

Inside Hillcrest

– Connecting Neighbors to Neighbors –



JANUARY 2022

HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 1

JANUARY INSIDE HILLCREST

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Welcome to our semi-annual joke/horror story/life lesson issue. Abraham Lincoln said, "I laugh because I must not cry, that is all, that is all." Happy New year everyone. Personally, before I agree on 2022, I want to read the terms and conditions. And I am not buying a planner this year.

Here is what my sister Kathy posted on Facebook: "The past two years have been very trying, difficult, stressful, and for some, very lonely. The world has become callous, mean & hateful. My wish for the new year is for everyone to be more patient, loving, caring, generous, and most of all KIND!" An old cowboy once told me, "When you give a lesson in meanness to a critter, don't be surprised if they learn their lesson."

Here is a great New Year's Resolution and one which my sister and I made YEARS ago and still follow: Everywhere you go, whether walking past someone, riding the elevator, going to the store - anytime you are around people, say or do one thing to make them smile. We both have graduated to "make someone laugh" which is even better because the physiology of laughter reduces stress. The very act of going out of your way to recognize another person can be such a small way of making someone happy. And remember the old saying, "Happiness is like perfume; you can't spray it on anyone else without getting some on yourself."

JANUARY 2022 IH CONTESTS – THREE CHANCES TO WIN

Want to win a \$25 Aldi's or Publix gift card? Be the first to email me the answers to one or all of the following THREE contests in this issue.

1 Can you find all the urban slang phrases in this cover story. Most are from the 70's and 80's. Hint: there are two in the Pandammit paragraph.

2. On page 9, be the first to email the names of the corresponding teams.

#3 I know that James Caan's (Sonny Corleone in the Godfather) aunt, Irma Pines, lived in Hillcrest 22 (#200) and the parents of Marlee Matlin (Academy Award winning actress and advocate for the deaf) lived in Hillcrest 23. I heard that Ruth Bader Ginsburg's mom lived

in Hillcrest. A \$25.00 gift card to anyone who knows which building she lived on or remember any other famous folks who lived here.

MY ONE RESOLUTION

I should probably have several if I am going to be serious about self-improvement but I am starting small. My resolution for 2022 is that I need to "bobshaw". If you do not know what "bobshaw" means, it is when you go to the pool EVERY day and get some sun and fresh air for 20 minutes. Of course, it is best if I actually go in the pool and exercise but... baby steps.

PANDAMMITS

Pandammitts are jokes about the pandemic that we started printing in mid-2020. We had tons of them and one joke issue was full of them. They have tapered off dramatically. It could be just because every joke that could be told was told. However, I did get two funny videos that I will attach to this month's email issue of IH. One is actually pre-pandemic humor and I wish I could call the other one post-pandemic humor! When is this going to be over? It has really changed our world. Some things for the better but mostly for the worse. All we can do is try to stay safe, take a chill pill and keep on truckin'.

I do have one question for the people who don't trust doctors and science to keep them from getting sick; why are you clogging up the hospitals trusting them to cure you?

ON A SERIOUS NOTE...

Florida reported 46,923 new COVID cases, the largest single-day increase of COVID cases since the pandemic began. During the week ending December 23rd, the three most populous counties in the state saw the biggest case increases. Miami-Dade was up 354% and 400% in Broward.

I have a few friends in ALFs and once again, COVID cases are ramping up. Broward has had close to 400,000 cases and 4,978 deaths (probably over 5000 by the time this issue goes to print). As far as I know we only had one death in Hillcrest during 2021. I do not

count Hillcresters who were not in residence at the time. This person caught it from a neighbor who defied all the safety precautions, caught the virus but had a healthy immune system and the neutralizing antibodies that protected her from succumbing to the virus. Her friend/neighbor was not so lucky. She died from it. We had to sell her condo and get her the heck out of Dodge before the neighbors tarred and feathered her and rode her out of town on a rail.

The point is, please respect your building's mask mandates. Your neighbors have a right to be terrified of COVID. You may have a healthy immune system but have some respect for those that don't. If you don't know by now that this virus is a serious threat to all of us, then you don't know jack squat. (Contestants: , I just gave you four in the last two paragraphs...)

WHAT IS A CHEF?

"A chef is a trained professional cook and tradesman who is proficient in all aspects of food preparation" Thanks to the reader who complimented on my recipes and said that I was "quite the chef". I wish. I am simply a cook and know how to follow a recipe. All the recipes I print are ones that I found in a magazine or cookbook and I thought they looked good. I make them , usually tweak them a bit and then print them. As I have said before, sometimes the recipe gets tossed in the trash before we even finish eating! Can you dig it?

In this month's Kitchen Korner, I extoll the virtues of an Air Fryer. If you do any cooking at all, you need to get one! My BNW Elizabeth, (Best Neighbor in the World) is Italian so has no choice but to make peppers and onions all the time (gag me with a spoon). Between the two of us, we have a real aroma war going on. But they are good aromas (not like someone cut the cheese or anything). Thankfully we both live at the end of the hallway. I actually bought a special filtration system for my A/C that dissipates odors. Lately we were no longer smell peppers and onions wafting from across the hall. You guessed it – she uses an air fryer! Read more about what they can do in this month's Kitchen Korner.

I also included a wonderful recipe compliments of Mireille (Mimi) Fantini (yes, our own in-house tailor extraordinaire). So many Hillcresters use her for alterations and for her unique designs, it is a wonder she has the time to bake.



Continued on Pg. 2

Continued from Pg. 1

As someone who is not a lover of sweets, I was blown away by how off the chain delicious it was. Downright funkadelic-ious!

BOXED WINE

I like to cook with wine and sometimes I even put it in the food. Admittedly I am not a wine connoisseur and I like boxed wine. Also, the boxes are recyclable unlike wine bottles. You just pop in a cardboard circle and pull out a plastic tap and pour from there. Most are the equivalent of 3 bottles of wine. I like Black Box but I tried the boxed Hijinx Pinot Grigio when it was on sale. As this is the joke issue, I have to tell you what it says on the box.

First of all, the name HIJINX is upside down on the front of the box and it says, "Mischief, at its most sincere, must include a dash of havoc, followed by a spicy hint of pure superstition. A boisterous and lively, refreshingly good win, Hi Jinx serves up unrestrained fun for your tastebuds. – it is up to you to provide the mayhem." But that's not all – the instructions for opening the tap read, "Do not cut with chainsaw. For a less messy & safer alternative use hands & see bottom of box for opening instructions." Of course, the instructions on the bottom of the box are even more hilarious. Worth the read if you want to kill some time in the Publix wine aisle.

GRANDMA SCAM

I had heard about the 'Grandma Scam' but I finally got the phone call. "Hi Grandma"... I said, "wrong number" and hung up. How they get you is when you say something like "Cameron?", (my grandson's name) or "who is this?" and they KNOW the name of one of your grandsons – usually from Facebook. Long story short, "Grandson" is in trouble and needs money and promises to tell mom and dad when it is over but please send some money now to bail him out, pay off a loan, etc. Especially if you are estranged from your grandson, you are supposed to be so happy that he reached out that you gladly help him out. Not that I don't want to help out Cameron, but since he is 18 months old, I just didn't think it was him. No duh! I knew it was somebody just yanking my chain.

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR DEPARTMENT

A few buildings switched Security companies. Elite Guard has been a fixture in Hillcrest for as long as I can remember. Well-trained personnel who were like family was the norm: George, Bill, John, Michelle, Patrick Alex, Lev, Annie, Marie, Jean, Marlene, Mike and Mike, Dolly, Will, Dorothy, Katya, Kea, and Casey.

I have lived in Hillcrest over 22 years and have never had words with a security guard...until now. In my building alone in a 2-week period in December, a "security" guard was confrontational, or down right rude to my guests on SIX different occasions. These visitors included an Inside Hillcrest advertiser, cleaning ladies who have been coming to this building for over 5 years, 2 neighbors - one from 22 and one from 23, my BFF and a Realtor bringing a buyer to show a unit. In one case the "guard" asked for an ID and then threw the ID back at the visitor.

The one thing all these "guards" have in common is that they work the same company that provided the nightmare story in the December issue. Turns out that the guard I wrote about was fired from another Hillcrest building – she was described as being "vicious". That particular building fired and replaced others until they got the staff they wanted. In another building, the president told me that they also had to work with them in the first few months until they got the level of service they wanted (which makes sense when starting with brand new guards) but are now very happy with them.

An email went out justifying the switch and went on to explain the "job requirements": "This job requires the following. Can you make a call to inform a unit owner they have a food delivery, package or guest. Can they monitor the screens, can they buzz individuals into the building. Can they monitor the fire panel. Can you sit for 8 hours."

Wow – if that is the standard, this group definitely meets it. Not only was proper punctuation left out of that job description but there is no mention of professionalism courtesy, respect, common sense and

apparently an explanation of who they are working for and who pays them. I for one miss having quality security services.

SPEAKING OF OLD-TIMERS

We sold a unit in Hillcrest 178 a few years back when the owner, Daniel Merlini, passed away...at 107! , Vicki Giles & Bea Baer, both from 22, lived until 101 and 105. One of my pool buddies, Ruth(21) died at 102. A client who sold and moved to Five Star, Rae Schneeweiss (21), passed at 100.

The whole Betty White story reminded me of them. I thought they were all as cool As Betty White. She knew how to make an entrance and she knew how to make an exit. She didn't make it to 100 but passing just shy of her hundredth birthday make the story bigger than the birthday she missed!

AND THIS MONTH'S LIFE LESSON IS...

"When you see that in order to produce, you need to obtain permission from men who produce nothing - When you see that money is flowing to those who deal, not in goods, but in favors - When you see that men get richer by graft and by pull than by work, and your laws don't protect you against them, but protect them against you - When you see corruption being rewarded and honesty becoming a self-sacrifice - You may know that your society is doomed." - Ayn Rand, Atlas Shrugged, 1957

PEACE OUT!

Keep the jokes and stories coming. The July issue is the next joke/story issue so if you have a short funny, meaningful, touching, or thought-provoking story or video, send it to us at inside.hillcrest@comcast.net. As long as it is free of swear words or Make America Hate Again rhetoric, we would love to pass it on.

CHANGES IN 2022 SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS

– Recap by Cindy Abraham

The biggest change beneficiaries will see in Social Security in 2022 is a 5.9 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to monthly retirement benefits as well as SSI checks. The increase is the largest since 1982. This is because prices of goods and services measured in the CPI-W have significantly increased in the past year, due in part to a rebounding economy and COVID-19 outbreaks, which have both driven up energy prices.

Although the average retirement check will go up, most beneficiaries won't see the full amount in their monthly check because Medicare Part B premiums are deducted directly from most Social Security retirement payments.

Those with the smallest Social Security benefit get hit the hardest by the Medicare increase because although Social Security COLAs have increased 18.8% from 2013 through 2022, Part B premiums have increased by 57.2% during the same period.



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STATE OF THE COUNTY - County Commissioner Beam Furr - District 6



Greetings Hillcrest Residents,

The year 2021 began with great optimism. We had a new Presidential administration about to be sworn in. We had a vaccine that many believed would help us end COVID-19 quickly. We had the energy to pass major legislation to support our economy as it recovered. It became clear by January 6th that things were not going to be that easy. The storming of the Capitol was a shocking and stark reminder of our divisions. And those tensions in our country continued to emerge throughout the year, with additional variants, vaccine-hesitancy, stalled legislation, and more. But as we move into 2022, I hope that we remember that there is far more that unites us than divides us. That is especially true right here in Broward County, where we have a community that continues to support each other through these difficult times. No matter what is thrown at us, that core of our community continues to give me hope.

The story of 2022 will be one of our community continuing to adapt and evolve together. For the last two years, Broward County has shown how well it can adapt to even the most difficult of circumstances. We have grieved for those lost together, and helped to recognize the essential workers who make our life possible. Looking ahead to 2022, we can use that experience to make Broward County better than ever.

Despite the life-saving vaccines, we continue to face difficulties from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Omicron variant is raging throughout our state and our country. But unlike previous waves, we have all the tools. We continue to work around the clock to provide vaccines and booster shots. We are ramping up our testing operations. We are expecting our hospitals to receive Paxlovid, a new pill which evidence suggests will save many lives. We have a long way to go, and it is unfortunate we were not able to conquer this pandemic while we had the chance. But we have the tools to keep our residents safe. Even as we continue to address the health issue of COVID-19, we must continue to cope with its economic repercussions. Fortunately, Broward County is well on the way to recovering and is looking towards a bright 2022. The American Rescue Plan Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill offer us the opportunity to make critical investments in the future of our County. We have serious needs, particularly for infrastructure supporting the environment, in transportation, in solid waste, in our arts and culture scene, and in early childhood education. These areas will allow receive significant investment from multiple funding sources in 2022. We will put our County back to work and pave the road for a brighter future.

In order to protect that future, 2022 needs to be the year where we focus on our environment. Climate change has not stopped due to

the pandemic – emissions are now back where they were before the shutdown. Broward County has released its latest update to the Climate Change Action Plan – the first since 2015. This update incorporates contributions from scientists, experts, elected officials, business leaders, and residents like you to create the most sustainable and resilient Broward County. This includes priority flood maps, a solid waste system, seawalls, new electric buses, new electric vehicle charging stations, purple piping and clean water facilities, and much, much more. These projects are worth investing in now, instead of paying a much greater price in the future.

Other areas where I expect major progress in 2022 are transportation, solid waste, and early childhood education. Our transportation surtax five-year plan is in full-swing in 2022, with major intersection improvements, massively expanded bus routes and additional hours of scheduling, traffic light synchronization, and more. Perhaps most importantly, we will start the work of developing a commuter rail system here in Broward County. In addition, our Solid Waste Working Group has made major progress on the development of a comprehensive solid waste and recycling system here in Broward County. We also have a blueprint to continue to improve our early childhood education. Far too many early childhood facilities have been rocked due to COVID-19. It is critical we make the investments needed to restore and improve this critical industry. These are not the only issues we will face in 2022. We are going to bring our community together around great ideas in 2022 - from improving our Airport and Port, to increasing ballot access in the 2022 election, to creating more affordable housing opportunities, and much more in-between. In the meantime, it is important that you stay safe and stay healthy. Get boosted and get tested. Happy New Year – I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Contact Us

Our District office is conveniently located in the lobby of the Hollywood Branch of the Broward County Public Library at 2600 Hollywood Blvd, next to Hollywood City Hall. I am pleased to report that it has re-opened and is available to you from 10 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Friday. My staff is also working from my office in Fort Lauderdale and from other remote locations within our District. The Fort Lauderdale office is open for your convenience Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5PM. If you would like to schedule an appointment, or you have a great idea, suggestion or an issue that needs my attention, feel free to call me at **954-357-7006/7790** or **send me an email at bfurr@broward.org**.

MAKES SENSE TO ME...

I just fired myself from cleaning my house. I don't like my attitude, and I got caught drinking on the job.

We get heavier as we get older because there is a lot more information in our heads.

Two things to make your day better: 1. Do not watch the news. 2. Stay off the bathroom scale.

Instead of finding a new form of social media, we should all go back to bonfires, tailgate parties, night fishing, porch sitting and cruising with the radio playing.

Seeing how some people wear their masks, I now understand how contraceptives fail.

Ask your doctor if a drug with 32 pages of side effects is right for you.

If you don't swear while driving, you are not paying close enough attention to the road.

Exercise makes you look better naked. So does alcohol. Your choice.

There are two ways to handle a woman. Nobody knows either one.

Get your relatives speaking to one another again by sending a heartfelt Christmas card with a picture of your family with an extra child nobody knows.

When thinking about life, remember this: No amount of guilt can solve the past, and no amount of anxiety can change the future.

Wrinkles mean you have laughed. Gray hair means you care. Scars mean you've lived.

Oxymorons are funny but the two funniest are "social distancing" and "common sense".

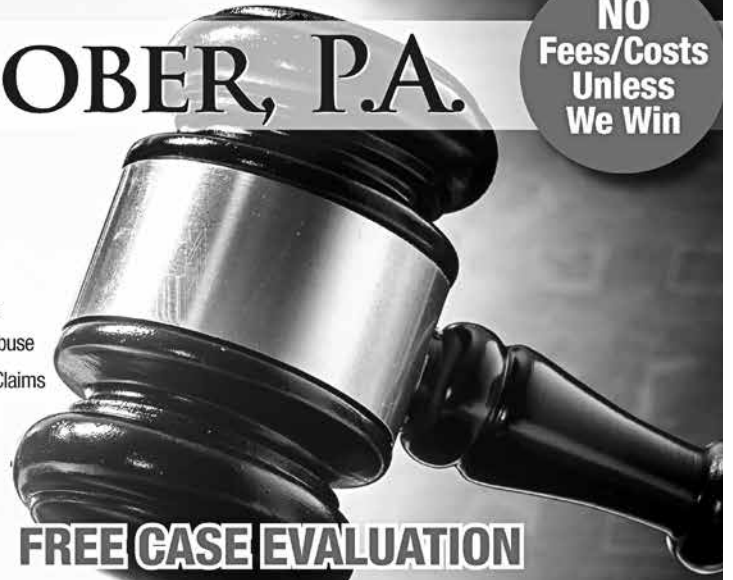
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January Kitchen Korner - by Cindy Abraham



AIR FRYER RECIPES

Get one! It saves you a lot on electricity and clean-up is a breeze! Whenever we make ANYTHING, we ask ourselves if we should try cooking it in the air fryer. Vegetables are a big "hell yes"! And not just French fries. Any kind of fish is great in it. The drawer styles are the best. We have a Ninja that we like.



My daughter bought a Cosori which is bigger than my Ninja and she even makes pork chops in it. Just Google anything you are thinking of cooking and if the recipe works better in the air fryer than in the oven, you will get instructions.

We always put anything that would normally be fried in oil in the air fryer but now we have branched out and use it instead of broiling for 6 oz. lobster tails. They came out PERFECT. Our air fryer won't hold more than 3 because there are only two of us, but they cook so fast two batches don't take long.

1. Butterfly the lobster tail. Cut through the top of the lobster lengthwise but not all the way through to the shell. Spread the shell apart and using your fingers, gently pull the lobster meat so it sits on top of the shell but still connected at the end. Rinse the meat off and remove any vein.
2. Mix together any type of butter baste to your liking. Melt butter with garlic powder, parsley, lemon juice – whatever you like. Make sure you have at least 1/2 cup.
3. Season the lobster with salt and pepper. (Smoked paprika is good too). Then coat both sides of the lobster meat with the butter sauce.
4. Place lobster tails in the air fry and cook at 380 degrees for 4 minutes. Baste with more butter and cook for another 4 minutes. Check the bottom – you may need another minute or so.
5. Serve with additional butter sauce and lemon wedges.

OR if you want to broil them in the oven, preheat to broil, put the lobster on a baking sheet and baste them before you put them in the oven. Cook for 5-10 minutes and baste them again halfway through.

Tyson makes air fry chicken breasts and they make a GREAT sandwich. If you want some killer honey mustard, go to Publix, and look on the top shelf of the mustard section for Honeycup Mustard (\$5.01 per jar but worth it). Put 2 breasts in the air fryer for 12 minutes. Toast a bun and spread with honey mustard. When the chicken is done, put it on the bun. Easy peasy. I put fresh spinach on all our sandwiches just to add some healthy.

As many of you know, any Hillcrest can call my partner Brian when needing advice about repairs or remodel issues. Often, he can fix it himself or he knows who they should call if it is something more complicated. He helped our neighbor Mimi with a small repair and as a thank you she gave him an applesauce cake.

It was OVER THE TOP, OFF THE CHAIN DELICIOUS! I begged her for the recipe which turns out to be one of those that goes back generations and Mimi graciously gave me the OK to share. I made it myself and used 1/4 of the ingredients. I didn't have raisins so use Craisins soaked in strong

turmeric tea and Triple-Sec liqueur. Mimi uses Crisco shortening and I used canola oil. Bottom line: her cake was better.

Here is the back story: "I am so happy to share this family recipe. It started with a recipe from the New York cookbook that the children's grandmother would always send at Christmas time. When she was no longer able to do that, I took over the duties and it became our family tradition. We start baking the cakes before Thanksgiving and continue through the holidays.

The secret to this recipe is the soaking solution for the raisins. Since they are already VERY plump when they are added to the batter, they no longer absorb the moisture from the cake, but rather add to the taste and the rich moisture of the cake. The cakes can be preserved in the freezer for several weeks, and when the cake becomes a little dry, slice a few pieces, put them in the toaster for a very light toast, add cream cheese and enjoy!

This recipe makes at least 3 large loaf pans and a few cupcakes. For family baking using half of the recipe is normally enough."

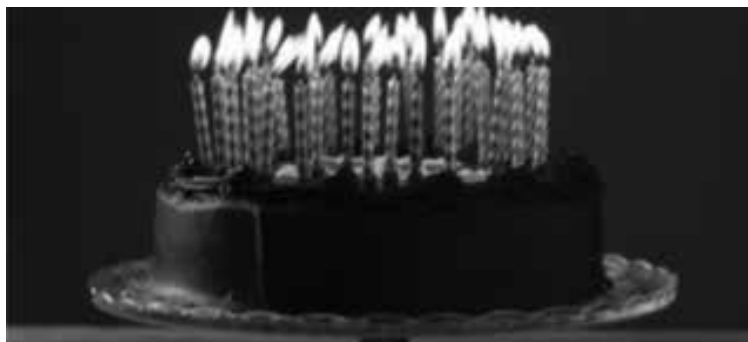
SOAK RAISINS AT LEAST OVERNIGHT, in a solution of strong tea (regular or raspberry) and rum, whiskey or other sweet liquor to make one cup. Save the solution when you drain the raisins the next day.

APPLESAUCE CAKE

- 5 cups of flour, 4 cups of sugar
- 3 tsp baking soda, 3 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon, 1 tsp allspice
- 1 tsp ground cloves, 1 cup applesauce
- 1 cup shortening, 4 eggs, 2 cups raisins
- (Don't forget to soak the raisins and reserve 1 cup of the liquid.)
- 1 cup soaking solution (above), 1 cup pecan pieces



1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix all DRY ingredients together in a large bowl
3. Add applesauce, tea solution, shortening and eggs. Blend well with a mixer.
4. Stir in raisins & pecans.
5. Pour into well-greased and floured loaf pans
6. Bake 50 minutes to an hour. Smaller size loaf pans will cook faster.
7. Check after 40 minutes and adjust cooking time accordingly.
8. Let cool at least 30 minutes before removing from pan. Slice and enjoy!



Before 2020, we were pretty wild! Remember how we all used to eat cake after someone had blown on it? Crazy times!

POPO HUMOR

COP: You were going too fast.

ME: I was just trying to keep up with traffic

COP: There is no traffic!

ME: I know. That's how far behind I am!
Look, Officer I'm just saying...
if you caught me, then obviously you were speeding too.

People say 60 is the new 40. The cop that just pulled me over does not agree.



KIDS SAY ARE THE DARNEDEST THINGS

Note from the tooth fairy: Dear Donovan, I tried to come into your room last night to get your tooth but there were so many toys on the floor, I tripped and fell. I am going to come back tonight. Please make sure your room is clean so I won't hurt myself again. The Tooth Fairy

My kids say they want a cat for Christmas. Normally, I do a turkey, but hey... if it'll make 'em happy...

When a kid says "Daddy, I want Mommy." That's the kid version of "I'd like to speak with your supervisor."

My neighbor just yelled so loud at her kids that even I brushed my teeth and went to bed.

When a telemarketer calls, give the phone to your 3 year old, and tell him/her it's Santa!

The longest drum solo was 10 hours and 26 minutes and was performed by the child sitting behind me on Delta flight 963 from LA to Tokyo.

This morning my son said his ear hurt, and I asked: "On the outside or the inside?" So, he walks out the front door, comes back in and says, "Both". It's moments like these that get me wondering if I am saving too much for college.

When I'm bored I go around putting these stickers on paper towel dispensers




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WORDS OF WISDOM



No matter how educated, talented, rich, or cool you believe you are, how you treat people ultimately tells all.

In life, it is important to know when to stop arguing with people, and simply let them be wrong. - *YourPositiveOasis.com*

Don't trust everything you see. Even salt looks like sugar. - *YourPositiveOasis.com*

A ship is always safe at shore, but that is not what it is built for. - Albert Einstein

A smart person knows what to say. A wise person knows whether to say it or not. - *Smoking Success*

Any fool can know. The point is to understand. - Albert Einstein

I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots. - *Albert Einstein*

When Albert Einstein met Charlie Chaplin: Albert Einstein: "What I admire most about your art, is it's universality. You do not say a word, yet the world understands you." Charlie Chaplin: "It's true, but your fame is even greater. The world admires you when nobody understands you!"

Men fight for liberty and win it with hard knocks. Their children, brought up easy, let it slip away again, poor fools. And their grandchildren, are once more, slaves. - *D.H. Lawrence*

Politicians should wear sponsor jackets like NASCAR drivers, then we know who owns them. - Robin Williams

In America, they call it "lobbying". Everywhere else in the world, they call it "bribery and corruption". - *CJ Kalish*

When the debate is lost, slander becomes the tool of the losers. - *Socrates*

Complaining about a problem without posing a solution is called WHINING. - *Teddy Roosevelt*

Don't blame a clown for acting like a clown, blame yourself for going to the Circus.

The saddest thing about betrayal is, it never comes from your enemies.

AGING GRATEFULLY

The best thing about the good old days is that I wasn't good and I wasn't old.

I got myself a senior's GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

I'm looking for a moisturizer that hides the fact that I've been tired since 2010.

I made a huge to-do list for today. I just can't figure out who's going to do it.

It is probably my age that tricks people into thinking I am an adult.

People who ask me what I'm doing tomorrow probably assume that I even know what day of the week it is.

It's weird being the same age as old people. My mind still thinks I'm 29, my humor suggests I'm 12 while my body mostly keeps asking if I'm sure I'm not dead yet.

I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented. I forgot where I was going with this.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

That moment when you are having a conversation in your head and you realize you are making faces that go along with the silent conversation.

I'm in Home Depot, and some little kid called me an old fart! So, if you're missing your kid, he's in the red LG dryer...Aisle 17.

One minute you're 21, staying up all night drinking beer, eating pizza, and doing sketchy stuff just for fun. THEN...In a blink of an eye, you're 50, drinking water, eating salad and you can't do any sketchy stuff, because pulled a muscle putting on your socks!

I went to an aerobics class the other day. I stretched, bounced about, and fell over a few times. It was agony! By the time I got my leotard on, the class was over!

I finally did it! I bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles. No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.

When we're young, we sneak out of our house to go to parties. When we're old, we sneak out of parties to go home.

Not to brag, but I just went into the other room and actually remembered why I went in there! It was the bathroom, but still...

And I said to myself, "Self?" (And I knew it was me, 'because I recognized my voice, and I was wearing my underwear) "Today is gonna be a good day!"

There are others but I can't remember them.



MARTY KIAR - BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER



Automatic Senior Exemption Renewals for 2022

Beginning this year (2022), after the initial application approval, the Senior Exemption automatically renews each year unless the senior notifies our office that they no longer meet the income requirement for this exemption. People who received the Senior Exemption in 2021 and are still living at the same address do not need to send in a signed renewal card to continue receiving this exemption.

Our office will mail the Senior Exemption renewal information later this month with the annual income limitation set by the state of Florida.

If your 2021 adjusted household gross income does not exceed the amount set by the state for the 2022 tax year, you DO NOT need to do anything to continue receiving this valuable exemption for 2022. Your exemption will automatically be renewed provided you are still living at the same address and receiving Homestead Exemption.

If your 2021 adjusted household gross income did exceed the income limitation, you must notify our office that you no longer qualify for this tax year when you receive the annual income notification from our office. We understand the adjusted household gross income for some individuals may change from year to year so an applicant may qualify one year and then not the next.

If you did not receive the Senior Exemption for 2021 and you believe you may qualify, please visit our website at web.bcpa.net and click on the "Senior Exemption" icon to view this exemption and all the other exemptions available to qualified applicants. You can also apply online at <https://web.bcpa.net/bcpaclient/#/SeniorsAppForm>. The deadline to apply for any 2022 exemption is September 19, 2022.

If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please call us at 954-357-6830 or email me directly at martykiar@bcpa.net

Take care,
Marty Kiar,
Broward County Property Appraiser

INSIDE HILLCREST'S BEST FOOTBALL QUIZ NAME THAT TEAM!

1. Army Insects _____
2. Seven Squared _____
3. Streakers Are This _____
4. Fast planes _____
5. Hostile Attackers _____
6. Various Iron Workers _____
7. Poe's Classic _____
8. I.O.U.S _____
9. Helpers to Relocate _____
10. Toy Baby Arms _____
11. Expensive Sports Cars _____
12. Birds Trained to Kill _____
13. Six Rulers _____
14. Opposite of Ewes _____
15. Class of Boy Scouts _____
16. 60's Black Militant Group _____
17. Fundamental Rules _____
18. American Gauchos _____
19. Credit Card Users _____
20. Indian Leaders _____
21. King of Beasts _____
22. Used To Be Girls _____
23. A Dollar for Corn _____
24. Ocean Going Birds _____
25. Hot Epidermis _____
26. Louis Armstrong's Favorite Song _____
27. Rodeo Horses _____

28. Six Shooters _____
29. Alamo Defenders _____
30. Greater than the gods _____
31. Flag-waving Loyalists _____
32. Tanned bodies _____

MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?

100 years ago, everyone owned a horse, and only the rich had cars. Now, everyone owned a car, and only the rich have horses. Oh, how the stables have turned.

Amal & Juan are identical twins. Their Mom only carries one photo, because, if you've see Juan, you've seen Amal.

"I just cleaned out some space in my freezer" sounds way more productive than "I just polished off another pint of ice cream."

My stomach is FLAT. (The L is silent!)

SWEARING. Because sometimes "gosh darn" and "meanie head" just don't cover it.

Survival Tip: If you ever get lost in the woods, just start talking about politics.... someone will show up to argue with you.

I relabeled all the jars in my wife's spice rack. I'm not in trouble yet, but the thyme is cumin.

If I can't think of a word, I say, "I forgot the English word for it." That way people think I'm bilingual instead of an idiot.

SOUTHERN TRANSLATIONS:

- Y'all = Two or more people.
- All Y'all = Three or more people.
- Might could = May be able to.
- I reckon = I guess.
- Fixin' to = I'm going to.
- Yonder = Over there somewhere.
- Bless yer Heart = I don't want to hurt your feelings, but you're an idiot!

What's Happening In The Real Estate Market in Hillcrest and Hollywood?



Cindy Abraham



Brian Gaiefsky

The market for single-family homes has exploded. Right now, homes are at a premium and buyers are paying over list price; either all cash or coming up with the difference between the appraised price and the list price. Bidding wars are common.

What does this mean to us? Homes are becoming out of reach for many. The next best thing is a townhome or large condo. As we all know, Hillcrest condos are known for their size and views. And Keller Williams A Team Florida are known as the Hillcrest experts which is why agents shopping Hillcrest look for our listings.

Looking to buy or sell? Let's talk. Or send us an email or text:

Chat – 954-964-2559 - Email – Info@ATeamFlorida.com

Text – Cindy - 954-895-1617 Brian – 954-415-5323



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HILLCREST REAL ESTATE NEWS

Why Keller Williams' A Team Florida is the team you want on your side – by Cindy Abraham



Happy New Year from the A Team!

Now that it's 2022, we first want to express a HUGE Thank You to all of you Hillcresters who give us the privilege of handling your Real Estate needs and that of your friends and neighbors. We am fully aware that YOU are the future of our business and we appreciate you very much!

Because we are your neighbor, keeping Hillcrest values where they need to be is a priority for us. If you have lived in Hillcrest for any length of time (I am going on 22 years), or even just moved in, you know why we call it the "Hidden Jewel in Hollywood."

We know Hillcrest inside and out and because we are known as the Hillcrest experts, buyer agents who shop Hillcrest look for our listings first. They know the information in the listing will be correct and that we know how to navigate the application/approval process in 24 different buildings with different by-laws, rules, and requirements. 22% of the closed sales have at least one deal fall through. We get you to the closing table BECAUSE we also vet the buyers for our properties even though they have their own agent – we leave nothing to chance when it comes to taking care of our sellers.

Buyer agents also know that Brian will be there for every showing. Some ASK for him to be there because he has a knack for reading people and asking the right questions to make sure our listing is the right choice for them. A home/condo purchase for most folks, is the largest investment they will make in a lifetime. But it is not only an investment, it is where they will spend most of their time. Our motto is #LoveWhereYouLive and we treat each and every buyer like a future neighbor.

We work hard every day to get our sellers to get the most money out of their investment and we want buyers to get the most joy out of theirs! When you are interviewing Realtors for the job of selling your "investment", be sure you call us. **Cindy Abraham and Brian Gaiefsky, Keller Williams A Team Florida. Call 8-HILLCREST or 954-964-2559.**

DECEMBER 2021 STATE OF THE MARKET REPORT

by Cindy Abraham, Keller Williams Realty Professionals A Team Florida



Not sure why closed sales are low toward the holidays. With inventory so tight, if I were a buyer, this is the time I would be out shopping – not so much competition. But only 10 closed sales were recorded for the month of December. Stats can be misinterpreted because although there do not seem to be many low or mid rise sales, it is because there are not that many on the market. There is no longer a difference in prices between all age and over-55 buildings. The 12 pending sales are split 50-50 between one and two bedroom units. Nine are over-55 units and 3 all age; 10 are in the high rises and two in the low/mid rises.

There are only a couple of buildings that do not sell as well as others and that is because one is not very clean or well-maintained (chipped paint on the doors, smelly trash rooms, etc.), and the other has a property manager who doesn't know how to process an application. Before you hire a property manager for your building, at least contact the Hillcrest Leadership Council. We can't recommend any but we can tell you who NOT to hire and give you solid reasons why. All buildings have a reputation and it doesn't take long for Realtors to start avoiding problem buildings.

In the last issue I predicted that seven of the then active listings would have to take a price reduction. Two did reduce the price and the other five are still on the market.

Below are the twelve closed sales in December – kind of apropos, yes? In honor of the 12 Days of Christmas maybe?



HILLCREST NOVEMBER 2021 CONDO SALES

Building	Unit #	B/B	SF	List Price	Sold	DOM
21	818	2/2	1132	189,000	193,000	6
19	409	2/2	1100	189,000	178,000	191
C-27	#2	2/2	1216	185,000	195,000	4
26	710	2/2	1132	175,500	175,000	22
23	915	2/2	1132	159,000	159,000	2
25	1019	1/1/1	844	149,900	149,900	82
21	114	2/2	1132	146,900	140,500	202
25	619	1/1/1	900	140,000	130,000	38
22	1006	1/1/1	994	135,000	130,000	8
18	104	1/1/1	770	89,900	95,500	5

PARKVIEW AT HILLCREST STATE OF THE MARKET DECEMBER 2021

Curious as to how much equity you have built up in your Parkview home? Call us at 8-HILLCREST or email INFO@ATeamFlorida.com.

Parkview single family homes and townhomes are still selling appreciably higher than the homeowners paid for them a couple years back. There are 13 Active listings. Nine are single family homes; three are waterfront. List prices range from \$1,125,000.00 down to \$599,000.

The four townhomes range from 460K to 695K. Four went under contract and one closed.

DECEMBER PENDING SALES

ADDRESS	B/B	SF	List Price	PREV. SOLD FOR
S-4001 Mahogany Ln	3/2/1	2220	650,000	500,000
S-1465 Silk Oak Dr	3/2/1	1765	599,000	575,000
S-1396 Silk Oak Dr	4/2/0	2311	739,000	467,330
T-3973 Poinciana Ln	3/2/1	1421	460,000	327,700

NOVEMBER CLOSED SALES

ADDRESS	B/B	SF	PREV. SOLD FOR	SALE PRICE
3805 Greenway Dr	5/3	2502	950,000	900,000

How the same address with the same owner can be listed by two different agents at different prices is a mystery to me. And I am not curious enough to take the time to solve it.

PARKVIEW AVAILABLE RENTALS

ADDRESS	B/B	SF	PREV./CURRENT	NOTES
S-3783 Greenway	5/4/0	2802	8000	Pool/2-car garage
T-4984 Greenway	4/2/1	2165	4300	Pool/Wtrfront/2-car garage
T-5087 Eucalyptus	3/2/1	1768	4250	Pool/Wtrfront/2-car garage
T-5012 Greenway	3/2/1	1920	4200	Pool/Wtrfront/2-car garage
T-4164 Greenway	3/2/1	1421	3600	1-car garage
T-4164 Greenway	3/2/1	1421	3599	1-car garage

PARKVIEW PENDING RENTALS

ADDRESS	B/B	SF	RENT/MONTH	NOTES
S-4005 Poinciana Ln	3/2/1	1561	3250	1-car garage

PARKVIEW RENTED IN DECEMBER

ADDRESS	B/B	SF	PREV./CURRENT	NOTES
S-3713 Greenway	4/2/1	2501	5300	Pool/Wtrfront/2-car garage
T-5182 Eucalyptus	3/2/1	1561	3400	1-car garage
T-4154 Greenway	3/2/1	1499	3500	1-car garage
T-5012 Greenway	3/2/1	1920	4200	Pool/Wtrfront/2-car garage
T-4164 Greenway	3/2/1	1421	3600	1-car garage
T-4164 Greenway	3/2/1	1421	3599	1-car garage



GOOD ONES

Whenever someone says to me: "You look so familiar. Where do I know you from?" I like to respond with, "Do you watch porn?"

Just failed my driving test. When the examiner asked me "What sign would you expect to see down a narrow country road?" Apparently 'Fresh eggs for sale' 'wasn't the right answer.

I just found out the neighbors had a meeting about the crazy lady. It's weird that they forgot to invite me.

I saw a bumper sticker that said, "I am a veterinarian. I drive like an animal!" Suddenly I realized how many proctologists are on the road.

My friend told me she doesn't eat beef tongue because it comes out of a cow's mouth. I gave her an egg.

As I watch this generation try to rewrite history, one thing I am sure of. It will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

My wife made me coffee this morning and winked at me when she handed me the cup. I have never been so scared of a drink in my entire life.

IF YOU REMEMBER THE 60'S YOU WEREN'T THERE...

A 10-year old asked Mom, "Mommy, how was I born?" The mother smiled and replied: "Once upon a time, me and your daddy decided to plant a wonderful little seed. Daddy put it in the earth and I took care of it every single day.

After a while the seed started to grow more and more leaves and, in a few months, it turned into a beautiful healthy plant. So we took the plant, dried it, smoked it and got so high that we forgot to wear a condom.




Barbara Buxton, J.D., LL.M. Attorney at Law

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— A FISH STORY —

A young guy from Wisconsin moves to Florida and goes to a big “everything under one roof” department store looking for a job.

The Manager says, “Do you have any sales experience?” The kid says “Yeah; I was a vacuum salesman back in Wisconsin.”

The boss was unsure, but he liked the kid and figured he’d give him a shot, so he gave him the job. “You start tomorrow. I’ll come down after we close and see how you did.”

His first day on the job was rough, but he got through it. After the store was locked up, the boss came down to the sales floor. “How many customers bought something from you today?”

The kid frowns and looks at the floor and mutters, “One”. The boss says “Just one?!? Our sales people average sales to 20 to 30 customers a day. That will have to change, and soon, if you’d like to continue your employment here. We have very strict standards for our sales force here in Florida; one sale a day might have been acceptable in Wisconsin, but you’re not on the farm anymore, son.”

The kid took his beating, but continued to look at his shoes, so the boss felt kinda bad for chewing him out on his first day. He asked (semi-sarcastically), “So, how much was your one sale for?” The kid looks up at his boss and says “\$101,237.65”.

The boss, astonished, says “\$101,237.65?!? What the hell did you sell him?”

The kid says, “Well, first, I sold him some new fish hooks. Then I sold him a new fishing rod to go with his new hooks. Then I asked him where he was going fishing and he said down the coast, so I told him he was going to need a boat, so we went down to the boat department and I sold him a twin engine Chris Craft. Then he said he didn’t think his Honda Civic would pull it, so I took him down to the automotive department and sold him that 4x4 Expedition.”

The boss said, “A guy came in here to buy a fish hook and you sold him a boat and a TRUCK!?”

The kid said “No, the guy came in here to buy tampons for his wife, and I said, ‘Dude, your weekend’s shot, you should go fishing.’”

Stupid is as stupid...well, you know...

I’m not saying you’re stupid, I’m just saying you have bad luck when it comes to thinking!

We have to stop saying “How stupid can you be?” Some people are taking it as a challenge!

Sometimes I look at people and think, “How do you fit all that stupid into one head!?”

I hate when people say, “Act like an adult!” Have you seen adults lately? That’s HORRIBLE advice!!

There are times when my greatest accomplishment is just keeping my mouth shut!

Do you ever listen to someone at work speaking, and think, I don’t get paid enough for this!

***** FUNNIES *****

A new supermarket opened near my house. It has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh. Just before the water comes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and smell of fresh rain! When you approach the milk cases, you hear cows mooing, and experience the scent of fresh hay! When approach the egg case, you hear hens clucking & cackling, and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon & eggs frying! The veggie department features the smell of fresh buttered corn. I don’t buy toilet paper there anymore.

Just failed my driving test. The examiner asked me, “What sign would you expect to see down a narrow country road?” Apparently “Fresh eggs for sale” wasn’t the right answer.

I think it is adorable that they are putting jokes on the sides of snacks now. Like listen to this one, “Serving size – 3 cookies”.

I made a huge to-do list for today. I just can’t figure out who is going to do it.

I waved to a man because I thought he waved at me. Apparently, he waved to another woman. So, to get out of the awkward situation, I kept my hand up, and a taxi pulled up, and I had him take me to the airport. I am now in Poland starting a new life.

That moment when you are having a conversation in your head and you realize you are making faces that go along with the silent conversation.

Dusted once. It came back. Not falling for that again!

“Siri, why am I so bad at relationships with women?” “This is Alexa.”



HOW ELIZABETH GILBERT LEARNED TO TRANSFORM SUFFERING INTO GROWTH

YOU CAN LET LIFE'S INEVITABLE TORMENTS CUT YOU DOWN—OR YOU CAN USE THEM TO GROW. BY ELIZABETH GILBERT

Many years ago, I met a man named Jim MacLaren, who had one of the most extraordinary life stories I'd ever heard. Jim had come into manhood with all the promise in the world: He'd been an ambitious student at Yale and was a talented athlete and handsome young actor in training. Then one beautiful fall evening in New York City—one of those shimmering, velvety nights, he said, when everything seems possible—he was hit by a bus and lost part of his leg. But Jim was a survivor, and so he overcame his loss and transformed himself into a champion marathoner and Ironman athlete.

Inspiring, right? But wait—it doesn't end there.

Several years later, Jim was competing in a triathlon. Despite his prosthetic leg, he was far ahead of many of his more able-bodied competitors, leading a pack of speeding bicyclists down a stretch of road that was supposed to be closed for the race. A van, which was mistakenly allowed to pass through the intersection, hit Jim and instantly broke his neck. Now the amputee was a quadriplegic.

Suddenly it's not such an inspiring story. Suddenly it's a horrifying story, one that raises all sorts of unanswerable questions about life and suffering and injustice. After the second accident, Jim awoke in the hospital enraged at his dilemma. What now, what do I do?

Jim's story goes so far beyond the realm of "fair" that it knocks the breath right out of you. Why would a good man be put through such torment?

We've all seen this happen. Destiny starts raining down hammers on somebody and will not let up. Just when your friend's cancer is in remission, her house burns down. On the same day your sister gets fired, her husband walks out on her. The surprise tax bill arrives just a few hours before your mother's funeral. Sometimes it's one catastrophe after another. You don't know whether you should duck, weep, run screaming, or just start punching in all directions.

When I face a catastrophe of my own, I remember Jim MacLaren. After he broke his neck, he fell into depression and drug addiction. But a spirit in this man kept reaching for the light—a spirit of divine curiosity, which pushed him to ask, "Who am I now, after I've lost everything?" By the time I met Jim, he'd answered that question. Peaceful in his wheelchair, he radiated certainty that his entire purpose (indeed, his entire identity) was to live in a state of unconditional love. I asked him whether he thought his suffering had transformed him into a better person. "Absolutely," he said. I asked whether suffering always transforms people into a better version of themselves. "Not necessarily," he said. Jim explained to me that suffering is one of the most powerful energy forces in the universe—but only if you use it as an instrument of change. People must be willing to journey all the way to the bottom of their pain and experience full catharsis—to completely break apart so they can then rebuild themselves anew. As Jim said, "Suffering without catharsis is nothing but wasted pain."

He said the world is filled with people who have suffered horribly and crawled away broken. They never reached catharsis; they just got shattered and stayed shattered. And then there are the great masters (Gandhi, Mandela, King) who used their suffering as an incredible engine to transform into something better. Jim MacLaren taught me never to waste my pain—he taught me to enter straight into it with divine curiosity instead of running from it. And if you can learn to do that? Honestly, my friends, you can do anything.

Elizabeth Gilbert is *the author of*, most recently, *City of Girls*.

Meditation fills us with these positive qualities and powers very easily. This is because meditation is a beautiful relationship and connection with the Supreme Source of spiritual energy and power – God. God is full of those qualities and powers and never loses

them ever, unlike us, who need to fill ourselves constantly when we lose them.

The early morning is the best time to meditate and also before bed if you can. Meditation is the only way to bring up your connection to your higher power and combine your eternal gifts of love, peace, happiness, wisdom, and purity.

I AM CONDUCTING A ZOOM class every Tuesday Morning at 10:30 am ET.

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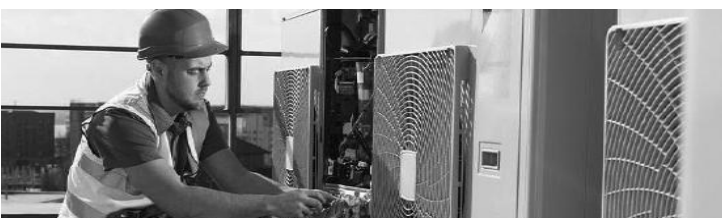
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