

Inside Hillcrest

– Connecting Neighbors to Neighbors –



AUGUST 2018

HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 8

AUGUST INSIDE HILLCREST

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

When is the last time you did something for the first time? Age should not be a factor. Doing something for the first time as much as you can not only keeps you young, it keeps you relevant.

How do we ever know we are doing the right thing or even on the right track? Sometimes, we do need to look inward and ask some tough questions – and answer honestly. If any of the answers make us feel uncomfortable, we must change. It will make you happier, I guarantee. Anyone who is mildly admonished by a good friend about any kind of behavior and the answer is, “That is just the way I am”, is missing out on one of the best things of life; the ability to reinvent ourselves to be better people.

HILLCREST LEADERSHIP

I know most of the boards in the Hillcrest community. Almost all are run by people who really want to do what is best for their building. Of course, there are always a few who use their power over people for the wrong reasons and a few even benefit financially from their position which is illegal. But for the most part, those who serve on boards have the best of intentions and Hillcrest is a very well-run, clean, safe and financially stable community.

My beef is with those unit owners who do nothing but look to find fault in everything the boards do. You know the type, the unit owners who always have something to say about how things “should be done”. In my building, we have a hard working board for the most part, especially since we do not have a property manager. But like everywhere else, we have our little contingent of “mean girls” (some are guys), who can’t shut the hell up at board meetings. Two of them even claim they “control” a couple members of the board. They are not above vindictive behavior and spreading malicious rumors about anyone they believe can threaten their perceived behind the scenes power. The board even established committees, so unit owners can be part of the process regarding issues they feel strongly about. But mean girls just aren’t team players; the only way to avoid criticism is to do nothing. Only doers can make a mistake – or make a difference.

One of my favorite building presidents is intelligent, competent and takes no crap from anyone; BUT he also manages to stay fair, open-minded and refuses to engage in any type of retaliatory behavior against those who piss him off. He really is a great human being. He sent me the following quote which every board should post.

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

We have elections coming up on August 28th. Some are Primary elections to choose the final candidates for a variety of State positions and some hit closer to home. I have said it before, we are BLESSED to have the leaders that we have here in Hollywood. Our Mayor, City Manager and Commissioners ALL have the best of intentions. Some are limited by their knowledge, intelligence and research abilities, but pure of heart must count for something.

On February 26th, Hollywood got a new Police Chief who has incredibly big shoes to fill. Our current Chief Chris O’Brien has

been blessed to have inherited a department that is better than it has ever been thanks to Chief Tomas Sanchez who retired after 30 years. Sanchez raised the bar on ensuring that the Hollywood Police department consists of good cops who are good people. My thoughts, prayers and good wishes go to Chief O’Brien. A Message from our new Chief is on page 8 which is really a tribute to the work of Chief Sanchez. I met Chief O’Brien last year when he was going through Leadership Hollywood. I am happy to see that he has reinforced his commitment to the programs he helped Chief Sanchez initiate and implement.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

And study the candidates so you are making the right choices. Inside Hillcrest, through interviews and research, has come up with a Wish List for the candidates who are running for office on August 28th. Our selections are bi-partisan and concern those positions that most directly impact us here in Hillcrest. See page 2 for our selections for our District’s Congressional Representative and County Commissioner as well as our picks for Circuit and County Court Judges and School Board members.

Standouts include QUENTIN “BEAM” FURR, a proven leader, the current Mayor of Broward County who served us well when he was a Hollywood City Commissioner. If you have read Beam’s article in IH every month, you know he is wise, knowledgeable and thoughtful. He puts his heart and soul into the job and should continue to serve as our District’s County Commissioner. And , ANN MURRAY should continue serving our district on the Broward County School board because of one of her best qualities – she never stops learning. She has been there and done that and learns from the board’s successes and failures so that her leadership skills are constantly improving.

THIS MONTH’S LESSON

You know the drill by now. Anything that happens to me is going to result in an education for you. Here is the back story: Years ago, ladies in my building were telling me about shingles from their own personal experience; how painful and horrible they were.



Building A Better Community

Continued on Pg. 2

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



Greetings Hillcrest Residents,

The residents of Hillcrest have an abundance of wisdom and life experience, ready to be shared. You have so much to offer our community, and the community would love to hear from you! Volunteering is an opportunity to share this knowledge with people who need it. Whether it is becoming a leader in a local organization, or spending just a few hours a week helping out in the library, there is no limit to the good you can

do when you volunteer. Volunteering gives a little joy to someone who needs it. I am glad to live in a county with so many residents who are willing to dedicate themselves to others. When we give our time to a cause, or an organization, or a person in need, we show people how good our community is – as individuals, as Broward residents, and as Americans. And while it is important that we all make time to care for ourselves, we should all be proud to give a little bit of time when we can to make our community better. I want to help you do that.

When I gave my acceptance speech on my first day as Mayor, I said that one of my top priorities was teaming up within the community. And one of the main things I wanted to team up on was working with volunteers. A lot has happened in the past year that none of us could anticipate. From heartbreaking tragedy to unprecedented economic growth, it has been Broward's busiest year ever. But I have never abandoned that core idea: that when Broward County teams up, we are at our very best. I can't think of a better group to team up with than Hillcrest residents like you. That's why I want to continue to encourage community activism, and help you become more involved as a volunteer.

There are many ways to volunteer in Broward County. Within Hillcrest alone, there are clubs and organizations that are dedicated to helping the community. I have seen first-hand how great these organizations are. And throughout your city, organizations like United Way and the Boys and Girls Club of Broward County are making their mark. I encourage you to check these options out as well.

But if you are looking for a more broad and accessible way to volunteer, the best way to get involved is through Hands On Broward. Hands On Broward is an organization dedicated to connecting you to places to volunteer in Broward County that fit what you can do and what you want to do. By logging on to <https://www.handsonbroward.org/>, you can fill out a volunteer profile, and the site will match you to volunteer opportunities that meet your interests. You can also search their large database for organizations yourself. If you just want to see what kind of opportunities are coming up, they have an extensive volunteer calendar that shows you exactly when, where, and how you can get involved in Broward County. You can also call 954-233-1300 for the same options and information. Opportunities include:

- Volunteering at a Broward County library, helping to check out books for patrons.
- Providing mentorship and tutoring to students in need.
- Helping create a garden with the Broward Health Planning Council.
- Doing a beach sweep with the Kids Ecology Corps.
- Working the front desk at a fabulous local museum.

I have been thrilled over the past year by how so many Broward residents have stepped up and become true advocates for their community. The entire nation has watched as a generation of young people have stepped up and found a calling that they can be involved in. But it doesn't stop there. Broward residents have helped clean up beaches, promote clean water, build new homes, feed the homeless, staff hurricane shelters, and much, much more. If you have been involved, thank you. And if you haven't, it's never too late! Now is the perfect time to start. There is always a need, if you have the desire. Our community would benefit greatly from your knowledge and talent.

If you ever have any questions about how to get involved, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office. We are always on-hand to help point you in the right direction. I hope to see you out there very soon!

Continued from Pg. 1

They had me so scared that I went to the doctor for a shingles vaccination (I had chicken pox when I was a kid, so apparently, I was at risk). The doctor informed me I had to be 60 years old to get vaccinated. I was 58. I could still get the shot if I "lied about my age" – so I did. \$245.00 later, I asked for the receipt to file with my insurance. The doctor answered, "you can't get reimbursed; you lied about your age." Touché. But I didn't care, I was relieved.

Fast forward to two weeks ago. I felt a zit coming on under the skin of my chin. But then I started to break out in a rash – on the right side of my chin, had a sore throat on the right side, earache – you guessed it – on the right side and a dull headache. Guess what I had? Yes, Shingles. HUH?! I was pissed. See page 12 for the rest of the story.

SERVICE ANIMALS AND WASHER/DRYERS

And the debate continues to rage...on both issues. We all know that one of the downsides of Hillcrest is the lack of the ability to have a Washer/Dryer in each unit. Some thoughts on that are

inside along with another reader comment on the growing number of "service animals" in our buildings. As with any controversy, the solution lies in the willingness of people to be mindful of the inherent rights of others; when accommodations have been made for them, they should reciprocate in kind. Entitlement is the new plague in our society.

A FINAL THANK YOU

David Treece, president of Treece Financial Group, helped one of my clients years ago who made a profit from his condo before moving into the ALF and was in danger of being penalized. Long story short, David put it in a special needs trust which gave my guy peace of mind and funds to fall back on should he ever need them. He recently passed away unexpectedly and was able to bequeath the money to his dearest friend who stuck by him all these years. This is the second client of mine who David has helped. The first is well into his 90's and doesn't have to worry about outliving his money. People like David Treece are rare, and I am grateful he is one of our Hillcrest partners.

MEET THE MEN BEHIND DISASTERSTRUCK AND MR. RESTORATION
 - by Steve Schneider

(Ed Note: We asked our IH reporter Steve Schneider to write about two of our advertisers who have been VERY good to our Hillcrest buildings. Ilya Levitis was responsible for getting our buildings more money after Hurricane Irma even after the Insurance companies' initial payment. At that time the name of his business was Florida State Public Adjusters (I am sure the light bulb just went on for some of our boards!). In one case, 140K turned into 305K; and in another 0 turned into several hundred thousand dollars.

pipes, water leaks, flooding, fire, vandalism and hurricane-related damage. Disasterstruck is located in Hallandale and has been in business for 12 years.



Steve Rowe, a Chamber member and a US Army veteran, has done a stellar job for our buildings who have had flooding problems as well as for our unit owners who have had similar problems. MR. Restoration is fast, efficient and in most cases, there are no out-of-pocket expenses; the insurance company is billed directly.

It pays to know Florida's insurance law and how insurance companies write their policies, say two South Florida business owners who help individuals and condominium associations recover from damaging events, including hurricanes.

Ilya Levitis, the owner of Disasterstruck Public Adjusters, Inc., helps people collect on insurance policies that cover burst



MR. RESTORATION
 WATER • MOLD • FIRE • SMOKE

Stephen Rowe, an owner of MR. Restoration, based in Plantation for six years, meets a different need related to a variety of damage homeowners and condo owners face. His company does work to correct problems from fire and smoke as well as mold, structural drying and removal of dry wall damaged by water. MR. Restoration also handles trauma scene cleanup that may involve a biohazard. Both companies have helped Hillcrest unit owners and Hillcrest condo associations over the years.

Disasterstruck efforts date back to 2006 and the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma; that is when Hillcrest first met Ilya Levitis. Disasterstruck and MR. Restoration are also working with Hillcrest to deal with the impact from Hurricane Irma last fall, with MR. Restoration initially working with Hillcrest buildings in 2012. The company provides services from the Keys to Tallahassee.

The two owners of MR. Restoration rely upon years of experience as insurance and public adjusters, according to Rowe. He spent four years as an insurance adjuster and six years as a public adjuster. Matthew Mailey, his partner, previously worked for a decade doing the same functions. Insurance adjusters work for the insurance company while public adjusters advocate for the insured party.

Based on the license the company has with the state of Florida, Rowe said MR. Restoration can accept assignment of benefits, so there might not be any out-of-pocket expenses for clients. That's because under the assignment provision of the law, the insurance company will pay MR. Restoration directly for work it performs on behalf of the client, Rowe said.

Disasterstruck offers a different kind of help; many times, he can reopen a claim and recover more funds for his clients. However, Levitis said a change in Florida's law whereby his clients used to have five years to reopen a case, the time to act has now been reduced to three years. (Fla. Stat. 627.70132). This time limitation is from the date the hurricane made landfall, not from when the insured party gave notice of the loss or when the insurance company provided the coverage determination.

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Continued from Pg. 6



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“So, there isn’t much time left to act” if someone wants to deal with left over problems from Hurricane Irma, Levitis said.

Levitis noted another important part of Florida’s insurance law that he can use to help his clients. He said that many insurance policies still contain an appraisal clause that allows him to resolve a dispute related to the amount of loss without having to hire an attorney and file a lawsuit. The appraisal provision lets him present his clients’ estimate of expected costs for repairs to an appraisal panel. Once the appraisal provision is entered into by the parties, it compels the insurance company to hire their own appraiser to review the expected costs for repairs. If the two appraisers can’t agree on an amount, Levitis explained, the appraisal provision requires appointment of a third party to review the two estimates and issue a decision that is binding on all parties.

Disasterstruck also knows how to deal with insurance policy deductibles. For example, Levitis said a policy may come with a \$200,000 deductible for roof damage. And the insurance company may claim only a small part of the roof needs to be repaired, which means the policy owner will have to foot the whole bill. However, there is a way to overcome this problem. Levitis said the Florida Building Code often requires an insurance company to replace the entire roof if more than 25% of it is damaged.

What’s more, he said, it is important to project costs properly. The insurance company may offer figures for expected costs that don’t match “market rates” which tend to go up after a natural disaster such as a hurricane, Levitis said. He added,

his company can also advocate for the client by noting there is no way to know how water will travel once it enters a structure. This unpredictable situation means the clients’ need may be greater than the insurance company anticipates.

Levitis said Disasterstruck has already helped many home owners overcome damage from Hurricane Irma. An example: an owner initially got an insurance check for \$25,000, he said. But after Disasterstruck got involved, the final settlement was much higher because the repair costs had been greatly undervalued by the insurance company. For information, contact Ilya Levitis at (954) 455-1380.

Rowe and Mailey can be reached at (954) 674-3400 or info@mrrestorationfl.com. Rowe noted both partners served the United States in the Army when they were younger men. He said the company’s motto is: “We served our country. Now let us serve you.”

LETTERS TO INSIDE HILLCREST

I rarely print letters to Inside Hillcrest although we get several each month. Most are very complimentary; people commenting about certain articles or just want to let us know they enjoy the paper in general. Others want to let us know that they had a great experience with one of our advertisers. In the past month, we received three calls – one complimenting Julie at **BIG LOCK AND KEY** and the other two thanking us for help with their homeowner’s and auto insurance from Sandy Briglio, our insurance go-to at **BRIGLIO INSURANCE**.

Most of the complaints are building specific and we try to reach out to the boards if we can keep the writer anonymous and see if we can help defuse situations.

We have written articles about “service animals” in the past and our take on it is that if someone needs an emotional comfort animal, who are we to judge. **HOWEVER**, those folks need to drop their entitled attitudes and start having some consideration for others. First of all, barking is unacceptable. True service animals do not bark – they are trained. If you have a service animal, it shouldn’t be left alone all day. You need it, you take it with you; although I want to puke when I see dogs in grocery stores.

I also believe that buildings need to accommodate people with allergies and pet owners should voluntarily designate a washer/dryer on each floor for the sole use of those who are allergic to pet dander. Although, there is **NO** reason people cannot have a stackable W/D in their unit as one building found out.

To put it simply, if someone has a 1/1/1 and are willing to give up the half-bath, it is a perfect place for a stackable washer/dryer. In 2 bedroom units, generally the closet in the second bedroom backs up onto the hall bathroom and can accommodate a stackable. Stringent rules need to be enforced such as mandatory leak detectors and mandatory replacement periods. All the work must be done by licensed electricians and plumbers **WITH** permits.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



Hollywood is a special place; a unique community made up of diverse types of people, cultures, and landscapes. It's a beautiful place to visit and an even better place to live. I am lucky to have grown up here, to have graduated from Hollywood Hills High School and to have pursued a career all in the same city.

After 20 years of working for the Hollywood Police Department, I am now honored to take on the role of Chief of Police for this department and city that holds a special place in my heart.

While the police department's primary responsibility is reducing crime, just as important is our commitment to establishing positive relationships with our community and investing in our youth. In 2017, we accomplished all three. Police Department personnel participated in numerous community events including Police Athletic League (PAL) summer camps, family re-unification, mentoring and reading programs, Thanksgiving food drive, Shop with a Cop, holiday toy drive, basketball games with local students, and community bike rides. These activities are crucial to building lasting relationships with the young people in our city who will soon be our future.

In 2017, the total number of calls for service increased to a record breaking 237,844. Of those, 121,601 were self-initiated by our Officers. Some of these self-initiated activities include park

and walks (Officers getting out of their vehicles and patrolling on foot), business checks, citizen contacts, and enhanced traffic enforcement.

I am pleased to report the City of Hollywood had an overall reduction in Part 1 Crimes of 8% for 2017, compared to 5% in 2016. The overall reduction in crime is a result of the Department's commitment to establishing partnerships, and positive relationships with our community members along with all the excellent work done by our Officers on a daily basis.

In 2017, the Police Department implemented the Offender-Focused Violent Crimes Initiative, which targets repeat violent offenders. Research shows that a small segment of a community is often responsible for a majority of the violent crimes. As a result of the initiative, violent crime decreased by 22% in 2017.

Our city faced many challenges this year, not the least of which was powerful Hurricane Irma, but through it all our officers and civilian employees were selflessly there for the community.

In order to successfully continue to make Hollywood a safer city to work, live, and play, it is our mission to work in partnership with our residents, business owners, and community.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the City of Hollywood in 2025, I look forward to leading this great department.

Chris O'Brien
Chief of Police



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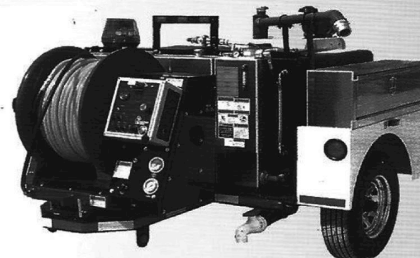
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August Kitchen Korner - by Cindy Abraham



Anyone who knows me knows that I truly believe that "Patience is a virtue" ...for somebody else. I make all the recipes I print so I will always let you know when "8 minutes" turns out to be 15. Like this one. The recipe times were a bit off, but the final result was worth the few minutes - delicious!

BURST GRAPE TOMATOES WITH PANCETTA

I always keep diced pancetta and diced prosciutto in the freezer. It keeps, and you never know when you will need a "bacon kick" in a recipe. I find both at Aldi's. Feel free to double or triple this recipe. This is perfect for two.

- 2 oz diced pancetta
- 3 TBS diced onion
- 2 chopped garlic cloves
- Salt and pepper
- 8 oz. grape (or cherry) tomatoes
- Toasted country bread or pita (you can roll them up before eating if you want)
- Ricotta cheese



In a large skillet over medium heat, cook pancetta stirring occasionally until fat is rendered - 8-10 minutes. Add onion, garlic and 1/4 tsp each salt/pepper. Cook, stirring often until onion is translucent, about 5 minutes.

Add tomatoes and shake the skillet to coat in the tomatoes in pancetta fat. Continue to cook, stirring and tossing until tomatoes burst, can take from 10 to 15 minutes. Continue to cook until the tomato juices and fat emulsify.

Toast sliced bread or pita halves and spread with ricotta cheese. Sprinkle with pepper and top with tomato mixture. Serve immediately.

KEY LIME ICE POPS

Some recipes sound crazy when you read the ingredients, but they also sound healthy, so I try them. Some turn out to be a delightful surprise. This is one of them. It is worth buying a bottle of Key Lime juice because you can use it anytime a recipe wants lime juice. Any time I buy limes I zest a few and keep it in the freezer.

I bought a plastic popsicle mold to make four pops but since you need 7 for this recipe and I throw away nothing. I also have lots of popsicle sticks which work great if you use small paper cups for this recipe. Just freeze for



about 30 minutes so the stick will stand up in the cup. Then when they are completely frozen, just peel off the paper cup and enjoy.

- 3/4 cup water
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar (I use turbinado)
- 4 large lime peel strips (you can substitute orange or lemon in a pinch)
- 1 1/2 cups chopped ripe avocado (2 avocado halves)
- 1/ cup plain reduced fat Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup bottled Key Lime Juice
- 2 tsp lime zest
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup chopped honey roasted nuts (I used pecans) or even shredded coconut

Boil the water with the sugar and lime peel strips in a small saucepan over medium. Reduce to medium and cook, stirring constantly until the sugar dissolves. Remove from heat and cool completely. Discard lime peel strips.

When it is cool, pour it into a food processor with the avocado, yogurt, Key lime juice, lime zest and vanilla. Blend until smooth. Pour into cups or ice-pop molds and sprinkle the top with nuts. After 30 minutes, insert the popsicle sticks and freeze for 3 hours before serving.

CRAZY PART TWO

This one sounded weird too but it tastes great; we have had it twice already. Publix sells bags of riced cauliflower which makes this one super easy. Or you can pulse raw cauliflower florets in a food processor until it resembles rice. Again, this serves two so add if you have more people.

CAULIFLOWER BOWLS

- 2 cups riced cauliflower
- 3 TBS olive oil - divided use
- 1/4 cup dried apricots roughly chopped (or fresh)
- 1 TBS fresh lemon juice
- 12 (or more) large peeled and deveined shrimp
- 1/2 tsp paprika
- 1/4 cup seedless cucumber cut into 1/2" pieces
- 2 TBS fresh mint leaves roughly chopped



Heat the 2 TBS oil in a large skillet over medium. Add cauliflower, apricots and 1/4 tsp each salt and pepper. Cook, stirring often until cauliflower begins to soften, about 5-6 minutes. Transfer to a large bowl and toss with lemon juice and one TBS oil.

Wipe out the skillet and add the last TBS oil. Season shrimp with paprika and 1/4 tsp salt. Cook shrimp until opaque throughout, a minute or so on each side.

Add cucumber and mint to cauliflower mixture and toss to combine. Divide into two bowls and top with shrimp. Serve.

HILLCREST'S OWN: KELLER WILLIAMS A TEAM FLORIDA



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Right now, are still in somewhat of a Seller's Market; for homes as well as condos. When our sellers heed our advice, homes sell within 32 days and our condos in less than 47 days. Yes, the market can shift at any time due to economic changes; but when you hire the A Team, you are hiring strategists, not sale people. We are successful because we stay AHEAD of the market fluctuations, we don't chase them.

Today's buyers have very different challenges, so our sales strategies have changed dramatically. Our goal is always to top the last highest comparable sale, and our sellers who listen and take our advice will tell you that we hit our goal every time!

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August State of the Market

- by Cindy Abraham, Keller Williams Realty Professionals A Team Florida



Hillcrest has sold 91 of the 211 condo sales since January 1, 2018. A three bedroom unit sold for \$265,000.00 and thirteen of the fifty-five 2-bedroom sales this year sold for over \$150,000. Six of the 35 one-bedroom sales came in at over 100K. As more people are learning about Hillcrest because of our new Parkview neighbors, our values are slowly rising.

Being the "Hidden Jewel in Hollywood" is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, we have enjoyed a quiet, serene life in larger-than-most condos with nice views in a great City. On the other hand, we have been undervalued for years. Thanks to the diligence of

our respective associations, we rarely have problems with financially irresponsible neighbors. However, recently an old problem came up again.

Apparently, it is cheaper to buy a condo to operate a non-profit (like a church) than to buy commercially. The targets for this activity are the buildings that have a lot of parking – buildings 25, 26 and 27. The background checks kept things kosher for a while – I lost an offer last year for one of my own sellers when the association figured out the buyers were up to something. However, one congregation managed to slip in one of the buildings and used the unit for their congregation to meet for prayer services until the association took legal action.

Be on the lookout for other "businesses" looking to buy a condo for business purposes. The units that are the closest to the outside entrances are the prime targets because the clients don't have to go through the lobby. I remember years ago we had to be vigilant when screening buyers for Unit 120 in buildings 21 through 24. Everyone from hairdressers to piano teachers were looking to buy one of these back in the day. Granted, hairdressers are quieter than piano teachers (can you imagine?!) but we are a residential community and we like it that way.

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INSIDE HILLCREST PICKS FOR THE AUGUST 28, 2018 ELECTIONS

Representative in Congress – District 24 – We cannot in good conscience endorse either one – it is a race of an unqualified candidate vs. one who has become too partisan to be effective

County Commissioner District 6 – QUENTIN “BEAM” FURR – former Hollywood Commissioner, now serving as the Mayor of Broward County who not only does a GREAT JOB but is a great man!

Circuit Judge, 17th Judicial Circuit

Group 8 - **Ernest Albert Kollra** – the better choice for experience and temperament

Group 36 - **Shari Beth Africk-Olefson** – opponent’s history worries me

Group 38 - **Linda Marie Leali** – in tune with the times

Group 39 - **Susan Lynn Alspector** - Both qualified but Alspector is running on her own merits

Group 42 - **Michael Usan** – has done a good job in the past

Group 43 - **DAN CASEY – BEST CHOICE** – the combination of experience and integrity can't be beat

Group 46 – **Walter “Dale” Miller** – well qualified and served our country

County Court Judge

Group 9 - **Leonore M Greller** – responsive and competent

Group 10 – **Robert “Bob” Diaz** – doing a great job so I see no reason to replace him

Group 11 - **Michael Davis** – although I like his opponent personally, he is the better choice

Group 19 – **Allison Gilman** – we always need someone with a heart

Group 25 – **Robert W. Lee** – experienced and opponent’s history not that strong

School Board Members

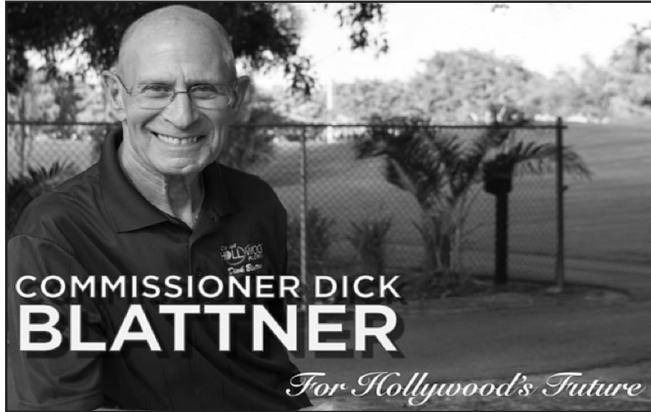
District 1 – **ANN MURRAY – BEST CHOICE** – knowledgeable, devoted, ethical and accessible

School Board At Large Seat 8 - Donna Korn



AUGUST 2018 COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

by Commissioner Dick Blattner



This is the quiet period for Commissioners. Our last meeting was July 3 and our next one will be August 29. I never liked this dead time, preferring to keep busy. Nevertheless, looking back--and ahead-- it wasn't so bad. Let's take a look.

Plantation Preserve. This is perhaps the best golf course in Broward. The folks who are advocating for improvements at Orangebrook wanted us to use this as a model, so, most of the Commissioners joined about a dozen advocates for a tour. The Preserve portion is absolutely spectacular. I would walk it weekly if it was in my neighborhood. The course is excellent and there's also a lovely club house. We learned a lot which will help us make decisions about the future of Orangebrook, and there is a future.

Orangebrook. National Golf Foundation just submitted their report and analysis on options for this 36-hole course. We will rip into this soon as part of our discussions on the General Obligation Bond scheduled for March.

Oakwood. The developers of Dania Point also own Oakwood, which in my opinion is a very important economic engine for Hollywood, but very obsolete and underperforming. Kimco is developing plans which will include a significant residential component. This will take time to make its way through the process, which includes the Commission, County Planning Council, County Commission etc. I am hopeful that permitting could start in three years.

Sunset. This abandoned 9-hole golf course on Johnson at I-95 now looks like Enid, Oklahoma after a tornado (with all due respect to Enid). It has been flattened and all the trees are gone. Pulte has an option on the property but before they pull the trigger, they are walking this through the Commission. My opinion: don't think this will work or make sense. Wait and see.

ERP stands for Enterprise Resource Planning and describes the software used to run the City's operations. It focuses in Finance, HR, and Payroll. The Finance/Procurement department is scheduled for installation in October. This is part of a long-range project that I think is a \$6 million investment. Phase 1 will run through June 2019 and should result in efficiencies for both staff and residents.

E-Permitting. A truly big deal. City is introducing electronic permitting for some categories, including: fence, doors and windows, AC, plumbing, sprinklers (this is not the full list). **Go to www.Hollywoodfl.org/epermit.** Plastic and Foam Containers. Starting October 1, any business east of the Intracoastal selling for intended

consumption by customers off premises, is prohibited from using these products. There's more at on the city's website if you click here. Straws should be next.

Gifted School. BCSB is launching the first school for gifted students by test. Over 80 students in the first class. This will open at Plantation High School and start with 9th grade; adding a grade each year. More on this later, but BCSB is joining many communities that have long ago identified the need to provide a higher level of rigor for students who are qualified and can handle it. If this work, look for more in geographic areas.

The Election. If you're voting by mail, you should have filled out your absentee ballots by now. Would be interesting to have a contest to see how many of us know who the judicial candidates are.

Entertainment

Read: "Fallen" (Balducci). Grabs you on page one

Reading: "Fascism - a Warning" by former Secretary of State

Madeleine Albright. History of fascism from 1920's to the present day. A great history lesson. Well written and easily read.

Next up: The Other Woman (Silva....one of my favorites)

This & That

Lola's, the long-time Harrison Street restaurant (Coca-Cola ribs) has been sold. Will reopen with a different concept.

Retro

Watched "High Noon: the other day. Enjoyed it; dated only by the slow pace. Next: Shane. Anyone want to share?

Also

I never watched Chaplin's The Great Dictator, which was produced in 1940 as a satire on Hitler and Mussolini. Little did Chaplin know. Watch it to the end and pay close attention to his final speech. Wow!

Upcoming meetings

August - 8/29 10:00. Workshop "Property Standards"

This is one we all asked for, so we have a better understanding of what the standards are, what we might want to add/change, and how to make them work.

1:00pm Commission meeting • 5:00pm Citizen Comments

September

9/5: 10:00 CRA. 1:00 Commission

9/12: 5:30 First Public Budget Hearing.

9/20: 1:00 Commission (Thursday as Wednesday is Jewish holiday)

9/26: 5:30 Second Public Budget Hearing

Finally

Lots of discussion concerning the CRA. I will send out a special comment in the next week or two. Until then, please call me at 954-558-0175 or email at dickblattner@gmail.com if you have any questions or comments.

August 2018 IT Security Tips

STOP OVERSHARING ON FACEBOOK!

This one is pretty obvious and therefore shouldn't need much introduction. Take these steps to boost privacy and limit how much Facebook—and its' partners and users—can learn about you! How did you really think this company became a \$350 billion-dollar giant?

- **Keep GPS Data Private:** Facebook can extract your location/ whereabouts from your mobile phone. You can easily turn this feature off by going into your iPhone settings, location services. For Android, go to Facebook Permissions in Application Manager.
- **Turn on Log-In Approvals:** This is Facebook's name for two-factor authentication. This keeps strangers/hackers from accessing your account – Even if they steal your password they can't get in because they'd need a second code that is only sent to your mobile phone.
- **Become Elusive:** There are different privacy settings for Facebook. You can make it as easy or hard as you want for people to find you on Facebook.
- **Leave a Group:** Facebook allows users to add friends to groups without their consent. But the good news is, you can remove yourself from any group by going to your Activity Log.
- **Reduce Ad Overload:** You know the posts that read, "so-and-so" likes this with a sponsored link? You can avoid being used in ads by tinkering with Facebook's Ad Settings.
- **Hide ID Theft Clues:** Your Birthday. Your hometown. Your Alma Mater. These are all things that Facebook can reveal to the world, and they're also answers to potential security questions.

Tighten Your Google Privacy

The Search Giant gives its' users way too much control....

Tweak the Settings: Go to My Account to control what data about YOU is being collected and how it is being shared with the websites you visit. In particular, go to the Personal Information & Privacy section to review Location, Search, and Youtube Search history. You can delete records one entry at a time or in one big sweep. You can also prevent Google from recording data moving forward. Privacy Checkup allows you to control what shows up on google+, the Social Network.

Make Google forget you: If you so wish, you can go push the big

red destruct button on Gmail, Google Drive and all of the rest, Google swears to it, that the data used to target you with ads will no longer exist. Simply go to My Account and look for Delete Your Account or Services. Be 100% sure that you want to do this (apparently you cannot undo this), and follow the prompts/process to rid of this function. Good luck!

Slip through the Phishing Nets

Do you remember the Pokemon Go scam? Hackers posed as Pokemon Go reaching out to users saying the games servers were overwhelmed and they were going to charge each account \$12.99. Well, this was a scam and the only way to find out are these ways below... because the email they received looked legitimate. The whole idea was to get your password!

- **Scoff at Fake Email Notices:** If an email looks odd or even makes you nervous, just do a little further investigating. It doesn't hurt to know before you make any moves.
- **Call Customer Service:** Be nervous and inquisitive if an institution asks YOU for your login credentials. Make a call to find out more.

Are you wondering if there are any holes in your Security Blanket? Let us help you. **Request a Cybersecurity Risk Assessment today.** Our assessment will let you know where the gaps are and offer strategic recommendations to help mitigate risk and protect your data from cyberattacks.

Sincerely,

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It is an expensive proposition for the unit owner, but when one has allergies, it is worth it. The downside is the extra cost to the building in water and the loss of laundry revenue. An additional maintenance fee of \$20 per month should cover it. I learned all this from the building president who allows W/Ds in his building because he also allows small dogs. He also advised me that when the option of each unit being allowed a W/D was offered - with the above restrictions - the response was MINIMAL. But at least folks have a choice.

This is one of the letters we received on the subject from a fellow Hillcrest:

I live in Hillcrest (I will not say what building in case of reprisals) and have noticed an incredible increase in "comfort/companion dogs" the past few years. Young singles and couples have dogs. One dog in particular barks constantly when the owner is not

home. I had thought the initial idea was for elderly folks who were alone/lonely to have special permission to have a dog. I have been told all one needs is a letter from a nurse that states a need for a "comfort/companion" dog and no one can stop these people. I have also been told dogs must be non-barking. Personally, I find it very aggravating since when I moved in I specifically chose a building that did not allow dogs. Please advise. Thanks.

My answer: "I feel your pain. I have severe pet allergies and when a woman on my floor in my previous building smuggled in a cat, I was on asthma medicine for 2 years not knowing why. The pet dander gets into the dryer vents. I moved to a building that allows cats (and yes, barking "service dogs") but I am fine because I have my own washer/dryer. I am going to print your letter and my answer in Inside Hillcrest. Pet owners need to have more courtesy in this environment."



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YOUR ANNUAL A/C TIPS



During the summer months as temperatures continue to rise: It's plain and simple – your A/C is one of the largest energy users in your home and can account for more than half of your energy bill. So, when your A/C runs longer, your energy bill is going to be higher.

There is a direct connection between outdoor temperatures and your energy usage. Your bill increases the hotter it gets outside because you're consuming more energy due to your A/C running longer to keep your home cool. During the summer your A/C runs twice as long as it does in cooler months to keep your home at the same temperature, which can result in higher than normal bills.

For example, if the outside temperature is 80 degrees and you have your thermostat set to 78 degrees, your A/C will need to cool your home just 2 degrees. However, when it's 90 degrees outside, your A/C will need to cool your home 12 degrees, running longer to keep the indoor temperature at 78 degrees.

Easy ways to save:

Here are some ideas to help you keep your energy consumption under control and help you save:

- Keep your thermostat at 78 degrees or warmer with the fan on "auto" and raise the thermostat setting to 82 degrees while you're away. For every one degree you increase in temperature, you can save about 5 percent on your monthly cooling costs.
- Use a fan to cool the room you're in but turn it off when you leave.
- Close shades, blinds and drapes to keep the sun's heat out.
- Maintain proper airflow by keeping interior doors and vents open to help air circulate.
- Clean or replace your A/C filter regularly to help your unit run more efficiently. Consider buying a new high-efficiency air conditioner and you may qualify for a \$150 rebate when you purchase your A/C system through a Participating Independent Contractor (PIC).