

the Advocate

richmond heights



Meet the 2026 Scholars

The Richmond Heights Community Development Corporation (RHCDC) was once again privileged to grant scholarships to graduating seniors at a luncheon in June. The RHCDC scholarship program, established in 2003, awarded six praiseworthy students \$1,000 each to help defray college expenses.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S T O



**Johari
Askew**



**D'Myah
Beaumont**



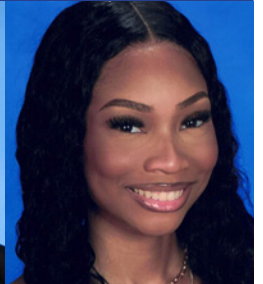
**Nathaniel
Bell**



**Genesis
Blair**



**Avery
McCray**



**Tené
Scott**

Johari Askew will be attending Johnson C. Smith University, where she plans to major in Biology. A graduate of Miami Southridge Senior High School, Johari was actively engaged in Top Teens of America, Animal Husbandry, and softball programs at Miami Southridge, Miami Christian, and Coral Reef. With a passion for women's health and serving her community, Johari's career goal is to become an OB/GYN and open her own practice to provide compassionate healthcare services.

D'Myah Beaumont plans to attend Louisiana State University to major in Biology. A graduate of Coral Reef Senior High School, she was actively involved in Student Government Association, Black Student Union, Best Buddies, and Varsity Cudettes. D'Myah aspires to build a career in Orthodontics, combining her interest in science with her desire to help others feel confident and healthy.

Nathaniel Bell has been accepted to the University of Central Florida, where he will major in Computer Engineering. A graduate of Palmer Trinity School, Nathaniel participated in the Black Student Union and Breakthrough Miami. Passionate about both technology and music, he hopes to combine computer engineering with music technology to create innovative tools and experiences in the industry.

Genesis Blair will be attending Miami Dade College to study Forensic Crime Scene Investigation. A graduate of Miami

Palmetto Senior High School, Genesis was involved in the Forensic Investigation Academy, Florida Future Educators of America, Distributive Education Clubs of America, and the Italian National Honor Society. With an interest in investigative science and problem-solving, Genesis hopes to pursue a career as a Forensic Crime Scene Investigator and contribute to the pursuit of justice through forensic analysis

Avery McCray has been accepted to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, where he plans to major in Journalism. A graduate of Robert Morgan Educational Center, Avery was actively involved in Student Government Association, Top Teens of America, Robert Morgan Chorus and Yearbook, and track and field at Miami Southridge. With a passion for storytelling and communications, Avery hopes to build a successful career in media.

Tené Scott will attend Florida International University, where she plans to major in Biological Science with a Pre-Med concentration. A graduate of Robert Morgan Educational Center, Tené participated in Student Government Association, Robert Morgan Theatre Program Troupe 6692, Jack and Jill of America, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated's Pearl Essence program through Pi Delta Omega Chapter. Dedicated to helping children and families, her career goal is to become a pediatrician and make a meaningful impact through healthcare.

Richmond Heights Historic Marker Installation Marks Major Milestone in Preserving Black History

In a moment that blended history, honor and community pride, the Richmond Heights Historic Marker Installation drew a standing-room-only crowd April 15, marking a powerful milestone in preserving one of South Florida's most significant Black communities.

The marker was placed on Monroe Street, the first street developed within the Richmond Heights community. Its installation represents not only a public acknowledgment of the community's history, but also the culmination of decades of advocacy, research and determination by residents and preservationists who understood the importance of protecting Richmond Heights' legacy.

Hosted by Miami-Dade County Vice Chairman Kionne L. McGhee in partnership with Dade Heritage Trust, the ceremony commemorated Richmond Heights as one of the first planned African American communities in the United States. The community was founded by Capt. Frank C. Martin for Black World War II veterans who returned from serving their country, only to face systemic barriers to homeownership and equal opportunity.

The story of Richmond Heights is one of vision, perseverance and determination. Conceived in the aftermath of World War II by Martin, the community was created to provide housing opportunities for Black veterans and their families. With support from the federal government under President Harry S. Truman, what began with 26 pioneering families

in 1949 quickly grew into a thriving neighborhood of more than 400 homes by 1951.

But the path to historic recognition did not happen overnight.

The journey toward preservation dates back more than four decades. In 1983, Janice Aranha Chilis began one of the earliest formal efforts to have Richmond Heights recognized for its historic significance. While county preservation officials recognized Richmond Heights' historical importance, they stopped short of



recommending the community for full historic district designation. Richmond Heights did receive a historic marker at Richmond Heights Park through a partnership with the Black Archives Foundation.

The effort continued years later. In 2013, Historic Society Executive Director Jessica Garrett Modkins recalled completing a Preliminary Site Information Questionnaire for the Miami-Dade County Office of Historic Preservation as part of her work to help document the significance of Richmond Heights. Garrett Modkins

submitted for the entire community to be designated as historic. That submission was rejected, but the search for recognition and preservation did not end.

In 2015, Lynette Wallace initiated a successful request for historic designation through the Miami-Dade Historic Preservation Office. Following extensive research and evaluation, the Miami-Dade Historic Preservation Board approved the designation of the Richmond Heights Historic District on July 20, 2016, through Resolution No. 2016-08. The district is located on Monroe Street, bounded by Carver Drive to the north and mid-block between Graham Drive and Southwest 152nd Street to the south.

That long road made the April 15 marker installation even more meaningful.

As the marker was unveiled, applause echoed through the crowd, symbolizing not just recognition, but affirmation. For those in

attendance, it was clear this was more than a ceremony. It was a historic, monumental moment.

For Richmond Heights, the marker stands as a permanent reminder of how far the community has traveled for historic preservation — from early requests for recognition, to rejected submissions, to renewed advocacy, to official designation and now public commemoration on the very street where the community began.

And for Richmond Heights, the story is far from over.

Juici Patties Finds Its Place at Promenade Plaza



At 11257 SW 152nd Street, inside Promenade Plaza, Juici Patties has opened their new location that already feels familiar to the people who use it every day. That familiarity is exactly what stood out to owner Ryan Chin when he chose Richmond Heights as the home for his restaurant.

Before opening, Chin spent time paying attention to how people moved through the plaza. It was not just about visibility. It was about how the space functioned for the community. "One person can go there and do all the things that they need to do," he said. "They can go to the supermarket, go to the pharmacy, buy clothes, and then go to the gym."

Promenade Plaza is not a place people visit once in a while. It is part of their routine. Beyond the plaza itself, Chin also recognized the surrounding community. Richmond Heights is central to pockets of Caribbean and Hispanic residents as well as African American's who already shop and gather in the area. It gave him confidence that people would not just find the restaurant, but make it part of their regular stops.

Chin, a 37-year-old entrepreneur originally from Jamaica, comes from a family of business owners.

His own path started in the financial services sector, where he spent several years working on the corporate side. Over time, he found himself wanting something different. "What is the actual impact here?" he said, describing the question that pushed him toward entrepreneurship.

Opening Juici Patties gave him a clearer answer. It was a chance to build something tangible and to connect directly with the people he serves.

The brand itself carries a long history. Juici Patties is one of Jamaica's most recognized names, with a strong presence both on the island and across the diaspora. For many customers, it represents more than food. Chin has seen how far that connection goes, with travelers bringing frozen patties back to the United States after visiting Jamaica just to hold onto that sense of home.



"It's more than just the patty," he said. "It's a piece of their home, a piece of themselves."

"I see people catch up with each other inside the restaurant," Chin said. "It becomes more than just transactional."

There is also a strong demand for larger orders. Customers often purchase patties by the dozen and

bring them to offices, schools, and family gatherings. It is one of the ways the product continues to move through the community beyond the storefront.

Chin's approach to business is shaped in part by his time at Morehouse College, but not in a surface-level way. He describes it as an experience that removed limits. Being surrounded by men who were not just talking about success but actively building it across industries made it difficult to think small. It reframed what was possible and what was expected.

"It's one thing to be told you can do anything," he said. "It's another thing to actually see examples of it."

At Morehouse, those examples were constant. Leadership was not treated as a title but as a responsibility. By the time he left, Chin was not just thinking about what he could do, but what he should build and who it should impact. That shift shows up clearly in how he approaches this business.

For years, a local patty shop served this area. When it closed, people noticed. Chin hears it often from customers who have been looking for something to fill that space again.

"People tell me all the time they're glad we're here," he said. "They've been looking for something like this again."

Juici Patties arrives as something familiar, but it also signals something else. A new business, rooted in culture, stepping into a space that people already understand and use every day. something rooted elsewhere finds new ground and keeps growing.



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What You Need to Know Now

Hurricane Season Readiness



Hurricane season officially begins June 1, and early forecasts suggest an active year. In South Miami-Dade, that lands differently. Hurricane Andrew is not a distant memory here. Homes were leveled, families were displaced, and entire neighborhoods had to rebuild from the ground up. That experience is the reason preparation is taken seriously, and why it should never be left to the last minute.

Getting ready is less about panic and more about being intentional. Start with the basics.

- Set aside at least one gallon of water per person, per day, for several days.
- Build out a supply of nonperishable food
- Stock up on medications
- Ensure an ample supply of essentials like flashlights, batteries, and a battery-powered radio
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container
- Take a few photographs of each room in your home
- Review your home insurance policy so you understand what is and is not covered. Pay close attention to flood damage and deductibles.

Beyond your supplies, understand your risk. Flooding is often more dangerous than wind, especially in low-lying areas. Take the time to look up your evacuation zone and storm surge level so you are not making decisions under pressure. If you have elderly family members, children, or pets, factor their needs into your plan now, while you have options.

Miami-Dade County offers tools that are easy to overlook until you need them. The Miami-Dade County Department of Emergency Management maintains up-to-date evacuation maps, preparedness guides, and alerts through the Ready Miami-Dade app. Residents can also call 311 to get real-time information about:

- Evacuation orders
- Shelter locations
- County services available before, during, and after a storm

The Emergency and Evacuation Assistance Program provides help with transportation and shelter planning. You may pre-register at 305-513-7700. By doing so, pre-registered residents will have priority over those who have not registered for the program.

Preparation does not have to happen all at once. It just needs to happen before it is urgent.