

# Learn about safety in tiniest town

By **SUSAN WITTMAN**

Miami News Service

A miniature village composed of pint-sized buildings, cars and street signs will offer Homestead and Florida City children a customized haven to learn traffic safety.

Plans for Safety Village, to be constructed in Homestead's Tatum Park, were approved Tuesday during a Homestead City Council meeting.

The goal is create the ambience of a real miniature village, where 3- to 9-year-olds from Homestead and Florida City schools will learn about bike and vehicle safety as well as stranger-danger lessons. Field trips will be conducted during the school day.

The "learner-friendly" village will have working traffic lights and a fleet of battery- and pedal-run cars that travel at a top speed of 1 mph.

The city has a 99-year lease on the 9,000-square-foot property at Southwest Eighth Street and Flagler Avenue, which is owned by Dade County. Funding will come from the private sector. Companies or individuals can sponsor a building or donate funds, time or services.

Six advanced architecture/computer-assisted design students at South Dade High School will draft plans for the village under the eye of their teacher, Steven Bachmeyer, and architect Robert Barnes.