

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
Nomination Form

The City of Coral Gables, "The City Beautiful," wishes to recognize those employees who best reflect our Mission: Dedicated people, providing exceptional services, to residents, businesses and visitors, while preserving our historic heritage. If selected, the Employee of the Month receives \$400 cash along with a plaque. The Employee of the month has the option to be recognized at the Commission Meeting corresponding to the month they were selected or be recognized in their respective department. A photo of the employee is also displayed in City Hall for the duration of that month, as well throughout City departments. In addition, the Rotary Club of Coral Gables honors the chosen employee with a plaque presented during their monthly luncheon. Additionally, Employees of the Month become eligible for Employee of the Year.

Eligibility

All regular, full-time employees except for temporary, seasonal or employees on probation, employee's eligible for Police Officer or Firefighter of the Month programs, Directors, Assistant Directors and those who have been previous Employees of the Year. In addition, employees selected as employee of the month in the last five (5) years are ineligible.

Procedures

Nominations may be submitted by any Coral Gables Director, employee or residents.

Directors/Employee

Should complete the form and e-mail it to jrodriguez4@coralgables.com or send it via inter-office, confidential envelope to Jose Rodriguez, Recruitment Manager.

Residents

Should complete the form and deliver, or mail it to: City of Coral Gables, Employee of the Month Coordinator, 2151 Salzedo Street, 5 Floor • Coral Gables, FL 33134. This form can also be emailed to jrodriguez4@coralgables.com.

I am nominating Jose Vilar of the Community Recreation Department to be Employee of The Month, because she/he exemplifies the following Values:

Integrity, Dedication, Competency, Loyalty, Innovation and Accessibility

In Your Own Words please provide reason for nomination and/or examples of why employee deserves recognition. Please describe in detail (Attach separate sheet if additional space is needed):

See attached

Print Name: Carolina Vester

Date: 4-15-2026

Employee of the Month Nomination

Nominee: Jose Vilar

Department: Community Recreation

Position: Aquatics Manager

Please accept this personal recommendation to nominate Jose Vilar for Employee of the Month for May in recognition of his exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment to public safety, and dedicated service to the city.

Jose's commitment to aquatics, public safety, and public service is deeply rooted and dates back to his earliest days learning how to swim at the Venetian Pool under the tutelage of volunteers from the Venetian Aquatic Club. He carried that formative experience forward and paid it back by serving as a Venetian Aquatic Club aide, where he spent many summers volunteering his time teaching swim lessons. This work is especially meaningful, as swim instruction remains the number one preventative measure against drowning. That early dedication to water safety has defined his career and continues to shape his leadership approach today.

For more than a decade, Jose has been entrusted not only with the stewardship of one of our most iconic, historic, and high-traffic facilities, but also with the safety and well-being of thousands of visitors who pass through the pool each year. This is a significant responsibility, and he has consistently met it with professionalism, vigilance, and a deep sense of duty. His leadership has ensured that safety remains the top operational priority, while maintaining a welcoming and enjoyable environment for all patrons.

Beyond his operational excellence, Jose's commitment to his team is equally noteworthy. He fosters a culture of accountability, mentorship, and continuous improvement. He leads by example, investing in the development of his team and encouraging them to pursue training, certifications, and professional growth opportunities. His emphasis on education as a driver of innovation has elevated not only his own performance, but that of the entire aquatics team.

Jose's dedication to the city is evident in his proactive approach to challenges, his willingness to go above and beyond, and his consistent pursuit of excellence. He has positioned himself as a forward-thinking leader who embraces new ideas and best practices, ensuring that our aquatics operations remain both safe and progressive.

In every respect, Jose Vilar exemplifies the values of public service, leadership, and innovation. His contributions are invaluable, and he is highly deserving of this recognition.