



Volume 1 Issue 1      A Monthly Newsletter for the Residents of Gardens on the Bay Miami Beach Condominium      November 2024

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## Welcome to Our New Gardens on the Bay COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER!

Time is flying by, and with it, we’re excited to introduce a fresh way to keep you informed about the latest developments in our Gardens on the Bay community. As your Board representative, I’m thrilled to launch this newsletter to bring you regular updates and share the progress we’re making together.

Since taking office, we’ve made remarkable strides. I’m proud to share that we successfully secured building insurance at *less than half* the cost of 2023’s premium—a major win for all of us! We’re also moving forward with the building’s recertification process: our architectural drawings, complete with elevations, are ready, and we’re currently reviewing two highly competitive proposals for the electrical work to ensure we can start soon. Additionally, we’ll soon have two solid bids in hand for the exterior work, pushing us closer to enhancing our building and complying with City regulations.

We’re also thrilled to have delivered on our promise to send out quarterly financials to all residents, keeping everyone in the loop. And looking ahead, we’re hopeful that this December, we’ll be able to present the 2025 budget as outlined in our bylaws, further demonstrating our commitment to transparency and community involvement.

Lastly, I’d like to ask for your support in sharing our building’s rules and regulations with your tenants, especially around pool use and proper trash disposal. These small steps go a long way in maintaining the quality and enjoyment of our shared spaces.

Thank you for your support and collaboration—together, we’re building a bright future for Gardens on the Bay!

I take the opportunity to wish you all in advance a Happy Thanksgiving!

Blanca Villarelo, President



## FIGURE IT OUT

The first week in November is National Fig Week. Figs are not the most familiar of fruits, but they are a great addition to anyone's diet. Not only are they sweet and delicious, they are fat-free, high in fiber, and also a great source of potassium, calcium, and iron. Not sure how to use figs? These ideas and recipes will help get you started!



- Take figs in a plastic bag along with you to work, to school, to the game or the park for a quick snack.
- Slice up some figs and add to a tossed salad.
- Chop and add some figs to mashed or cubed sweet potatoes.
- Blend some finely chopped figs with some cream cheese to make a great spread for toast or bagels.
- Top your oatmeal or cold cereal with chopped figs.

### Fig Pudding

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1-1/2 cups sifted flour
- 2 cups chopped dried figs
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Cream the butter; add the sugar and the well-beaten egg. Take out about 2 tablespoons of the flour and mix with the figs. Sift together the remaining flour and the baking powder and salt and add alternately with the milk to the butter and egg mixture. Stir in the flour-coated figs and add the vanilla. Bake in a greased baking dish for about one hour in a moderate oven (350 degrees F.).

Serve hot with lemon sauce or hard sauce to which a little lemon juice has been added.

# WANTED

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## Pecan Pie Brownies

### For the Brownie Layer:

- cooking spray
- 1 (18 oz) package brownie mix
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs
- ¼ cup water

### For the Pecan Pie Layer:

- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup light corn syrup
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon bourbon (Optional)
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon sea salt
- ¼ cup unsalted butter, melted & cooled
- 2 cups pecan halves

Preheat oven to 350° F. Line a deep 9-inch pan with aluminum foil and coat with cooking spray.



**To make the brownie layer:** Whisk brownie mix, oil, 2 eggs, and water until well combined. Spread batter into pan. Bake until a toothpick inserted into center comes out clean, about 30 minutes. Remove from oven. **To make the pecan pie layer:** Whisk brown sugar, corn syrup, 2 eggs, bourbon, vanilla extract, and salt together in a bowl. Add melted butter slowly, whisking until well combined. Add pecans and stir to coat. Pour gently over brownie layer; spread evenly using a spatula. Bake in the hot oven until center is set, 30 to 35 minutes. Let cool to room temperature at least 2 hours.



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|--|--|

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## DID YOU KNOW?

- The Mayflower had a partner ship when it sailed in 1620. The Speedwell also started the trip for the New World, but was forced to turn back because it leaked so badly.
- At the first Thanksgiving feast, the guests brought most of the food. When the Native Americans arrived, there was not enough food for everyone and the Wampanoag chief, Massasoit, sent his men home for more supplies.
- The party lasted for three days. The Pilgrims and their guests spent the time playing games, shooting guns, and of course, eating.
- It was two years before the Pilgrims had another “thanksgiving” celebration, this time to commemorate the end of a drought.



## GIVING THANKS

(Author Unknown)

For the hay and the corn and the wheat that is reaped,  
 For the labor well done, and the barns that are heaped,  
 For the sun and the dew and the sweet honeycomb,  
 For the rose and the song and the harvest brought home

—  
 Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

For the trade and the skill and the wealth in our land,  
 For the cunning and strength of the workingman’s hand,  
 For the good that our artists and poets have taught,  
 For the friendship that hope and affection have brought

—  
 Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

For the homes that with purest affection are blest,  
 For the season of plenty and well-deserved rest,  
 For our country extending from sea unto sea;  
 The land that is known as the “Land of the Free” –  
 Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

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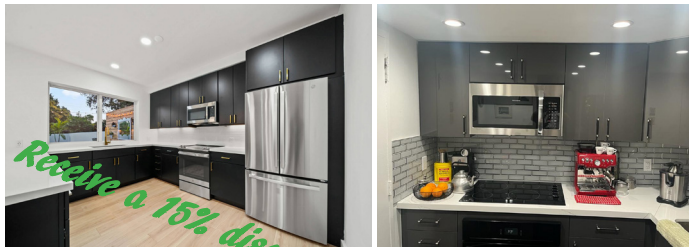
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