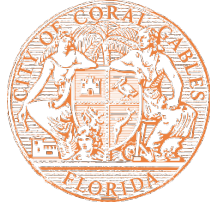


THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES



Office of Vice Mayor
Rhonda Anderson

City Hall 405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

The City Beautiful

March 2026

Dear Coral Gables Residents:

Since my last letter to you, our City has made significant progress on many issues. This letter provides you with some updates and some examples of where we have made progress:

- **Traffic Calming, Road Improvements & Pedestrian Safety:** In addition to city streets, our city has State and County Roads¹, and most changes to our city roads require County approval.
 - **FDOT Roads:** In 2024, I provided FDOT with a formal written request for road safety improvements needed. FDOT recently confirmed it has agreed to numerous improvements, some of which have been completed and others that will commence in 2027. Those improvements include:
 - Lowering speed limits on LeJeune Road
 - Installing Speed Feedback signs on Bird Road and LeJeune Road
 - Improving pedestrian cross walks and installing audible signals and crossing signals that require all vehicles to stop when a walk signal is activated.
 - A new sidewalk on the south side of Bird Road making it possible to walk from Red Road to Coral Gables High School
 - **County Roads:** In 2025, Coral Way was repaved, and this year the County will construct a large traffic circle with enhanced pedestrian safety features at the Coral Way/Anderson Road intersection.
 - **City Roads:**
 - **Granada/Coral Way Intersection:** In 2025, pedestrian safety enhancements were completed (sidewalks and visual/audible crossing signals), new hurricane-resistant traffic signal poles were installed, and the intersection was repaved.
 - **2026 Repaving Projects:** Greenway Drive, Columbus Boulevard from Coral Way to Anastasia, and Pisano Ave. near Doctors Hospital. Additional roads will be repaved in 2026 in conjunction with street improvement projects.

¹ FDOT controls and maintains U.S. 1, LeJeune, Red Road, SW 8th Street, Bird Road and Blue Road. The County maintains and controls Douglas Road, Old Cutler Road/LeJeune south of US 1, Maynada, Sunset, Kendall Dr. and Coral Way. The City maintains other streets, but County and State laws traffic control improvements.

- **Ponce de Leon Blvd – Phase 3:** Pedestrian safety, landscaping, street improvements and repaving are currently under construction.
 - **DeSoto Fountain traffic circle** improvements will commence to increase safety.
 - **Biltmore Way/Anderson Road:** A traffic circle installation to increase safety and reduce speeding.
 - **New Sidewalks:** Planned for Granada Blvd. from the DeSoto Fountain to Ponce de Leon Blvd., Orduna Drive, Erwin Road, and one segment is under construction on South Alhambra to complete the gap between the waterway bridge and existing sidewalks. Grant applications are pending for sidewalks in more areas to increase safety for students to walk to Coral Gables High.
 - **Zone 4 Traffic Calming** installations will commence this summer.
- **Charter Referendums:** You should have received a ballot in the mail with items covering the following topics for you to consider changing in the City Charter.
 - (1) Move city elections to November to increase voter turnout and save over \$100,000 taxpayer dollars.
 - (2) Eliminate stand-alone run-off elections, which historically have very low turn-out, to save over \$100,000 taxpayer dollars.
 - (3) Authorize use of an Inspector General when needed to investigate corruption and increase accountability.
 - (4) Hold Charter Review Committee meetings every 10 years.
 - (5) Allow Commission members to remove and replace individuals they appoint on 39 city boards and committees.²
 - (6) Require voter approval of increases in Commission compensation, use of Emergency Reserve funds for non-emergency reasons, or changing election dates.

On Thursday, March 26, the Charter Committee Chair, former Mayor Don Slesnick, led an informational meeting at Gables Good Government (GGG) to discuss potential changes being considered to the City Charter. The meeting was free and open to the public.

If you have any questions or did not receive a ballot, call **305-499-VOTE (8683)** or visit <https://www.coralgables.com/departments/city-clerks-office/voting-referendum-2026>.

- **Park Renovations Highlights:**
 - **Venetian Pool** renovations were completed and the pool reopened in December 2025.

² You can apply to serve one of the 39 City boards/committees at <https://www.coralgables.com/departments/CityClerk/boards-committees>.

- **Mayor Dorothy H. Thomson Park** – A Wizard of Oz-themed children’s neighborhood park at 4050 Toledo Street, opened in September 2025.
- **David Lawrence Jr. and Family Park** – A children’s park on Blue Road opened in March 2026.
- **Regional Dog Parks** – Salvadore Dog Run opened in August 2023, and the Underline Dog Park opened in January 2026. A dog park was required for a future development in the 100 block of Mendoza Avenue near Phillips Park, and an additional park is under consideration near the Coral Gables Library/Youth Center.
- **Phillips Park** is currently undergoing major renovations.

Up-dates and proposed plans for all parks projects are available at <https://www.coralgables.com/departments/community-recreation/park-projects-and-updates>.

- **Renovations of City Facilities:**

- **Fire House 4 on Sunset Drive:** On Friday, March 27, 2026, Fire Station 4 will officially open, providing improved response times for the South Gables.³
- **City Hall:** The renovation process has commenced at City Hall. All Commission meetings have been moved to the Police and Fire Station Community Meeting Room at 2151 Salzedo Street. All Commission Offices are next door at 234 Minorca Avenue.
- **Parking Facilities:**
 - **Minorca Parking Garage:** In late 2024, a new ADA compliant parking facility opened with 452 spaces at 254 Minorca Ave., next to the Police Station. On the ground floor of the garage, there are offices for the Miami-Dade Tax Collector and temporary offices for the City Commission.
 - **Andalusia Parking & Mobility Hub:** Construction will begin to replace a non-ADA compliant parking garage in late 2026. The new ADA compliant facility will add 626 covered spaces plus bicycle and scooter parking, ground floor retail and easy access to Miracle Mile and the Ponce de Leon Trolley.
 - **Parking Lot Reopened:** In 2024, a private/public surface parking lot closed in the 300 block of Galiano, one block north of Miracle Mile. In 2026, the lot partially reopened as a privately run facility and the remainder will reopen shortly.

- **Septic to Sewer Educational Meetings:** In 2025, the City held ten (10) educational meetings to inform residents about the options and estimated costs for conversion to sewer service and current County requirements and estimated costs if an existing septic system needs to be replaced. To learn more, see <https://www.coralgables.com/news/septic-sewer-community-meetings-update>. If you reside in a basin that is interested in converting to

³ On April 7 at 6 pm the Fire Station will host a Community Meeting regarding a proposed zoning overlay to address the County’s Rapid Transit Zone expansion. Space is limited. RSVP at planning@coralgables.com or attend via zoom at www.zoom.us/j/3054466800.

sewer, please contact me at randerson@coralgables.com or staff at septictosewer@coralgables.com to discuss the next steps.

- **Revised Mediterranean Zoning Code:** In January 2025, the Commission approved three years of work I embarked on to restore and improve the original purpose of the code to only provide bonuses for projects that met a much higher Mediterranean design standard. Previously, many projects received bonuses that failed to meet these higher standards.
- **Up-Coming Events:⁴**
 - April 3/May 1:** Melodies on the Mile, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
 - April 3/May 1:** Giralda Live, Giralda Plaza 8 – 10 pm live music and dining
 - April 3/May 1:** Gallery Night, 6 pm – Downtown Gables
 - April 4:** Extreme Egg Hunt – 4 locations.⁵
 - April 20:** City Compost Bin Ribbon Cutting at Coral Gables Library – 9 am
 - April 22:** Earth Month Film on Coral Reefs at Coral Gables Cinema – 6 pm
 - April 24:** Arbor Day tree planting at Fewell Park, 9:30 am.
 - April 25:** Recycling Drive-Thru at City Hall, 9 am to Noon

If you would like to talk about these updates or other issues, I hold open-door office hours or by appointment on most Fridays and I can be reached at via email at randerson@coralgables.com or on my city cell, (786) 529-8766.

If you would like to receive newsletters electronically, you can sign up to receive them at <https://www.coralgables.com/staff/rhonda-anderson>.

Looking forward to hearing from you and continuing to make our city a better place to live in.

Best regards,



Rhonda Anderson

⁴ For more information regarding these and other events, sign up for the City E-News and <https://www.coralgables.com/events-calendar>.

⁵ See <https://www.coralgables.com/events/eggstreme-egg-hunt>.