

# SUNRISE

THE NEWSLETTER OF VIRGINIA KEY BEACH PARK TRUST WINTER/SPRING 2008 VOL. 8 ISSUE 33



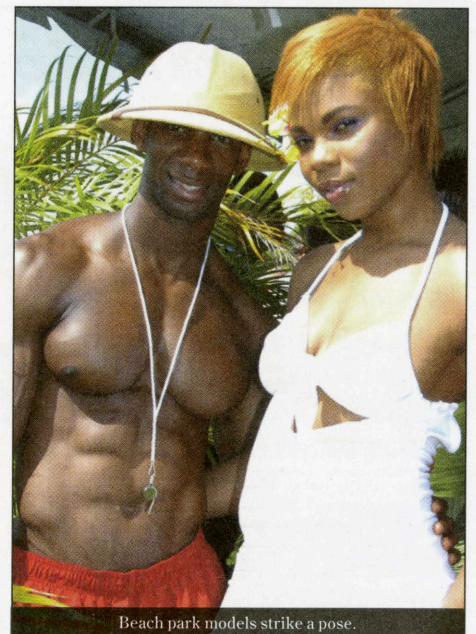
Congressman Kendrick Meek and Commissioner Barbara Jordan join the ribbon-cutting parade route.

## Come Revisit Historic Virginia Key Beach Park for the Very First Time!

*After a well attended re-opening celebration, we're now buzzing with all sorts of exciting activities for the whole family.*

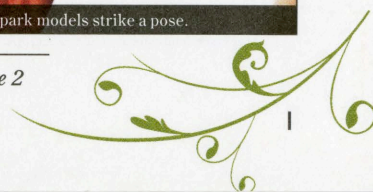
**W**e are finally open and there's no better place to experience "Paradise Renewed" than an outing to Historic Virginia Key Beach Park! After a well attended re-opening celebration at the close of Black History Month, the grandest of all city recreational facilities is now humming with a multitude of exciting activities for the whole family. Take a stroll on our just completed nature boardwalk which rises above a restored wetland region filled with

wildlife and red mangrove plantings. Tour the dazzling Historic Zone and view the significant structures which helped put the property on the National Register of Historic Places. Savor nostalgic snacks at the original Concession Stand or cook up your own barbecue at one of our many conveniently located picnic stations complete with outdoor grills. Watch the kids have a ball at the barrier-free play area with its adjacent sandbox and anticipate the thrills they will have when the carousel



Beach park models strike a pose.

*Continued on Page 2*





Chair, Gene S. Tinnie cuts the ribbon while Trustees look on with Congressman Kendrick Meek, Commissioner Barbara Jordan, Commissioner Carlos A. Jimenez and David L. Shorter, Executive Director.

## Public Celebrates Momentous Re-Dedication Ceremony

*Distinguished politicians and members of the public filled an oversized tent for the dedication ceremony on the grounds of the future museum.*

Picnic shelters humming with family merriment, historic buildings glistening with fresh coats of paint, the nostalgic refrains of pipe organ music wafting from the old Carousel Building (currently housing an original Allan Herschell carousel on loan to the park), a brand new boundless playground brimming with youthful laughter and the tantalizing aromas of jerked chicken and barbecued ribs, plated up high at the ever popular Concession Stand, are just some of the amazing sights, sounds and smells that greeted throngs of visitors during Historic Virginia Key Beach Park's grand re-opening weekend at the close of Black History Month.

On Friday February 22nd, distinguished politicians and members of the public filled an

oversized tent for the dedication ceremony on the grounds of the future museum. Hosted by NBC 6 News Anchor, Trina Robinson, the highlight of the event was an impassioned key note address delivered by the celebrated civil rights leader, Reverend Dr. Joseph Lowery and ended with an enlivened Bahamian Junkanoo Revue who escorted revelers to the main gate for the ribbon-cutting.

During Saturday's Family Fest Day, people entering the park for the first time in over 26 years, spied a newly constructed boardwalk addition over restored wetland areas plus an upgraded parking facility adorned with colorful banners. Everywhere, visitors of all ages were seen frolicking near the sun drenched water's edge, casting fanciful castles atop pristine sandbars and snap-

ping pictures along the picturesque wooden piers or, beside, the 'Biscayne Virginia Rick-enbacker Central' miniature railroad on display under balmy winter skies.

In the afternoon, radio sponsors, 99 JAMZ and Hot 105, provided an assortment of live entertainment on the concert lawn ringed by a bevy of food and craft vendors. Oldsters reminisced during oral history interviews and lingered at the Memory Lane exhibit while a new generation of small fry marveled at the magic spun by puppeteers, story tellers and face painters, perhaps, in the same way their very grandparents were enthralled during their visits to the park.



Mrs. Catherine "Hummingbird" Ramirez anoints the Trustees.

The evening was capped off by the soulful renditions of the inimitable Jeffrey Osborne who appeared before a packed crowd of fans splayed out on blankets and folding chairs throughout the manicured concert lawn. As moonlight illuminated the site of the Negro Dance Pavilion, a small cluster of romantic stragglers, aching to capture the last moments of their special day at Historic Virginia Key Beach Park, could be seen swaying in each other's arms, seemingly unaffected by the whirling spirits of bygone lovers all around them celebrating the beach park's rebirth.

*Continued from the cover:*

and mini-train ride attractions soon accommodate a new generation of visitors. Be sure to regularly check our website for upcoming intramural sports, volunteer/ecological events plus other exciting cultural festivals and live concerts. Plan a corporate or family affair in one of the park's seaside venues or, simply, string up a hammock between two



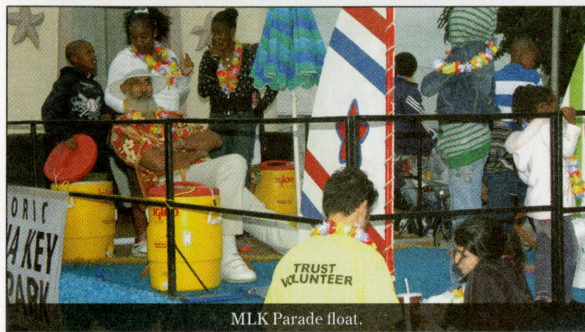
Family Fest Day vendors.

palm trees and idle away the hours swaying in the tropical breezes. Whether, it is a sunset walk along the sand dunes, attending a seaside gathering with friends or a simple desire to get away from the daily stresses of urban life by basking in our scenic beauty, we cordially invite the public to come revisit Historic Virginia Key Beach Park again for the very first time.

# Historic Virginia Key Beach Park Shakes, Rattles and Rolls!

*The themed float titled "Paradise Renewed" paid homage to all the great elements the beach park has to offer.*

The first two months of the New Year offered many opportunities for 'Miami's Urban Jewel' to promote itself throughout the community. In January, Historic Virginia Key Beach Park took part in the Martin Luther King Parade held annually in the Liberty City section of Miami. This year's themed float was titled



MLK Parade float.

'Paradise Renewed' and paid homage to all the great elements the beach park has to offer in a visually appealing way. Waving trustee members inspired the concept of responsible citizenry. Bright sails on turquoise seas plus a larger-than-life sand castle denoted the property's stunning coastline. To radiate family fun, staff and volunteers clad in beach wear handed out flyers for the grand re-opening while

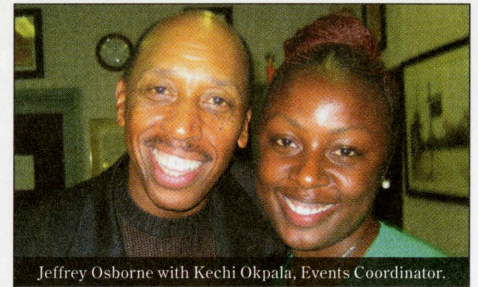
audiences lining the parade route were encouraged to revel to the beat of generational music blaring from the float's speaker system.

For Black History Month in February, the City of Miami honored Historic Virginia Key Beach Park with an invitation to set up an informative display in the lobby of the Miami Riverside Center. The colorful exhibition coincided with an outdoor reception attended by many government workers who were anxious to celebrate the importance of Black History Month. Similarly, Historic Virginia Key Beach Park organized a booth at the Historical Museum of South Florida's salute to Black History Month at the close of February.

During the re-opening weekend events, Jeffrey Osborne and other artists truly rocked the beach park with their free live concert at the culmination of Family Fest Day. Several thousand concert goers packed the event lawn and grooved to opening acts performed by Crossovah, Ball Greezy, Grind Mode and Mecca a.k.a. Grimo. Then, Jeffrey



Center Stage: Family Fest Day.



Jeffrey Osborne with Kechi Okpala, Events Coordinator.

Osborne took center stage and mesmerized the audience with such mellow hit tunes as "Stay With Me Tonight", "We're Going All the Way" and, the ever popular "You Should Be Mine (The Woo Woo Song)".

**Upcoming Event Department happenings open to the public include; Volunteer Clean-Up Day, April 15, Baynanza Volunteer Day, April 19, Sizzle Miami 2008 Luau, a ticketed event scheduled for May 24 and Juneteenth BBQ In the Sun, June 21.**

*For information on booking events, please contact Kechi Okpala, Special Events Coordinator at [kokpala@miami.gov.com](mailto:kokpala@miami.gov.com).*

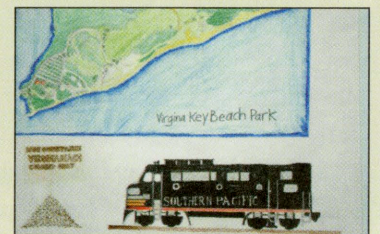
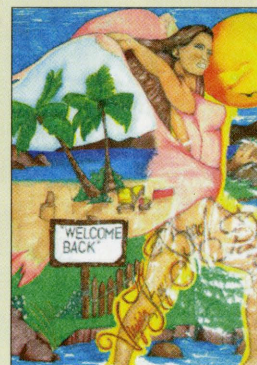
## 12<sup>th</sup> Grader Wins Poster Art Contest

*A recent grand re-opening poster contest for students in grades 6-12 in the Miami-Dade County school system resulted in the following talented selections:*

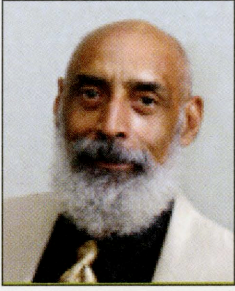


**First Place:** Recipient of an engraved plaque and \$250 savings bond. Telsa Velasquez, 12th Grader/Booker T. Washington High School.

**Second Place:** Shantice Moorer, 12th Grader/ Booker T. Washington High School.



**Third Place:** Michael Gay, 11th Grader/Miami Central High School.



## Message From The Chair Gene S. Tinnie

Enough cannot be said, of course, about the joyous grand re-opening of Historic Virginia Key Beach Park, on February 22-24 or, about, what this means to Miami and the world. However, in this limited space, a few points need to be made, acknowledging a few of the individuals who made this all possible.

It was most inspiring that so many of the thousands who flocked to the park for this special occasion shared remembrances of our late community matriarch Mrs. M. Athalie Range, for whom this long-anticipated re-opening was the fulfillment of the dream to which she dedicated her final years, and, which, could not have been brought about without her.

This was, indeed, a citizen's victory, the culmination of some nine years of real democracy in action, as community members, elected officials and staff shifted a potentially failed policy of exclusive development of the site for a privileged few to a successful reclamation and restoration of a truly remarkable historical and environmental landmark, to be enjoyed by all. The late Commissioner Arthur E. Teele, Jr. must be remembered for his vision, guidance and leadership in establishing the Trust, headed by Mrs. Range, which brought this to fruition.

The opening ceremony mainly focused, appropriately, on the Park's rich and inspiring history, but its environmental importance and larger social significance cannot be overlooked. It took nothing less than a phenomenal coalition of diverse community activists, historic preservationists, environmentalists and public parks advocates to form the catalyst for success.

Longtime educator, naturalist and earnest friend of Virginia Key, Mrs. Mabel Miller, could not attend the opening but was very much present in spirit and will always be part of this victory.

Members of the Sierra Club and Tropical Audubon Society must also be recognized for their vital support, and a special mention must be made of Mr. Robert Weinreb and Ms. Nancy Lee, whose knowledge and tenacity were also critical to this success. None of this, however, would have come about at all without the crucial role of the prime mover of the entire effort, historian, Urban Environment League and Public Parks Coalition co-founder Dr. Gregory Bush, who first alerted the community to the threats posed to this treasured location.

Former County Commissioner Dr. Barbara M. Carey Shuler pioneered support for the restoration at the county level and leveraged the first \$5 million allocation to the future museum. Mr. Garth Reeves and Ms. Rachel Reeves of the *Miami Times* played an essential role in informing the community of the relevant issues and progress, as did Mr. Rodney Baltimore and Ms. Traci Cloyd of WHQT-FM HOT 105.

Finally, on behalf of my fellow Trustees and the community as a whole, I am privileged to recognize and thank our Executive Director Mr. David L. Shorter and our staff for their years, months and days of dedicated professionalism, goodwill and teamwork in making this re-opening, and all that it represents, a reality.

I close with the timely reminder that although this wonderful occasion marked the culmination of years of effort, it is only the beginning of work yet to be done. Most immediately, Commissioner Marc Sarnoff has launched a challenge grant of \$100,000 for the permanent acquisition of the classic antique carousel which was rented for the opening. In the longer term, our work becomes even more demanding as we bring to life the museum/park experience which will make HVKBP the global destination that it promises to be, for residents and visitors alike.

## A Special Spotlight/Gregory W. Bush

*We give special recognition to one of the beach park's early saviors.*

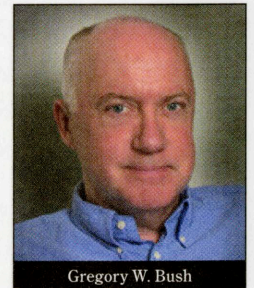
As we commemorate the re-dedication of Historic Virginia Key Beach Park for public use, it is only fitting that we give special recognition to one of the beach park's early saviors, Gregory W. Bush PH.D.

The story begins in the late 1990's when most local environmental activists were preoccupied with saving the newly unearthed Miami Circle. In the midst of this political fray, Professor Bush came to the forefront to define the former Virginia Key Beach Park as a civil rights memorial. His grassroots efforts centered on convincing the City of Miami not to sell the land to developers who had designs to convert it for the exclusive use of a privileged few.

With a scholarly interest in public history that promotes better understanding of South Florida's past plus a long resume of studying/redesigning public parks, Professor Bush was very instrumental in advocating for land conservation within the City of Miami. Joining forces with fellow activists/historians Mabel

Miller, Athalie Range, Gene Tinnie, Mark Walters, Jonathan Ullmann, Dorothy Fields and others, Professor Bush took up the initial struggle to preserve Historic Virginia Key Beach Park for public use. Next, he helped promote the role the site played in the history of Miami's African-American community, and, ultimately, he contributed towards the study of ways to enhance the uniqueness of its recreational facilities.

Currently serving as Associate Professor in the Department of History at the University of Miami, Professor Bush is one of the founders of Florida's Moving Image Archive and the author of several highly praised books and research papers in his field. He also directs the Institute for Public History, served as President of the Urban Environment League, initiated several important City of Miami resolutions affecting the parks system and has affiliations with the National Parks Service and the Miami-Dade County Board of Education.



Gregory W. Bush

# Ribbon-Cutting/Press Conference

Friday, February 22, 2008

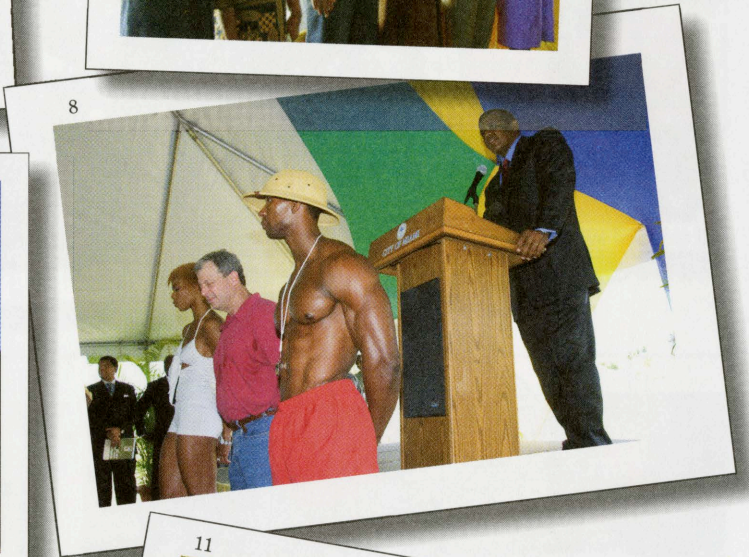
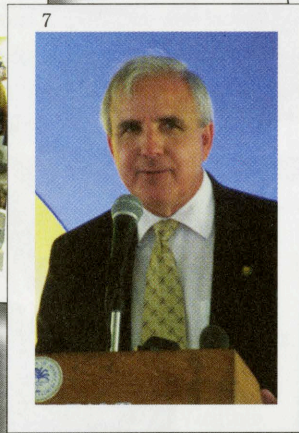
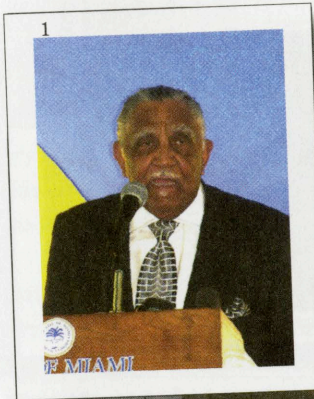


1) Retired Congresswoman Carrie Meek celebrates. 2) Marlon Hill, Esq. and guest. 3) County Commissioners Edmonson, Jordan and Gimenez. 4) NBC 6 News Anchor, Trina Robinson. 5) N. Patrick Range II., Esq., Trustee, Erica McKinney, Esq., Trustee, Gene S. Tinnie, Chair, David L. Shorter, Executive Director, W. Mark Walters, Trustee. 6) Garth Reeves, Eugenia B. Thomas, Trustee, Val Screen, Esq. 7) Sand castle artists. 8) Ribbon-cutting commences. 9) Re-dedication ceremony. 10) Memory Lane exhibit. 11) Bahamian Junkanoo Revue and models.



# Ribbon-Cutting/Press Conference

Friday, February 22, 2008



1) Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery. 2) Rev. Walter T. Ritchardson, Dwight L. Jackson, Bobbie Mumford, Pastor Richard P. Dunn II, Bishop Victor T. Curry, N. Patrick Range II, Esq. 3) Models get festive. 4) Concession Stand buffet. 5) Trustees; W. Mark Walters, Eugenia B. Thomas, Miguel A. Germain, Erica McKinney, Esq., N. Patrick Range II, Esq., Maud Newbold. 6) Congressman Kendrick Meek, Maud Newbold, Trustee. 7) Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez. 8) Former lifeguard, John Gillen, flanked by models. 9) Bahamian Junkanoo Revue. 10) Members of the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Boot Camp. 11) C. Juanita Smith, Charles Franklin Johnson II, Carol A. Johnson, Charles F. Johnson, Sr.

# Family Day Fest

Saturday, February 23, 2008

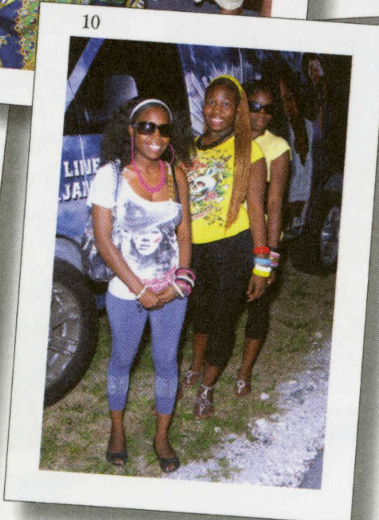
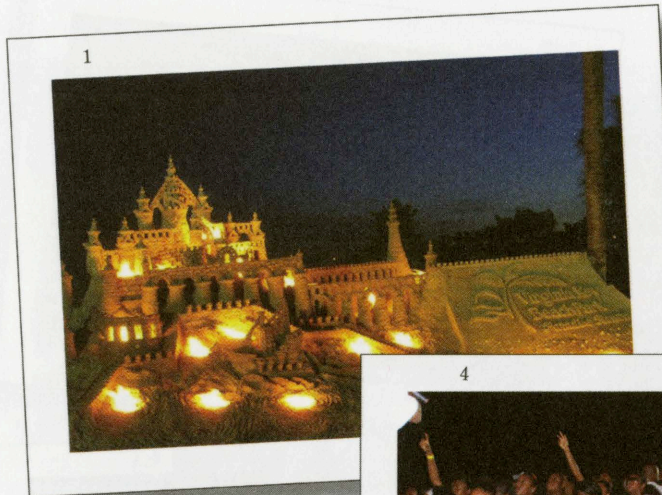


1) Picnickers enjoy the re-opening. 2) Lines at the Concession Stand. 3) Carousel Building is alive again. 4) Elegance abounds. 5) Shaze Gospel Choir. 6) Rodney Baltimore, Hot 105. 7) Florida Memorial College Steel Band. 8) Sand castle princess. 9) Children's play area. 10) Crowds on the Event Lawn. 11) Dr. Harold Braynon, D.D.S.



# Family Fest Evening

Saturday, February 23, 2008



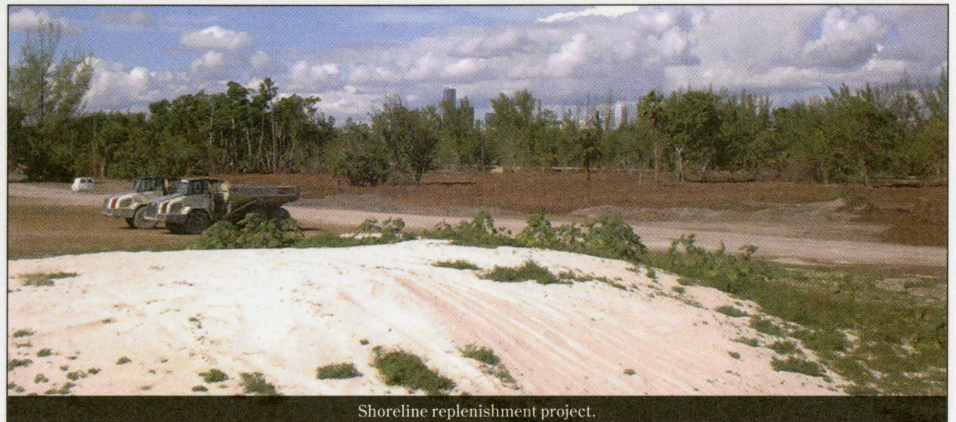
1) Sand castle illuminated. 2) Jeffrey Osborne live in concert. 3) Jeffrey Osborne live in concert. 4) Concert fans. 5) Group makes their own kind of music. 6) Flashing beautiful smiles. 7) Volunteers huddle. 8) Tee shirt vendors. 9) Performer Grind Mode. 10) Young concert goers. 11) Members of Black Global Bikers.



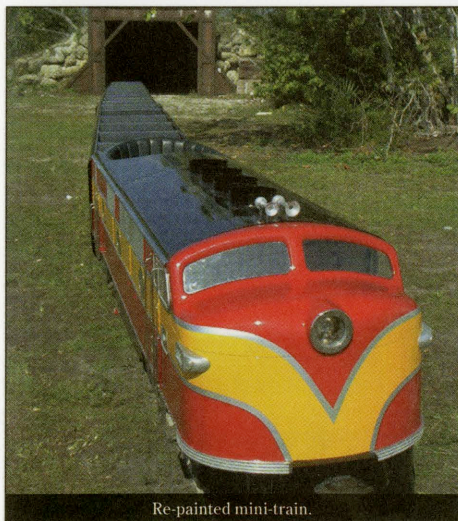
# Upgrade Of Park Facilities Continues

*As soon as water current studies are complete, a system of offshore buoy lines will be implemented to re-instate of public swimming.*

**H**istoric Virginia Key Beach Park will soon surpass the original number of picnic tables and outdoor grills that once graced the property. To date, a total of 86 picnic tables (8 with handicap access) and 30 barbecue grills are installed with more on the way. Picnickers can also look forward to escaping the hot sun when two large awnings rise over existing slab foundations in the northern end of the beach park. As soon as water current studies are complete, a system of offshore buoy lines will be implemented to re-instate of public swimming at Historic



Shoreline replenishment project.



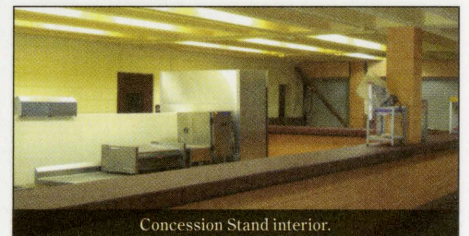
Re-painted mini-train.

Virginia Key Beach Park. The floating boundaries would enable City of Miami lifeguards to properly enforce safe swimming as well as restrict power boating.

Shoreline restoration of depleted beach sand and additional shade tree plantings are ongoing. The new nature boardwalk is now open for visitors to explore wetland regions, as is too, the old-time Concession Stand which doles out seaside treats seven days a week. Youngsters can experience our brand new barrier-free play area complete with sandbox and a boundless playground made possible by a grant from the Miami-Dade Children's Trust. Finally, take time to snap a picture in front of

the soon-to-be, re-commissioned 'Biscayne Virginia Rickenbacker Central' miniature railroad presently awaiting final permits for the laying of a track through scenic natural areas.

*For more information on the status of our ongoing beach park improvements, please contact Guy Forchion, Operations Director at [gforchion@miamigov.com](mailto:gforchion@miamigov.com).*



Concession Stand interior.



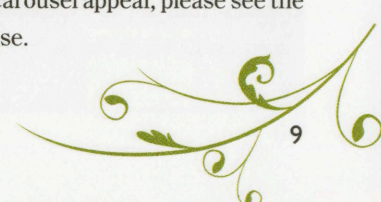
## *Message From The Executive Director* **David L. Shorter**

**T**he park is finally open for the entire world to enjoy! Those words are long in coming, but, a true joy to announce after so many people gave their all to this magnificent undertaking.

Notwithstanding the admirable end results, a new challenge faces the Trust. We were fortunate to lease an authentic Allan Herschell era carousel for the grand re-opening, similar to the original one that brought so much happiness to bygone visitors. The operator is willing to sell us the 32 horse/3 bench amusement ride if we can quick-

ly come up with the \$250,000 asking price. When City of Miami Commissioner for District 2, Marc Sarnoff heard of our fiscal plight, he stepped up to the plate with a generous offer. If the trust raises a minimum of \$100,000 towards the purchase, his administration would match the contributions. However, Commissioner Sarnoff's pledge of \$100,000 can only become a reality if we can enlist the community to commit to this worthwhile effort to retain this unique treasure in our family recreational facility for future generations to enjoy.

We therefore, call on all our loyal supporters to give whatever they can afford in order to enable us to promptly purchase this special carousel before the owners permanently remove it from the property. For more details about our carousel appeal, please see the back panel of this edition of the Sunrise.



## From the Development Frontlines

*Fundraising is in motion to finish the beach re-nourishment program, expand nature trails and to match a \$100,000 grant challenge.*

The Virginia Key Beach Park Trust Development Department is coordinating some very exciting projects. A recent Solicitation Letter, that reached prospective donors in early March, outlined the need for continuing contributions to fund a number of capital improvement items.

To illustrate some of the priorities, fundraising is in motion to finish the beach re-nourishment program, expand nature trails for walking/biking, and to match a \$100,000.00 grant challenge issued by City of Miami Commissioner, for District 2, Marc Sarnoff, to secure an antique carousel for the Historic Carousel Building. The Children's Trust will be asked to lend support again for a second children's area to be located along the northern coastline of the property. This newest playground is slated to include a water feature or "vortex splash pad", that will undoubtedly, prove very popular with visitors of all ages, particularly, on scorching summer days.

Further, Miami-Dade County Commissioner for District 7, Carlos A. Gimenez, is allocating \$100,000.00 for entryway signage. The Devel-



opment Department is pleased to announce receipt of a \$9,000.00 contribution from the Dade Community Foundation to further the education of inner city/minority students through summer environmental programs at the beach park.

Lastly, this year's Larry Little Legends Golf Classic, presented by the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians and benefiting Historic Virginia Key Beach Park will be held Thursday, December 4, 2008. Don Shula, Ted Hendricks with numerous Pro Football Hall of Famers, 1972 Dolphin 'Perfect Season' players in addition to other celebrated NFL members attended the inaugural event. By all accounts, our first tournament had favorable results with plans already underway to make this autumn's fundraiser even bigger and better.

*For more information about tax-free charitable donations to benefit the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust, please contact Val Screen, Esq., Development Director at [vscreen@miamigov.com](mailto:vscreen@miamigov.com).*

The Mission of the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust is to create and carry forward a community-based vision for the development and use of historic Virginia Key Beach Park by a) promoting and maintaining absolute public ownership and access; b) fostering its perpetuation as a passive open green-space which includes nature trails, recreational facilities and appropriate museum structures, all compatible with the natural environment of Virginia Key; c) honoring the rich social and cultural history of the site and of South Florida; and d) preserving the site as a valuable historical, environmental, educational and recreational resource to be enjoyed by posterity.

The editors of the Sunrise extend special credit to the following sources of background materials and/or photography; Jorge R. Perez, Office of Communications, City of Miami, Catherine A. Minnis, Regional Coordinator, Team Metro Kendall, Lee Photos, Harry Gottlieb, Verne Patrick and the University of Miami Department of History.

The Sunrise is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust. If you have questions or comments, please contact us at: 4020 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149, phone: (305) 960-4600, fax: (305) 960-4620, e-mail: [dfriedman@miamigov.com](mailto:dfriedman@miamigov.com), visit our website: [www.virginiakeybeach.park.net](http://www.virginiakeybeach.park.net).

## Meet Our New Employees

*Virginia Key Beach Park Trust extends a warm welcome to the following new staff members:*



Marcia M. Anderson is the newly appointed Educational Director for the Museum Department. Marcia has a Master of Arts in Classical Philology, with a concentration in Museum Studies from Florida State University and two Bachelor of Arts degrees from College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts. Her previous work experience includes positions at the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science in Tallahassee, FL and various teaching assignments in two states.

Ingrid D. Stuart is the newly appointed Development Coordinator. Previously, serving as the Public Relations and Financial Officer for the Bahamas Consulate General in Miami, Ingrid possesses 10 years experience in public affairs for government diplomatic agencies and over 20 years experience in the field of finance. Ms. Stuart completed a Master of Science in Management from St. Thomas University and is currently working on her Doctorate in Education Leadership from the same institution.



Tammy Washington and Jerald Gustavo were also hired as ground keepers with the Operations Department.

# Dr. Effie Carrie Mitchell-Hampton:

*Florida's First African American Female Physician. A Research Abstract by Nichole West*

This research examines the life of Dr. Effie Carrie Mitchell-Hampton and her importance to the State of Florida decades after her passing. Dr. E. C. Mitchell-Hampton was the State of Florida's first female African American physician. Also, arguably she can be considered the first female physician in Florida. Throughout her life, Dr. Mitchell-Hampton accomplished many achievements, including a successful medical practice and pharmacy, besides serving on the board of the State Colored Medical Association. Dr. Mitchell-Hampton's life's work has been dedicated to serving her community through both her medical practice and community service.

Her contributions stretched beyond her medical expertise, including involvement in the church, as well as the community. Her voluntary weekend visits to provide health care to elderly and poor residents, contributed to her reputation as a caring physician. Mitchell also served her community through

the A.M.E. church in a wide array of positions, ranging from fundraiser organizer to church musician. After marriage, and the start of her family, Dr. Mitchell-Hampton still remained a prominent figure in the community in Ocala, where she continued to operate her pharmacy for over thirty-five years, until her retirement.

This abstract traces the life of Dr. E.C. Mitchell-Hampton, from her family origins in Fernandina, Florida to her father re-locating the family to Ocala. The introduction highlights both of Mitchell's parents involvement in the community during major events, such as, reconstruction and post-reconstruction. The research continues through Mitchell's educational background, beginning with the Howard Academy, into her matriculation at the Orange Park School for Girls. Mitchell's adolescence years are examined with her entry into Meharry Medical College, and her completion of the medical program where she emerges as the state's first Afri-

can American female physician. A discussion involving Mitchell's advancements as a physician is garnished by looking at her medical practice and pharmacy. Her personal life is also examined, including her marriage to the city of Ocala's prominent African American dentist, Lee Royal Hampton, and their family life. Her community service activities are also summarized through examples of her church involvement, and through her positions held in the Women's Federation Club, and the State Colored Medical Association.

Although Dr. E.C. Mitchell-Hampton illustrious career has endured a lifetime of hard labor that has made a difference in her community, and has paved a way for future female physicians in Florida, the details of her life and career have failed to receive the proper recognition deserved for such a prominent individual.

Nichole West is a native of Pensacola, FL. She received her B.S. in History from Florida A&M University in 2007. She is currently a graduate student at Troy University pursuing her Master's degree in Public Administration, and works in the Escambia County school system.



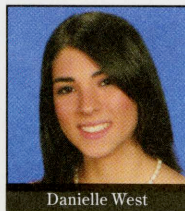
## Saluting Our Volunteer Corps

*More than 800 volunteers contributed over 10,036 hours to the beach park's preservation causes last year alone.*

The Virginia Key Beach Park Trust Volunteer Corps had an extremely busy 2007 with more clean-up projects slated for 2008. More than 800 volunteers contributed over 10,036 hours to the beach park's preservation causes last year alone. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff we would like to thank all the dedicated individuals and organizations who contributed their time to help restore Historic Virginia Key Beach Park.

Every quarter, our newsletter intends to highlight a special volunteer who contributed beyond the standard call of duty. In this edition, we salute a dedicated senior from South Miami High School named Danielle DeMatas. At times, volunteering with her

mother and boyfriend, Danielle tallied over 75 service hours on a wide array of projects. First, she participated in the exotic plant removal and replanting of native saplings.



Danielle West

Then, Danielle went to work on cleaning the beach's shoreline, she marched alongside the Trust's float in the MLK Parade and, even, lent assistance in the Marketing/Media Department leading up to the grand re-opening. We hold Danielle as a model for scholastic volunteerism/achievement and wish her much success as she pursues her undergraduate studies at the University of Florida later in the year.

*For more information regarding our Volunteer Corps please contact Quentin Pough, Volunteer Coordinator at [qpough@miamigov.com](mailto:qpough@miamigov.com).*

## Blasts From The Past

We are always pleased to disseminate information that comes our way about people who were once associated with Historic Virginia Key Beach Park;

**The Allen Family** members were closely tied to the park's early days. The late Billie Allen's image will be forever immortalized in the beach park's new lifeguard logo while his surviving brother Bobbie, served patrons at the old Concession Stand. The boys' father was the original conductor of the mini-train ride.

**Carol Johnson** was the daughter of Daniel James Johnson Jr., the first Superintendent at the old Virginia Key Beach. Ms. Johnson lived in a house that was once situated between two sea grape trees at the park's entrance. She presently, resides with her husband in the Miami area and graciously agreed to be interviewed for a recent article that appeared in the Miami Herald.

**Sidney Wynn** a lifeguard during the 50's-60's, is 83 years old and still resides in Miami.

**C. Juanita Smith** still sharp as a fiddle at age 92, has many fond memories of her days serving throngs of people at the Concession Stand.

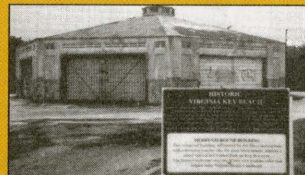
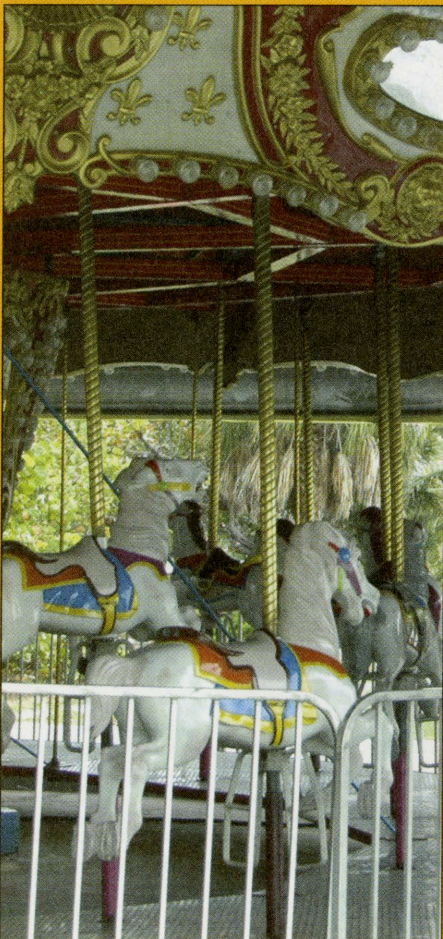
H I S T O R I C



**VIRGINIA KEY  
BEACH PARK**  
MIAMI, FLORIDA

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## Please Help Save The Carousel..,

Who among the fans of the nostalgic Virginia Key Beach Park can forget the wide smiles that filled their faces when they took a ride on the old carousel against the backdrop of beautiful blue sea? Now, thanks to a generous matching grant challenge by Marc Sarnoff, City of Miami Commissioner for District 2, the Virginia Key Beach Park Trust is putting forth an urgent appeal for funds to purchase the same antique carousel that was leased just in time to enthrall visitors during the recent re-opening events.

Please help the Trust retain this significant Allan Herschell carousel before the owner reclaims it and we lose the opportunity to receive \$100,000 in matching funds toward the approximate \$250,000 purchase price.

Demonstrate your support for this most fondly remembered of all attractions by making your checks payable to: Virginia Key Beach Park Trust Fund and mail your remittance to our office located at 4020 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149 or contact Val Screen Esq., Director of Development at either (305) 960-4605 or [vscreen@miamigov.com](mailto:vscreen@miamigov.com) to make a secure credit card contribution. All donations toward the "Carousel Challenge" are tax-deductible.