



222 TACO Just What The Village Ordered



222 is an angel number and is thought by many to mean peace and harmony. It signifies affirmation and to follow your heart. It also happens to be the birthday of 222 Taco founder Anna Robbins and is National Margarita Day! A perfect name for a restaurant that

represents a new beginning for its owner, an opportunity to create fun and community, and a giving back to the Village where Anna has lived for the last nine years.

Recently awarded the Best Taco 2018 by the Miami New Times, One of the Best New Restaurants 2018 by Eater Miami and Tasting Table.com, and drawing customers from the greater Miami Beach and Upper East Side corridor, 222 Taco is making its mark on the local food scene and helping to draw positive attention to North Bay Village.

Anna's journey to the Village began in California where she was raised in an eastern European Jewish home that loved to cook and share good food. Not a trained chef, Anna credits her family for making her

into an early foodie. At fourteen, she got her first job bussing tables. During her school years, restaurants were a constant part of her life. After a journey through the music business following her studies of cultural anthropology and communications at UC Santa Barbara, she found her way back to food here in Miami.

In 2003, Anna arrived in Miami at the end of her gig managing the tour of musician Cody Chesnut who was the opening act for Eryka Badu. Upon arrival, Anna fell in love with the ocean, the weather and Miami's vibrant community. The only thing missing was a good taco! How could a diverse city like Miami, with an abundance of Latin American cuisine not have good Mexican food? She set out to remedy the problem!

A founder of Coyo Taco in Wynwood, Anna was one of the early people to see the potential of the now vibrant neighborhood. Ahead of the curve, Anna has been good at spotting trends and potential. Upon separation from her partners at Coyo, she set out to find the next exciting new place, and this time it was in her own back yard, North Bay Village.



“I wanted to build on what we did at Coyo” Anna Said. “Wynwood and the Beach are saturated. North Bay Village, can draw people from both sides of the bay and I loved the idea of creating a place specifically designed to respond to the needs of this community. I wanted to help create and support a North Bay Village Renaissance.”



Heeding the call from neighbors for a place where people can sit, socialize, and enjoy fresh, well priced food and drinks, 222 Taco was born. Every detail was designed to respond to the community feedback. From the large communal tables that encourage people to sit together and talk, to breakfast offerings and a full bar, Anna wants her place to serve diverse needs.

“I wanted to create a place that people can walk to, and enjoy either a cup of coffee or a great margarita.” Since opening in April of 2018, Anna tweaked the menu and hours to respond to feedback. There are plans for a supper club offering and new lunch specials. She has explored ideas for a block parties and would love to see the North Bay Village scene continue to grow.

“I would love to see our Village become the next hot spot” Anna says. “If we can come together, support local businesses and encourage each other, anything is possible.”

222 Taco is open daily from Noon to Midnight with extended hours Friday-Sunday, including brunch offerings. There is all day coffee and breakfast offerings and has a full bar. For more information on the menu and upcoming events visit www.222ta.co or just stop by.



What’s Happening at the Pelican Harbor Boat Ramp?



The Pelican Harbor Boat Ramp is getting a major make over! The project that launched in September of 2018 aims to improve traffic flow into the facility, reconfigure parking, improve lighting and landscape.

Construction is being planned in three phases to ensure that the boat ramp remains open at all times with 40 parking spaces available to patrons.

Improvements will include a new right turn lane for east bound traffic into the main entrance, new lighting and landscape, and



improved drainage, swales and catch basins to reduce flooding and better manage storm water. The renovations will also include an 8-foot-wide pedestrian walkway that will traverse the entire site from the northeast corner to the existing Causeway sidewalks. Planning for future security upgrades, a conduit system is being installed for a future CCTV surveillance system.

The entire project is expected to cost about \$2.6 Million and is being funded by the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND), Coastal Park and Marina Enterprise (CPME) and the Florida Boating Improvement Program (PBIP). Scheduled for completion in the Fall of 2019, the project should notably improve the functionality, security and appearance of the boat ramp. Stay tuned for updates!



North Bay Village's Finest! Walter Sajdak -- Officer and Friend



When Walter Sajdak was seven years old, he wanted to become a cop. He wanted the power to arrest his father who beat and abused his mom. A clear part of his personality to this day, the natural instinct for protection and justice was already strong in young Walter. Growing up on the

north side of Chicago, his interest in police work was further sparked by his friendship with a neighborhood cop. Walter loved the way that neighbors turned to him for help and advice. He was an example of how one person can touch many lives and that cemented his desire to be in law enforcement.

After serving as an MP in the Army for eight years, including tours of Desert Storm, Walter found his way to South Florida where he was hired by the North Bay Village Police force in 2000. During his 18 years in the Village, Walter has attended over 20 weddings, numerous baptisms, birthday parties, barbecues and funerals for residents of North Bay Village. This happens because Officer Sajdak is not just a local officer of the law, he is truly a man of the community who cares deeply about the residents he serves. "North Bay Village has the best people in the world and there is no other place I would like to work".

Walter sees his job as community-oriented problem solving. Sometimes it is about arrests and tickets, but mostly it is about helping people stay safe, solving disputes, and getting people the help and information they need.

Walter says that police work is about seeing people at their best and at their worst. "To do a good job, you put yourself in their shoes, try to see the world from their point of view." Officer Sajdak's motto is to treat people as you would want your mother treated. This natural connection that he has with people is the reason why you see him driving around the Village

with his windows down checking in with everyone he sees.

Walter confesses, "working in law enforcement is fun - but don't tell anyone. It's not a secret law enforcement officers like to reveal too often, but the truth of the matter is, the job is fun. While working as a police officer in North Bay Village, it's not uncommon to hear someone utter the phrase I can't believe I'm getting paid to do this!"



However, do not be fooled. Walter's service has not always been easy. On both the best and worst day of his service to North Bay Village, Officer Sajdak was present when a three-year-old boy almost drowned in the pool at Grandview Palace. He was the first person on the scene and was there as a resident performed CPR. "It was horrible watching that child not breathe." Walter said. "It was terrifying, and time stood still. Then came the unbelievable relief and joy when the water came spitting out and he took a gulp of air. I will never forget that moment, ever". The boy's mom, Anna Monnar, has a special bond with Officer Sajdak. "He is my friend, is there in times of need and has a very big heart". Mark Kolta of West Drive echoes that sentiment describing Officer Sajdak as someone who "uplifts the community. He makes people better".

Walter had another terrible day last year when he received the call that his son had passed away in his North Bay Village apartment. He credits all the friendships and support of the community for helping him to get through each day. "Obviously it is difficult. But I like it when people ask me about him. It shows that people care about him, me and my family. It helps me cope and I am very grateful for the friendship this Village has shown. It is humbling."

"It's true that working in law enforcement can be hard, and there are many difficult and trying days on the job. At the same time, a career as a police officer provides opportunities and benefits not found in almost any other job" says officer Sajdak.

Veteran NBV Officer and mentor Steve McVay says “we are lucky to have him! Walter is a true professional, fun to work with and a great friend. He has taught me about life, and that, in turn, has made me a better officer. What more can you ask for”.

New Year, New Beginnings



As we embark on 2019, the team at NBV Rising wants to wish our new Mayor, Brent Latham, the entire Commission, and village staff all the best in their efforts to guide our Village forward. We look forward to their continued hard work on behalf of this community and hope to be reporting often on their accomplishments.

It is our sincere hope that 2019 will be a year of renewal, unity and progress for all! Wishing all our friends and neighbors a healthy, happy and prosperous 2019!

Blessings from Rabbi Dalfin

“On behalf of the Jewish members of our community, we wish all our friends in the village management and all the residents of our community many blessings of peace and kindness for 2019!

We must communicate more positive words to others and try to find the good qualities in our neighbors. This will change the status quo and bring more smiles to appreciate all the blessings we have.”

Rabbi Faivish Mordechai Dalfin, Chabad Synagogue

Managing Editor: Laura Cattabriga
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/NBVRising
 Email: NBVRising@gmail.com

Editor's Corner



We decided to start this newsletter to fill a void in North Bay Village life. Throughout the campaign, I heard many residents express the desire for a positive source of news and information for our community that is not inherently political. I had the great privilege to meet so many of you in person and contrary to what we read in the papers and online, we have a strong, vibrant, generous and fascinating community, rich in stories and insight. I hope this publication will allow us to share more with each other. The focus of the newsletter will be to highlight people, accomplishments and issues not currently being shared.

While the intent of this newsletter is to be informational and non-political, at times, it may cover topics that are in the political discourse. The goal is to provide the context, data, and information we feel is helpful to properly understanding the issue. We strive to be fair and balanced and will not engage in personal attacks.

We hope this publication and the related Facebook page can be a stimulus for positive communication. If you have feedback and ideas for stories we should cover, please reach out: nbvrising@gmail.com. We welcome guest columnists and hope to include a variety of voices moving forward.

Finally, I am looking for immediate input. This first issue is called NBV Rising. What do you think? Is there a better name that captures the spirit of our community and the positive path forward? I am looking for creative ideas!

Thank you for embracing this new endeavor. I look forward to hearing from you and working together to help lift up this wonderful community.