

# BISCAYNE BOULEVARD

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## NoMi Improvements: Trash Out, Garbage Cans In

By **Jim W. Harper**  
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Concrete trash cans have been dumped by the City of North Miami in favor of green metal cylinders. The sidewalks have been scrubbed clean, and a few unwanted trees have been uprooted from central N.E. 125th Street.

More housekeeping is on the way for the city's business district as a part of its redevelopment plan. Phase two, pending approval by the county, will fund a master plan for improvements along West Dixie Highway, N.E. 125th Street and N.W. 7th Avenue.

"Things are going well," said Tony Crapp, executive director of the North Miami Community Redevelopment Agency, which is responsible for eliminating blight within the city. "Reactions have been all posi-



**Tony Crapp, Executive Director of the North Miami Community Redevelopment Agency**

tive."

The changes will hopefully increase pedestrian traffic, and residents have been longing for their implementation, he added.

The trees removed were considered a safety hazard, and will be replaced with palms. The hundreds of black birds that roosted in them nightly at the corner of N.E. 6th Avenue and 125th Street must now perch on wires above the missing trees or elsewhere.

Their removal is no problem to Debbie Graves, manager of Jimmy's Place on N.W. 7th Avenue, provided they are replaced. She is pleased with the new

garbage cans, but she would like to see the newsbins of free publications removed from the sidewalk adjacent to the diner.

"They use those as garbage cans," said



**New receptacles: One way the City of North Miami is sprucing itself up. Photo courtesy of the North Miami CRA.**

Graves. "I had 17 of them at one time."

The city removed what it considers old-fashioned and unsightly concrete furniture from the sidewalks near the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) on 125th Street, where the plaza is also under construction.

The cost of the Commercial Corridor Improvement Program is estimated at \$431,000, which includes plans to hire three staff members to maintain the business corridors.

Small business or property owners along these corridors may apply for improvement grants worth up to \$80,000 per building. The initial application period closes on November 10.

Mayor Kevin Burns, who serves as the chair of the Community Redevelopment Agency, earns high marks from Graves: "The mayor is doing a great job, and I'd like to keep him. I've seen a lot of nice changes."