

BILTMORE II CONDOMINIUM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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March 2020

BILTMORE II CONDO

600 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

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HOW TO REACH US

- Manager** .. manager@biltmore2.com
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- Admin**..... admin@biltmore2.com
- Concierge/Front Door**.. 305-443-7914
- Concierge**.. Concierge@biltmore2.com
- Maintenance**.....
- Maintenance@biltmore2.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday..... 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Residents

Thank you all for having the confidence in me to make me your President this year. Your Board Team will make every effort to maintain and improve your quality of life here in the Building as well as increase your property value in keeping with the surrounding value of property in our neighborhood. We have an outstandingly beautiful building and we are so fortunate to have living among us, phenomenal experts in their respective fields, who are willing to contribute their expertise to our committees. As you know, several major projects in the Biltmore II are underway. We will work as professionally and expeditiously as possible to bring these projects to a successful conclusion.

On another note, unfortunately, we are facing a nasty situation with respect to the coronavirus. I want you to know that we have already contacted the City of Coral Gables and they are taking actions as part of the planning and preparedness process. As of today, there are no known cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the City of Coral Gables. That being said, the City is prepared to provide public protective actions to address a potential emerging threat from the COVID-19 virus. I recommend that you look at the City's web-site for further details at www.coralgables.com under the Emergency Management tab. In the meantime, the CDC recommends the following preventative actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the restroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand

Continued on page 2

President (cont. from page 1)

sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

For updated information from the CDC, please look at their website at: www.cdc.gov/COVID19.

Your President and Board will stay in contact with the City Health Authorities in order to try to assure the safety and well-being of all of our residents.

Please keep in mind that this remains a developing situation and information and recommended practices are subject to change. So please continue to monitor the websites.

Looking forward to a successful year 2020!

With best regards,
Erin Anding, President

Robert Dawson Presents Leonardo Da Vinci February 27th, 2020




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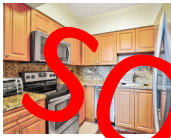


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MANAGERS CORNER

Storage Room Spring Cleaning

Dear Residents

Our building committee task force has taken on the task of inspecting all common storage rooms located on both East and West sides of the building. We ask that all residents visit their storage rooms to evaluate what you are currently storing and what you could and should eliminate. All property in the common storage rooms must be boxed and marked with name and unit number.

Furniture should not be stored in these rooms; we have limited space for everyone. If you have not used a piece of furniture for many years, it needs to go. Our common area storage rooms have become over-crowded. We recommend that you sell or donate all items you no longer need to a cause you believe in, so you feel good about letting go. Give items away, knowing what you have been holding on will now bring joy to others.

Owners who sell or rent their units and tenants who move out and no longer reside in the building, must remove all their personal property from storage rooms, storage bins and bicycle storages.

Residents are only allowed to use the common storage rooms and/or storage bins on the floor and tower (east or west) where they reside. (East tower = Units ending in 01-10 and PH 01-06; and West tower = Units ending in 11-20 and PH 07-12)

Items **NOT** allowed: nothing of volatile, flammable or odorous nature, or anything that poses a health or safety hazard of any kind, no perishable food, oil-based paints, mineral spirits, mattresses, kitchen appliances, bicycles, tires, and unwrapped glass objects.

We solicit and appreciate your cooperation with this very important issue.

Thank you, Management

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SOCIAL CLUB ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, March 18th – Movie Night, 7:00 pm
“Monuments Men” (2014). During World War II, the Nazis steal countless pieces of art and hide them away. Some over-the-hill art scholars, historians, architects and other experts form a unit to retrieve as many of the stolen masterpieces as possible. The mission becomes even more urgent when the team learns about Hitler’s “Nero Decree,” which orders destruction of the artworks if the Third Reich falls. Caught in a race against time, the men risk their lives to protect some of mankind’s greatest achievements. The cast includes George Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, John Goodman, Jean Dujardin, Bob Balaban, Hugh Bonneville, and Cate Blanchett. Directed by George Clooney.

Friday, March 27th – 6:00 – 8:00 pm HAPPY HOUR MIXER. This is an opportunity for residents to get together and enjoy each other’s company, light refreshments, and guitar music by Carl Ferrari. BYOB!



NEW RESIDENTS

- Bentlee Birchansky and Liza Weisman
- Jorge de Ona and Rebecca Rey
- Sandra Kautz
- Beatriz and Hector Orlansky
- Cesar and Nohora Osorno

AROUND TOWN

Miami Film Festival – March 6 - 15. Multiple locations. This is a world-class platform for International and Ibero-American films. During its 37th edition, the Festival will present more than 125 feature narratives, documentaries and short films of all genres, from 30 different countries, showcasing the work of the world’s best emerging and established filmmakers to the diverse cosmopolitan community of Miami. For more information miamifilmfestival.com

Giralda under the Stars – April 3rd. Starting at 7:00 pm, Giralda Plaza comes alive with outdoor dining and music by local bands. Make sure to come early and get your fill of the delicious local eats of Restaurant Row’s

Farmer’s Market - outside Coral Gables City Hall continues every Saturday until the end of March. And on Sundays, the **Farmer’s Market at Merrick Park** has some beautiful and tasty produce, healthy homemade products, desert and more. Located on the first level, between Tourneau and Nordstrom. Year-round, every Sunday 11 AM – 6 PM.

Water-Saving Tips

As part of a community, it is vital that all residents be proactive in reporting leaks so that management can address them immediately and eliminate any potential damage that may be caused by leaks. The following is a list of tips that management is suggesting for all residents to put into practice:

- Check faucets and pipes for leaks.
- A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.
- Don't use the toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket.
- Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue or other small bits of trash, five to seven gallons of water is wasted.
- Check your toilets for leaks.
- Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install. The Maintenance Staff will install flappers at no cost.
- Take shorter showers.
- One way to cut down on water use is to turn off the shower after soaping up, then turn it back on to rinse. A four-minute shower uses approximately 20 to 40 gallons of water.
- Turn off the water while brushing teeth.
- Use your dishwasher and clothes washer for only full loads.



Happy St Patrick's Day



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THE POWER OF DESTINY

By June Frost

“Destiny is hard to fool with in matters of love.” “If two people are meant for each other, then it’s their destiny.” “They were destined to be together.” How many times have we all heard romantic phrases like this?

So here we have a good example in the case of Pamela Dickson and Daniel Vitaglione ensconced residents of Biltmore II. Pamela from New Jersey and Daniel from France met at age sixteen and nineteen respectively in Cambridge, England and had a beautiful summer romance. He was studying to perfect his English, and she was working as an au pair.

At summer’s end they returned to their own countries and continued to write but eventually lost touch. Pamela went on to acquire a medical degree. She moved to New York City and did all her medical education and training there. “I am emotionally and culturally a New Yorker,” she says.

After ten years at St. Luke’s–Roosevelt Hospital, she moved to the University of Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital (UMJMH). There she worked as a radiologist doing body imaging radiology and teaching as assistant professor of clinical radiology for almost twenty years. Her whole life changed when she suffered a serious car accident and took early retirement.

Daniel grew up in Marseille speaking French, Italian and English. He developed a passion for the English language and for America due to his mother’s influence. “After World War II my mother worked for the American military in Marseille for five years as an interpreter. She loved the colonels she worked for and filled

me so many nice stories,” Daniel said. After getting degrees in English and psychology, Daniel eventually found his way to California. While visiting friends in Monterrey, he decided to stay and get a job assisting a professor of French.

Fast forward to the age of Internet technology. In 2011 at the urging of a good friend, Pamela searched for Daniel online, “Are you the same Daniel that I met in Cambridge in 1969?” Says Daniel, “I was really shocked, and then I said ‘yes,’ and when we started writing and trying to interpret our feelings, the strength that was emerging was powerful.” Says, Pamela, “We were both so excited to have found each other. We were so amazed. We never broke up officially. For 42 years we thought about each other.”

In 2011 both Daniel and Pamela were single again after marriages to others and parenting. They have grown children. Pamela has a son Gabriel, and Daniel has son Julian, daughter Sylvie and a grandchild. After their online connection, Daniel began commuting between San Francisco and Miami. On one visit he got two jobs teaching at Miami-Dade College and Florida International University, and he moved permanently to Miami.

Today they lead full lives together again. Every year they go to Europe for around three months to visit Daniel’s family in Marseille, Paris and Italy. In addition to French, Daniel also teaches philosophy and ethics. And he teaches these same subjects at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Pamela takes classes at OLLI in international studies and Arabic languages.

In addition, she has a wide variety of intellectual and spiritual activities. She says that each shelf in her bookcases is



Pamela & Daniel

dedicated to one of her interests. She likes to understand systems of thought. How does the spiritual world manifest itself? She does a lot of meditation and studies Tibetan Buddhism. She has a Buddhist group that meets weekly and does a book study.

Now she is studying and practicing acupuncture. She belongs to several astrology study groups and is on the Board of the Center for Jungian Studies of South Florida. She is a certified Kundalini Yoga instructor.

Somehow Pamela finds time to be a docent at Lowe Art Museum and give tours to groups of children. And now and then she volunteers as a moderator in the Great Books reading program at Books and Books.

Daniel relaxes cooking. He says, “I love cooking and according to my mom I started at the age of three. I always hung around the kitchen smells.” Anyone lucky enough to taste his cuisine will be rewarded.

The last word on their being reunited belongs to Daniel, because he has a wonderful quote from the French philosopher Pascal, “The heart has reasons that reason doesn’t know.”

Let There Be Light! (In the hallways)

Our hallways are brighter thanks to new ceiling mounted light fixtures that were installed by our maintenance staff – Ovadis Cruz and Rene De La Vega. This work took some time as old “popcorn” ceiling finishing, hidden by the old light fixtures, had to be removed and a new “knockout” to match the rest of the ceiling was installed. This project, developed by Maintenance Supervisor Eduardo Mustelier Sanchez, is part of the lighting improvement program that he developed soon after joining the Biltmore II team in February 2018. The previous fixtures were 20+ years old. They were costly to operate since they consumed a lot of electricity (these light fixtures are on 24 hours per day), did not produce much illumination and bulbs lasted just 1 year.



The new fixtures are modern and sleek with a ceiling hugging silhouette and are expected to last 3 years. They produce more light with less use of electricity, saving 4500 KWH per year. The return on investment is 3.8 years. Mr. Mustelier Sanchez found them through internet research at a modest cost of \$25.99 per fixture. The expenditure to change out all 76 fixtures (\$1975.24) was budgeted for 2020. Other elements of the lighting upgrade program that have already been implemented include 1) recovery of the icicle ceiling lighting in the elevators, 2) new LED fixtures for the Royal Palms and other elements of the landscape, 3) new modern LED fixtures that illuminate the front walkway and entrance/exit driveway, 4) submerged LED lights in the outdoor and indoor fountains, and 5) the on/off switches for the 4 pool area lights that help save cost and excessive illumination after pool closing at 10 PM. Later this year, the team is planning to upgrade the dark spots in the hallways by adding LED light fixtures.

Contributed by Bob Petzinger

NEW LOBBY PLANT DÉCOR

Interior plant specialist firm UNIQUE FOLIAGE installed a new lobby plant décor in early March 2020. The new design plan was sent via email to residents in August 2019, and a large schematic diagram with pictures of the proposed plantings and their locations was displayed in the lobby for 3-4 weeks. No negative comments were received, but some residents expressed a desire to retain the 3 *Spathyphyllum* “Peace Lilies” in planters bordering the ramp from the upper lobby proceeding to the east elevators. As a result, plans were changed to keep them. 7 plants are being retained. The other 4 include the 3 planters with Lady Palms (*Rhaphis excelsa*) and the ZZ (*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*) plant in front of the west elevator bank glass windows. The overgrown Fiddle Leaf Fig plants in the remaining 13 planters were removed. The new plant décor is described below:

- 5 planters along rear of lobby have a new Fiddle Leaf Fig tree with red bromeliads filling the base of each planter.
- 1 Lady Palm was placed in the planter near the right rear lobby corner, joining 3 other planters with Lady Palms that are being retained.
- *Aglaonema* plants, commonly called Chinese Evergreens, were installed in 2 planters near the Concierge desk.
- ZZ plants were placed in 2 planters behind the fountain pond glass partition in the raised lobby.
- 2 Fishtail Palm trees were placed in the large planter in front of the west elevator bank windows.
- Snake plants, also called Mother-in-Law’s Tongue, fill the pond fountain planter.
- A new element involves 3 modern design black metal pots of different sizes that are situated in the U-shaped nook in the back of the raised carpeted lobby. Each is filled with Snake plants.

The objective was to retain plants that still look healthy and have proved that they are suited to our lobby, and to add color and variety for more visual interest.

The maintenance contract with Unique Foliage guarantees replacement of any plant that loses its aesthetic appeal. This includes ALL lobby plants, including the 7 that are being retained. Each year the Association can arrange for replacement of plants, even if they are healthy but do not achieve desired aesthetic impact. If plants of equal (or lesser) value are chosen, there is no cost for the changeover. If more expensive plants are chosen, the Association pays only the differential cost of plant purchase.

Contributed by Bob Petzinger