ARCH CREEK TRUST Newsletter

1855 N.E. 135th Street, North Miami, Fla. – 305-944-6111

archcreektrust.org

December 2025

Holiday Potluck Party at the Arch Creek Park

On December 13, the beautifully decorated Arch Creek Park shelter was full of people happily attending the annual Holiday Party Potluck Celebration, hosted by the Arch Creek Trust, Friends of Enchanted Forest, and Friends of the North Miami Library.

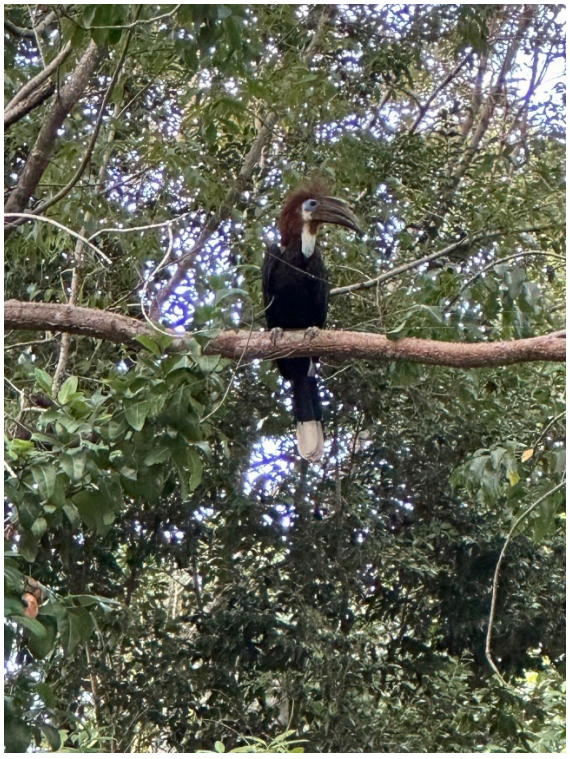
Guests brought an extensive variety of delicious salads, fried chicken, hot and cold pasta dishes, fresh fruits, iced tea, fruit juices, and desserts, including chocolate layer cake, apple pie, cupcakes, and several selections of holiday cookies. Additionally, North Miami Councilman Kevin Burns contributed trays of pasta and Italian salad, and a member of his staff provided invaluable help throughout the event.

Many thanks are owed to Arch Creek Park Supervisor Aimee Scott and her staff for their hard work in setting up the tables and seating in the shelter, as well as building a campfire and providing supplies for roasting marshmallows for s'mores.

Birds at the Park

List of a selection of Fall Migration visitors:

Black-and-white Warbler
Black-Casqued Hornbill
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Ovenbird
American Redstart
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Common Yellowthroat warbler
Cape May Warbler
Northern Parula
Magnolia Warbler
White-eyes Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Northern Waterthrush
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Downy Woodpecker
Peregrine Falcon (flyover, seen perching nearby)



Can you guess which one this is?

Arch Creek Park upcoming programs

January 10
Nature Tots (ages 1.5-3 & Caregiver) 10:00am-11:00am
Tales & Trails (ages 4-5 & Caregiver) 11:30am-12:30pm
Jr. Naturalist (ages 6-12) 2:00pm-4:00pm

January 11
Oleta River Canoe Excursion (ages 9 & up) 10:30am-12:30pm

January 16
Camp Manatee Mini-Camp (ages 6-14) 8:00am-5:00pm

January 17
EcoAction Day (volunteer day) 9:30am-12:30pm

January 18
Archaeology Family Adventure 10:30am-12:30pm

January 31
Nature Tots (ages 1.5-3 & Caregiver) 10:00am-11:00am
Tales & Trails (ages 4-5 & Caregiver) 11:30am-12:30pm
Jr. Naturalist (ages 6-12) 2:00pm-4:00pm

A full list of programs click here Arch Creek Park & Preserve Programs

Reservations are required in advance.

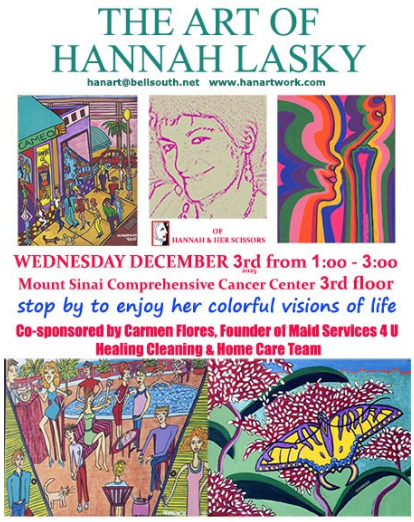
Online Registration available: www.MiamiDadeParks.com

For more information, please call 305-944-6111

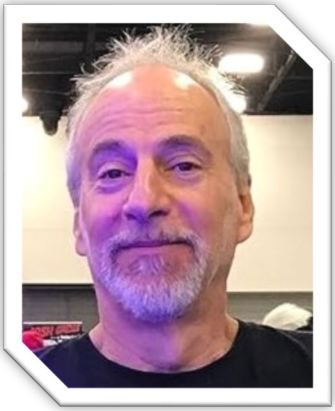
ACT Members in the News

Art That Heals – The Art of Hannah Lasky

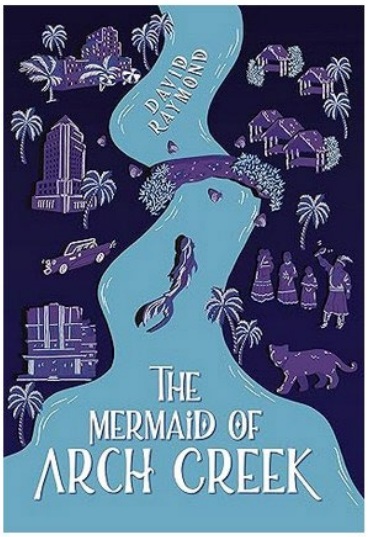
On March 3, Hannah Lasky, Secretary of the Arch Creek Trust, exhibited 12 paintings on the third floor of Mount Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Center. She was honored to be the first artist invited to display artwork there. Reflecting the "colorful, quirky style" noted by the *Miami Herald*, her work brought joy to patients and hospital staff alike, earning many heartfelt compliments. She now looks forward to a future exhibition at the new Mount Sinai building in Miami Beach, opening in May 2026.



David Raymond — Best-Selling Author

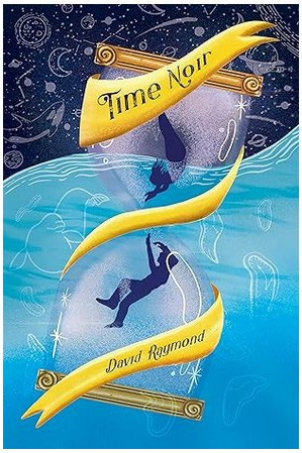


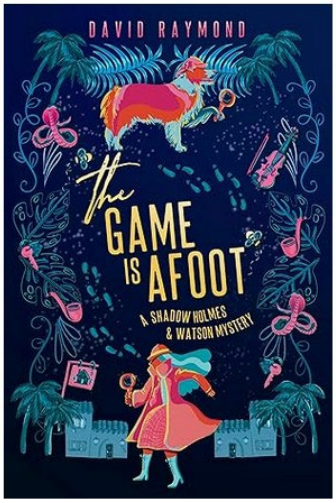
Miami native David Raymond, a member of Arch Creek Trust, is a best-selling author known for blending humor, mystery, and the supernatural. With a diverse career in public service, education, and science—including leadership roles at the Florida Department of Children & Families and the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust—he brings real-world experience to his imaginative stories.



The Mermaid of Arch Creek (2021) follows Wekiwa Sawgrass, a mystical heroine in the Florida Everglades whose home in Arch Creek hides supernatural secrets. *It's Like Having Sex with God* (2020) is a comedic spiritual adventure involving angels, miracles, and cosmic stakes. *Time Noir* (2022) stars Dr. Freddy Fluid, an unlikely superhero abducted by aliens to save the universe. *The Game Is Afoot* (2025) reimagines Sherlock Holmes in Miami, as Shadow Holmes confronts murder, espionage, and a sinister Moriarty.

David lives in Biscayne Park with his wife Amy, their dog Starry, and is proud of his accomplished children and grandson.





For more information about the author and acquisition of his books click here David Raymond

The Trust congratulates Ximena

Ximena Valdivia was recently awarded a Master's degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from FIU. She is a masters squared, says Charly.

ROBERT BURR to speak at Pioneer Day

The Arch Creek Trust is pleased to announce that Robert Burr B., a descendant of one of Miami-Dade's earliest pioneer families, will be this year's featured speaker for the Pioneers Day celebration at the County's Arch Creek Park *Meet at the Bridge* event, to be held on April 4, 2026.

Four generations of the Burr family moved from Georgetown, Washington, D.C., to Florida in 1876, initially settling in Windsor near Gainesville. By 1881, they relocated to a property along the Peace River in Homeland. The Great Freeze of 1894–95 prompted their move to Dade County, just as the railroad reached Miami in 1896. Three brothers and three sisters of the family established homes in Miami, Little River, Arch Creek, and Goulds, helping shape these emerging communities.

Robert grew up hearing stories of early pioneer life in South Florida and is actively involved with local historic organizations, including the Miami Pioneers and Natives of Dade, the Arch Creek Trust, and the Florida Pioneer Museum. At the event, he will share personal stories and insights about the early days of modern settlement in the area.

For more information on Burr and family visit https://robertburr.com/BunBurr.html

Upcoming events

Jan. 10 – 10am – Trust meeting

April 4 – 11am - Save the Date! - Meet at the Bridge annual event

More information on ACT, scan QR codes

Trust website

FIU Digital Collection