Morningside's latest residents were greeted by Welcome Wagon Committee Chairs Tatiana Loza and Melissa Stiers, who delivered Morningside branded tote bags stuffed with important neighborhood information and details about joining the MCA, as well as a bottle of wine courtesy of Dan Blakeman and Compass Realty. For more information or to get involved, contact:

Tatiana Loza
tatianaloza@gmail.com



City of Miami Invests \$250,000 Into Morningside Tree Canopy Restoration

In July and August, the City of Miami Department of Public Works installed nearly \$250,000 worth of new, mature trees throughout Morningside's swales and medians. This is the first tree canopy planting in over a decade by the City in Morningside.

Morningside's shade trees are a distinguishing feature of the

community, and MCA is pleased to see the City has invested in preserving it. The new trees, including several mature Live Oaks, Royal Palms, Satinleaves, Pigeon Plums, Wild Tamarinds and Green Buttonwoods, are meant to replenish Morningside's tree canopy, which suffered substantial losses following Hurricane Irma.

MCA Committee Chairperson Alyce Robertson lobbied for these plantings for years, and she is the only reason that we have finally seen action. City of Miami arborist Ralph Gonzalez oversaw the project as part of the City's efforts to create an "urban forest" through plantings. The new trees will shade Morningside's streets for many decades to come.



Security Remains a Top Priority of the MCA

This year, thanks in large part to the efforts of Security Committee Chair Juan Ruiz, Morningside has seen some positive developments. First, Kent Security, which staffs our guard gates, invited neighbors with Ring security cameras to participate in a free pilot program whereby the Kent overnight guards monitor camera alerts in real-time and report suspicious activity to our roving patrol or the police. This program is now underway and operating successfully. Kent provides this additional service at no charge during the graveyard shift hours. Sign up to participate in this service via the MCA website.

Guard gates were also outfitted with an internet connection and the cameras were upgraded so that footage of incoming traffic can be viewed remotely by law enforcement and security staff. Juan continues to push through the process of amending our special taxing district ordinance to allow for more flexibility in

contracting for roving patrol. The MCA voted in 2020 to initiate this process. Presently, our ordinance permits six hours of roving patrol per day, six days a week, to be provided by City of Miami off-duty police officers. Under this current scheme, Morningside does not have the ability to change the number of hours or explore less expensive patrol options. The cost of the police patrol is approximately \$51.50 per hour. The amendment process is only in the preliminary stage. Any change to the special taxing district ordinance would ultimately have to be voted upon and approved by a majority of all Morningside homeowners. The topic of amending our special taxing district ordinance will continue to be a topic of discussion at the MCA meetings going forward. For more information on neighborhood security or to get involved, contact:

Juan Ruiz
jruiz26@hotmail.com

Noise & Rental Complaints

For noise complaints, contact:

Code Enforcement

311 or (305) 416-2087
 Mon–Fri 8am–5pm

Afterhours Hotline

(786) 457-0995
 Mon–Thu 5–10pm
 Fri 5pm–Sun 5pm

Report via Email

Codeenforcement@miamigov.com; Copy North Supervisor Frank Marcos: FMarcos@MiamiGov.com; (305) 416-2116

Airbnb Support

[Airbnb.com/neighbors](https://airbnb.com/neighbors)
 (855) 635-7754

Community Service Cont'd from P. 2
June 2021 Summer Drive (Family Action Network Movement): MCA worked with an organization based in Little Haiti to gather supplies for their summer campers. We loaded up an entire car filled with books, sporting equipment, bubbles, outdoor play items and art supplies.



Security Contact Information & Resources

**Miami Police Department
Non-Emergency Number**
(305) 476-5423

Roving Patrol
Tue–Sun 12pm–6am
(786) 493-0347

Guard Gates
50th Street: (305) 713-0815
58th Street: (305) 713-0809

Resource Officers
Rey Goyos
(305) 970-5303
27232@miami-police.org
Officer Lainez
41348@miami-police.org
Commander Abreu
0067@miami-police.org

Crime Prevention Specialist
Rosa Fernandez
25214@miami-police.org;
Contact Ms. Fernandez for
"Watch Orders" and Home
Safety Surveys. A watch order is
appropriate if you'll be out of

town and would like to request
a patrol to drive by your home.

Alarm Permits
(305) 603-6488

**Animal Control &
Dead Animal Removal**
311

Noise/Code Enforcement
311; Afterhours (786) 457-0995

Crime Stoppers
(305) 471-8477

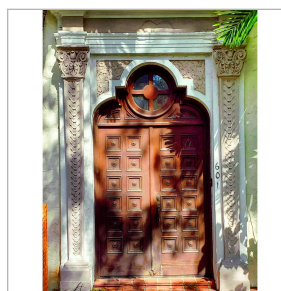
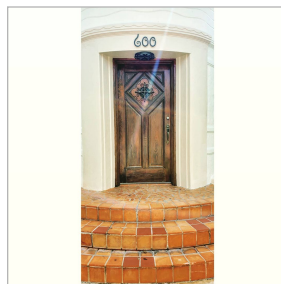
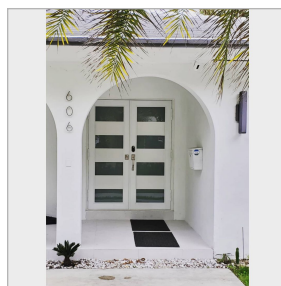
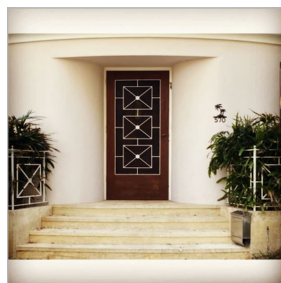
Drug Activity (Tip Line)
(305) 623-784

Illegal Tree Trimming
(305) 329-4770 or
(786) 457-0995
on night/weekends

For more information or to get
involved, contact:

Juan Ruiz
jruiz26@hotmail.com

The Doors of Morningside



Follow us on Instagram @morningsidemiami
and @morningsidemiamilife



In Loving Memory of Alyce Robertson

By Rachel Furst
MCA President

It is with a heavy heart that we
share the news that beloved
neighbor Alyce Robertson
passed away this year.

Alyce's many accomplishments
in her very full life were
recounted in her beautiful
obituary published in the
Miami Herald. On a personal
note, however, I wanted to
share how much Alyce meant to
Morningside.

Over the decades, Alyce
supported her neighbors, the
MCA and the Historic Home
Tours in innumerable ways.

Along with her husband Neil,
she raised her two daughters in
a beautiful historic home,
where there was always a joyful
gathering underway or on the
horizon.

Just in the relatively few years I
have lived here, Alyce was a
very active and civic-minded
neighbor. She volunteered with
Home Tours, organized festive
Christmas caroling, rarely
missed a social event and
headed our Tree Committee,
with a devotion to native trees
and considered planting ("The
right tree in the right place,"
she would say).



She was gracious, tenacious,
smart and funny, and we will
miss her.

Our deepest condolences go
out to Neil and the rest of the
Robertson family.

2021 MCA Board Members

District 1

Jacqueline Krijger de Degwitz
Ignacio Villanueva

District 2

Spring McManus
Melissa Shabani

District 3

Pedro daSilva, Treasurer
Juan Ruiz

District 4

Daniel Maland
Jamie Rosenberg

District 5

Eli Stiers
Tatiana Loza

District 6

Marc Billings
Rob Pollock, Secretary

At Large Board Members

Rachel Furst
President

Neil Robertson
Vice President

Rene Contreras