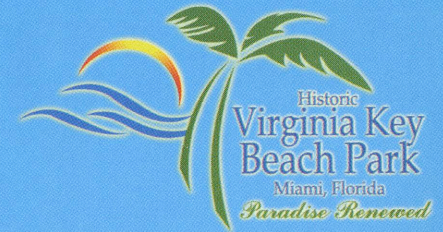


SPRING 2007 VOLUME 4

T H E
S U N R I S E

*The Newsletter of
Virginia Key Beach Park Trust*



T H E Sunrise



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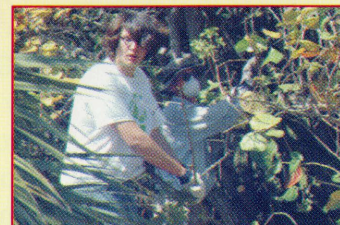
Volunteers

Join the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust Volunteer Team!!!



In my opinion, I was adopting a part of the park. That's my tree! I believe I made a difference in just 2 1/2 hours.
- Solbrisa Robinson

The Virginia Key Beach Park Trust (VKBPT) presents several volunteer events from beach clean-up, exotic plant removal to assisting with major events being held on the park. Community service hours are granted to students who participate. I encourage everyone to become part of the team and join the fun. It's easy to join, simply email me your name and email address and you will be automatically added to our e-blast volunteer mailing list.



- Gabriel Franca



- Quentin Pough

Becoming part of the VKBPT volunteer team will allow you to establish new friends, great networking opportunities, fun under the sun, and feelings of accomplishment and joy that YOU contributed toward the opening of Historic Virginia Key Beach Park.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to meeting and working with YOU at our next event.

Support

The fundraising efforts of Virginia Key Beach Park Trust were strong in the first quarter of 2007. More than 30 donors gave generously (see contributors list below) to the support and advancement of our restoration project. Val Screen, Esq., our new Development Director, led a successful radiothon, in conjunction with Bishop Victor T. Curry, General Manager of gospel radio station WMBM- AM 1490, in February. Listeners called in more than \$30,000 in pledges and donations and we were able to collect nearly every dollar promised.

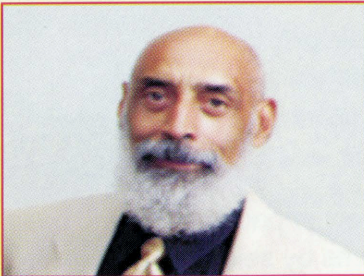
Board of Trustees members Maud Newbold, Enid Pinkney, N. Patrick Range II, Esq. and Chairperson Gene Tinnie went on the air with former Congresswoman Carrie Meek and a recorded message from Congressman Kendrick Meek to advise the local spiritual community of the Park's progress to date, and to ask for continued strong financial support.

Bank of America	Guines Lumber Co., Inc.	New Birth Baptist Church	Georgia Scales
Sandy Walker	Charles Brown	Kathleen McCrea	New Shiloh MB Church
Dante Starks	Emelda Wallace	Jessie Brown	Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara Jordan
Range Funeral Homes	The Carrie Meek Foundation	Majorie Young	Brownsville Affordable Housing Development
Ella Mitchell	Michael Roan	The Limousine Services, Inc.	
Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church	Saint La Haitain Neighborhood	Rebecca Vaughns	Herbert Coleman

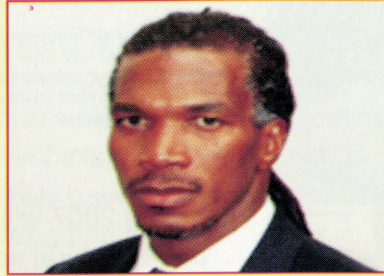
In March, the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust began a series of community outreach appearances before selected fraternal organizations and municipalities, all in an effort to keep the community apprised at its grassroots level about our ongoing improvements. We at the Trust say "Thank you very much" to all those who have contributed to this worthy cause and to those who will contribute in the future.

We look forward to more outreach and targeted solicitations throughout the second quarter of 2007.

The Visionaries



Gene Tinnie
Chair
Board of Trustees Chair,
Construction and Planning Committee
waltinnie@aol.com



W. Mark Walters
Secretary
Board of Trustees Chair
Development Committee
wwalters@miami.edu



Eugenia B. Thomas
Vice Chair
Administrative/Personal Committee
mseebt@aol.com



Erica McKinney, Esq.
Trustee



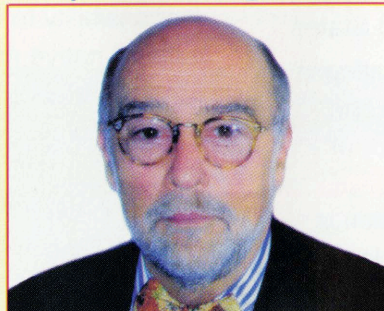
Maud Newbold
Trustee Chair
Marketing Committee
princessmaud@aol.com



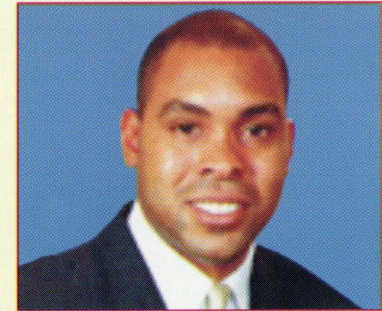
Miguel A. Germain
Treasurer Chair,
Audit/Budget Committee
mgermain@bellsouth.net



Dr. Enid C. Pinkney
Trustee Chair,
Historic Preservation Committee
enidpickey@msn.com



Gustavo Godoy
Trustee
ggodoy@vistamagazine.com



N. Patrick Range, II, Esq.
Trustee



Bernice Sawyer
Life Trustee



***M. Athalie Range**
Founding Chair
*Deceased

Conservation



* **Exotic Removal:** The Selective Exotic Removal project will clear years of overgrown vegetation and allow native plant species to thrive once again on the historic beach park.

Exotic Vegetation Removal – The second major phase of the beach park's restoration includes 36 acres that have been targeted for selective exotic vegetation removal. This projects slated to begin in

Spring 2007 will positively impact the historic beach park's natural ecosystems by selectively removing invasive exotic trees and plants from the park's coastal strand, ponds, wetlands and hardwood hammocks. Exotic vegetation will be identified for removal by consultants, Department of Environmental Resource Management (DERM) staff and knowledgeable professionals. The selective clearing will restore lost ecosystem structure and function while providing natural, native beauty to the environment.

Historic Virginia Key Beach Park is featured in "Green" Design Competition

The South Florida Chapter of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) is participating in the Natural Talent 2007 Design Competition and Historic Virginia Key Beach Park is the center of attention.

The Natural Talent 2007 Design Competition is being led locally by the USGBC South Florida Chapter's Founder and President Carolyn Mitchell, Director of Landscape Architecture for the architecture and design firm Zyscovich, Inc. The Competition provides an applied learning experience in the principles of integrated design, sustainability, innovation, and social consciousness; all of which are components of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.

"Along with the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust's mission to honor and share the rich cultural history of Historic Virginia Key Beach with the world is our

responsibility to foster the perpetuation of the natural, native environment that exist on the natural barrier island of Virginia Key," explained David Shorter, Executive Director of the Trust.

The competition is open to all university level students and individuals with less than five (5) years experience in the building industry.

The competition challenges the students to design a LEED Platinum beach pavilion (the highest LEED level) to serve as "home base" for nature study programs, group camping and as a rental space for parties. The pavilion should have an environmentally sensitive and regionally appropriate design theme and embody the principles of Green Building in a visible and educational way. The pavilion should be a building that teaches and fascinates.

"We've been paying close attention to historic and environmental preservation during the restoration of the historic beach park," said, Guy Forchion,

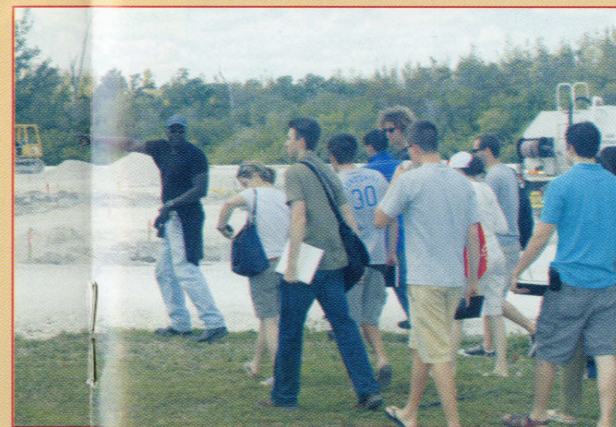
Virginia Key Beach Park Trust



New Flag Pole at Historic Virginia Key Beach Park



* **Parking lot light fixtures:** CW Construction completes the installation of light fixtures on Historic Virginia Key Beach Park



* **Guy Forchion,** Director of Operations, guides university students on tour of beach park for the design competition.

Director of Operations for the Trust," this design competition is another step in that direction; I'm excited to see what the students come up with."

The local competition's top winner will move on to compete for a national award at Greenbuild LA 2007, the USGBC's Annual Green Building Conference and Expo, where finalists' entries will be displayed and where final judging will occur. Greenbuild 2007 will be held in Los Angeles, CA, October 17-19, 2007.

Construction Progress/Planning

Parking Lot Improvements – A major transformations is taking place at Historic Virginia Key Beach Park through the steady progression of the historic beach park's circulation road and parking lot improvement construction project. The projects consist of a storm water drainage system, a 37 acre parking lot that will accommodate more than 450 vehicles, lighting, hundreds of native trees, newly paved circulation roads and a pedestrian walking path.

Historic Virginia Key Beach Park is 82 1/2 acres. When completed, this state-of-the-art parking lot project will have upgraded nearly half of the acreage on the park. The project will make a the beach park more pedestrian friendly, more visually appealing with the addiction to native trees and vegetation and generally more inviting to visitors.



* Working hard at Parking Lot site



* **CW & Metric Staff:** Christopher North, CW Construction and Maria Elena Mariner, Metric Engineering are the on-site supervision that coordinate with the Trust to make the parking lot project meet its deadlines.



T H E Sunrise

Museum Concept

History in the making



**VIRGINIA
KEY BEACH PARK
MUSEUM**

BEA
INTERNATIONAL

HUFF + GOODEN
ARCHITECTS LLC

Become apart of the history...

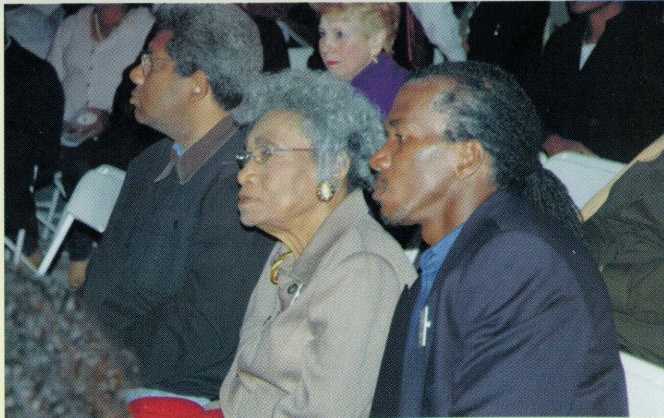
Virginia Key Beach Park Trust (VKBPT) seeks memories of the Historic Virginia Key Beach Park. For more information please call

305-960-4618.

Activities at the Park



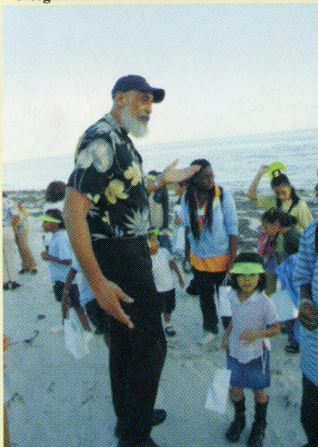
Andrew Hertz Jr. General Manager of Seaquarium joins the Trust for the Neighbors Luncheon



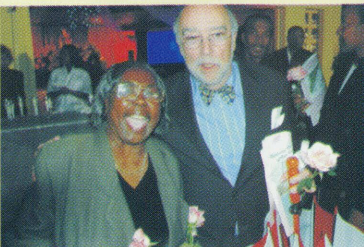
Board of Trustee members Germain, Thomas, and Walters some of many members at M. Athalie Range Candlelight Tribute.



Commissioner Barbara Jordan and N. Patrick Range II Esq.



Chairman Gene Tinnie talks about the history of the Park with a new generation of beach goers.



Trustees Enid Pinkney and Gustavo Godoy



City Attorney Jorge L. Fernandez views progress of the Park at neighbor's luncheon

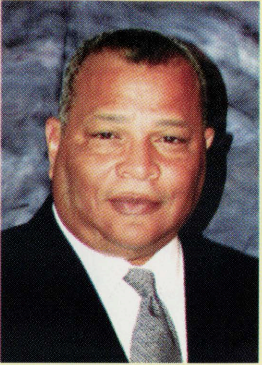


Mark Walters teaches the enthusiastic about learning of the history, social dictates and environmental framework within which Historic Virginia Key Beach Park



Commissioner Scarnoff and wife at M. Athalie Range Candlelight Tribute

Executive Director Column



This past November 2006 the Trust lost a valuable, gracious, glamorous human being, possibly one of the most influential persons in my professional life; Mrs. M. Athalie Range. I met with Mrs. Range on most Wednesday's at 12:00 pm and we would discuss the

business of the renovation and restoration of this beautiful park. Many times she told me of her dreams to return this property to the community in the spirit of which it had been when she was a child. The spirit of serenity, of family, of sanctuary to those who needed a place to be to escape the prejudices of the world. She always insisted that I think of things that would make this property a Mecca to those who did not know it intimately. Those who did not know of the sweet corn dogs, Nehi sodas and popcorn, consumed and celebrated during family and church picnics; those who did not know about the joys of being around people

who knew and loved you and did not care or discussed the negatives of the world while in this setting. As like so many others who felt that she belonged to them I will truly miss Mrs. M. Athalie Range and her sweet soft commanding voice. There are only a few people in this world that can be acquainted with so many and each one feels as though you were important to her and that she was your friend.

The Trust has done a great deal to restore this property to date; with your support and our commitment Historic Virginia Key Beach Park will soon be ready for everyone to benefit. We ask that you begin to think about how you can help in this effort. As we continue the renovation and begin to design and construct the museum, opportunities for you and/or your family's name and family members to live in perpetuity will become available. There are opportunities for everyone to assist in this renaissance of a piece of property that has been given to us twofold. For information go to our web page or call us.

David Shorter, Executive Director

Save the Date

Hall of Fame,
Pro Football Player,
LARRY LITTLE
Legends Golf
Tournament
December 12, 2007
to Benefit
Historic Virginia Key
Beach Park

Welcome New Employees



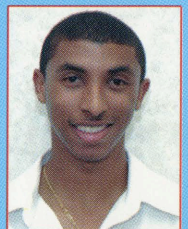
Robert Blount
Museum Director



Valria Screen
Development Director



Kechi Okpala
Special Events Coordinator



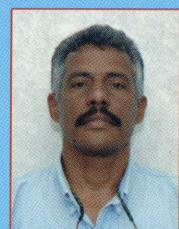
Quentin Pough
Volunteer Coordinator



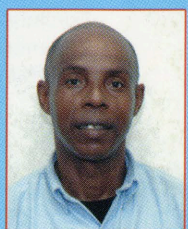
Nancy Nieves
Finance Coordinator



Terrica Johnson
Administrative Assistant

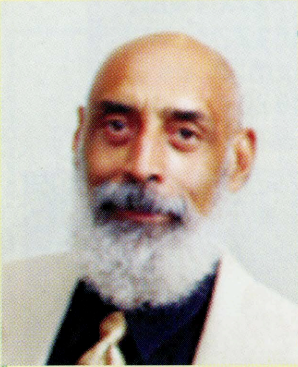


Jorge Lavastida
Maintenance Supervisor



Steve McKinnon
Maintenance Technician

Chair's Column



*T*his is my inaugural column as Chairperson of the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust since succeeding our late much-beloved community Matriarch and founding Chair, Mrs. M. Athalie

Range., I have often clarified that I am indeed succeeding, rather than replacing Mrs. Range at the helm of the Board of Trustees, she was truly irreplaceable. The leadership and wisdom that she provided to the citizens' effort to reclaim and restore Historic Virginia Key Beach Park (HVKBKBP) for public use and as a legacy to future generations was but a minuscule part of her innumerable contributions to the betterment of life in South Florida, but it was also one of her most significant, and was one of the dreams that was closest to her heart in her final years.

What was particularly significant was that Mrs. Range was not only, as she had been so often and so commonly referred to over the years, a matriarch for the African American community, but rather for the whole diverse coalition of environmentalists, public park activists, historic preservationists and concerned citizens who all shared the interests of the historic Black community in preserving a remarkably scenic natural and historic treasure for the enjoyment of all, rather than the benefit of a few.

It hardly needs to be said that Mrs. Range is "a hard act to follow," but follow we must – Trustees, staff, elected officials and the community at large, because it is as much of an honor and a blessing to carry on her work as it is a challenge. This task is made easier by the fact that, true to her spirit, she always insisted on maximum community involvement and benefit.

Clearly, the best way to remember and appreciate Mrs. Range's inspiring and empowering legacy is through our actions going forward, and our determination to make her dreams, particularly at

HVKBKBP, the reality that she and so many others have envisioned. I am pleased to report, as this issue of The Sunrise amply demonstrates, that we have been making significant and tangible progress, both inside and outside of the office... This has been made possible in part by our steady growth within the office with outstanding new staff members who are clearly qualified to move us to the next level, and our Board of Trustees have been fortunate enough to be joined by N. Patrick Range, II, Esq. Mrs. Range's grandson, who joins our group with an impressive mix of experience, community involvement and professional expertise. Outside of the office, on the site itself, there is the visible progress described here but also considerable outreach to national conferences and news media, as we prepare to reopen a world-class destination with national and global appeal, to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

As valuable and as welcome as the reopening of HVKBKBP, it is but part of a larger vision. At the highly successful community-wide planning charrette that was held in 2000; the future vision for the site, expressed by a strong consensus of the community, was that the entire Park should become a museum experience, with the addition of a new museum structure.

Accordingly, the Trust has been making progress as impressively on the development of this museum building as on the rest of the Park. The architects have been selected. We look forward to the continuing enthusiastic support of our City of Miami and Miami Dade County Mayors and Commissioners and of the broad spectrum of the community that has made this reclamation project a model of democracy-in-action, citizen participation and innovative ideas that might benefit similar efforts around the nation.

Gene S. Tinnie
Chair

Publication of



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www.virginiakeybeachpark.net

Virginia Key Beach Park Trust

was formed by the City of Miami to oversee and ensure the restoration of this 82.5-acre Beach Park as a destination for ALL to enjoy.

Chairman Angel Gonzalez.....District 1
Vice-Chairman Joe M. Sanchez.....District 3
Commissioner Marc Sarnoff.....District 2
Commissioner Thomas P. Regalado.....District 4
Commissioner Michelle Spencer-Jones....District 5
City Manager Pedro G. Hernandez

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