

JULY 2018

HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 7

JULY INSIDE HILLCREST

This is the semi-annual joke issue, so in that spirit, I am going to tell some stories that made me laugh over the past few years and put in a few plugs for our triedand-true advertisers who help make Inside Hillcrest happen.

FUNNY BUT TRUE

We have a new advertiser; but Coastal Painting is not new to me. Years ago, when I was the President of one of the buildings, we hired Coastal. They did an excellent job (and of course at a great price), and we liked the fact that we dealt directly with the company president, Steve. He was responsive and efficient. At the time, we had a problem with heavy winds driving in rain to the units on our east side. We needed to have the building waterproofed as well as painted, which involved caulking all the windows.

After the job was done, we were satisfied until one day, a unit owner called and complained that water was coming in his window. Without going up to check, I called Steve and huffily complained about the situation. Within the hour, Steve and his associate showed up and went up to survey the situation.

A few minutes later. Steve came to the office to announce that the problem was solved. I was skeptical, "Really, that fast?" Yes", answered Steve. "I told him to close his window." Geez...

I am happy that Coastal Painting is advertising with us because they have a long-standing, well-deserved reputation for quality work and reliability. They have served Hillcrest well and have been on our Condominium Preferred Vendor list for years.

GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

We could call this the Hillcrest 27 issue of Inside Hillcrest. Many of the funniest jokes came from Herman Melotti, Lynne Gurst, Elizabeth Cicero and of course our resident

ragin' Cajun, Boodro. Even the Kitchen Korner includes a recipe for Mango Bread from a guest at one of Boodro's famous shrimp boils.

SPEAKING OF BOODRO

One of my favorite stories (that he still doesn't find funny) involves him and a new security guard a few years back. Boodro was expecting his housekeeper, so he went to the security desk to tell the new guard that she was coming. He lives on the first floor, so he told the guard, "When Sandy gets here, go ahead and send her back." After about 30 minutes and no Sandy, he went back out to security to see what was going on.

The guard said, "She came in and I did what you said, I sent her back" - yep, she sent her back home. And yes, Sandy is our own Sandy Rodriguez, who advertises in IH. She and her sister are the best - we use them for all our listings.

HAIR HOUSE

I had a hair dresser friend who told people she worked in a "Hair House" and I thought that was a hoot. So here is a hairy story...

When we were little, my sister took after my mom's Dutch side of the family and was fair-skinned with platinum blonde hair (AND she has dimples). I took after my dad, the Lebanese side, and was dark-haired with olive skin. Oddly enough, as she grew older, her hair darkened. But I was taken by surprise that as I grow older, my hair started coming in platinum blonde. I know, I know, just humor me...

So of course, I need to dye the roots.



The first year I was with Brian, I didn't want him to know I had to dye my roots (because of the platinum blonde coming in you remember), so I waited until he was out of the house to do it. After a few months. my darling 6-foot tall boyfriend said, "Honey, the next time you do your roots, let me help - you miss a lot." So much for secret vanity...

Of course, now I have Frank Wilson, master colorist, come to the house and do it right. Not as cheap as out- of-thebox, but completely affordable. He comes over, touches up the roots and leaves. I set the timer for 30 minutes while I continue doing whatever and when the alarm goes off, I jump in the shower and voila! Fast and easy.

Almost as fast is the whole 3 minutes I drive to get to Q-Spa for Mariel at Q-Spa for Mariel to cut my hair. I am in and out in 20 minutes - Mariel is that fast AND good. Q-Spa has a variety of services; all of which they do very well; whether it is hair-related, a mani-pedi, facial or massage. The atmosphere is relaxing, and their specials are always featured inside every issue of IH.

SPEAKING OF DIMPLES

I was sitting at the airport and I love to talk to kids everywhere I go, so I couldn't resist talking to Louie, a tough little 4-yearold from New York. He looked and sounded like a mini-Good Fella. And he had dimples. Of course, I had to say something about his "cute dimples". At that, he took a stance with legs straddled, hands on hips and gruffly announced, "Dem ain't dimples! Dem's where the angels kissed me!"

Now that I got a smile out of you - enjoy vour read.

I used to wonder what it would be like to be able to read other people's minds. Then I got a Facebook account and now I'm over it.

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



Greetings Hillcrest Residents,

Every Fourth of July, we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In 1776, a band of immigrants envisioned a better future for this place, and put those high ideals into words with the notion that we commit ourselves to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." At the time, there was no United States of America – but there was a belief that people should have the right to govern themselves and find a better life.

This country was built on the promise that people could come here and make a life for themselves and their family without the threat of persecution. Recent images that we have seen in the news have made these words well-worth remembering.

The images of children that were separated from their families and put behind chain-linked fences broke the hearts of millions of Americans over the past month. I believe that this is not in the character of who we are. It is not the character of our diverse Broward County. And it is not the character of a welcoming United States.

Broward County is dedicated to providing care and resources to every vulnerable child, no matter where they come from or why they came. We have a responsibility to look out for the youngest and most in-need among us, and that includes our immigrant children and their family. Broward County has one of the largest immigrant populations in the United States of America. We know that diversity is our strength, not our weakness. While it is ok to have diverging views on the immigration process, our common humanity should always win out when it comes to the images of children locked behind fences. That's why Broward County provides resources to children in need, through our Children's Services Council, ChildNet, and support for Guardian AdLitem programs.

In my capacity as Chair of the Children's Services Council, I was pleased to give a speech on this issue to a large crowd at a rally in Fort Lauderdale. In addition, the CSC released an op-ed, detailing our strategic plan and priorities for young people going through Adverse Childhood Experiences. It has been inspiring to see so many join together to have a productive conversation about this important issue. My hope is that we will all continue to approach this discussion with the best intentions at heart, and fight for the safety of all our children.

School and Community Safety Taskforce

Over the past several months, I served as co-chair, alongside Mayor Mike Ryan of Sunrise, on the School and Community Taskforce, which was formed in response to the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas. The taskforce was organized by the Broward League of Cities, and was comprised of agencies from all around the County, including law enforcement, school board, and municipal officials. Our intention was to produce a report on what needed to be done to improve our entire school and community safety capability. The final report was released in May, and featured insight on how everyone involved could coordinate better at every level of the process, and what steps we need to take in order to make our schools and community safer. The reason this taskforce worked well was because various agencies, such as the Children's Services Council, the County, the Cities, and the Broward School Board, were open and honest with their information. I look forward to continuing to work with all involved to make sure our children are safe in their school and their community.

Transportation Surtax

A couple of months ago, my Inside Hillcrest article was about transportation in Broward County, and the possibility of a surtax vote in November. This is no longer a hypothetical. This November, voters will cast their ballots on this issue, and decide whether to approve Broward County's long-term plan for transportation improvements and enhancements. Our transportation plan includes 73 major intersection improvements, 46 miles of expanded roads, 40 miles of new sidewalks, 27,000 feet of drainage along roadways, 9 miles of resiliency improvements, 95 miles of greenways, and 75 miles of fiber optic cables that will be used for traffic light synchronization. You can learn more by visiting broward.org/penny for transportation. Over the coming months, we will be providing further information at meetings around the County, so be on the lookout.





A girl asks her boyfriend to come on Friday night to meet, and have a dinner with her parents. Since this is such a big event, the girl announces to her boyfriend that after dinner she would like to go out and make love for the first time.

The boy is ecstatic, but he has never had sex before either, so he takes a trip to the pharmacy to get some condoms. He tells the pharmacist it's his first time

and the pharmacist helps the boy for about an hour. He tells the boy everything there is to know about condoms and sex. At the register, the pharmacist asks the boy how many condoms he'd like to buy, a 3-pack, 10-pack, or family pack. The boy insists on the family pack because he thinks he will be rather busy, it being his first time and all.

That night, the boy shows up at the girl's parents house and meets his girlfriend at the door. "Oh, I'm so excited for you to meet my parents. Come on in!"

The boy goes inside and is taken to the dinner table where the girl's parents are seated. The boy quickly offers to say grace and bows his head. A minute passes, and the boy is still deep in prayer, with his head down. 10 minutes pass, and still no movement from the boy.

Finally, after 20 minutes with his head down, the girlfriend leans over and whispers to the boyfriend, "I had no idea you were this religious." The boy turns, and whispers back, "I had no idea your father was a Pharmacist."



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SPOTLIGHT ON MEREDITH SHUSTER, HILLCREST 26 - by Steve Schneider



In June, a Hillcrest 26 woman sang at Carnegie Hall in Manhattan. This was Meredith Shuster's first time in New York City, as she joined 47 other members of the Nova Singers. The local group, sponsored by Nova Southeastern University, melded with a larger contingent called the Masterwork Festival Chorus. This chorus of around 200 performed a recent work by Dan Forrest, an American composer. The piece, Jubilate Deo, is a 40-minute composition sung in seven languages. It is based on Psalm 100, which instructs all lands to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Musical masters from Tchaikovsky and Gershwin to Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday have graced the world-renowned venue, as have The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. Perhaps echoes from these towering figures prompted Shuster to "feel part of a community, to feel part of that art world" as she made her way through the building. Or maybe she conjured the unvarnished voice of Bob Dylan or the warm tones of Stevie Wonder reverberating in the halls of Carnegie Hall.

Shuster and the other singers left their old dressing rooms on Monday, June 11, before 8 p.m. They walked down narrow hallways and on wood floors that creaked. Finally, the 24-year Hillcrest resident said, everyone arrived at a stairway that rose up into the building. The stairs took the performers to a narrow part of the stage. Shuster then walked out to what she called "an expanse and the warmth of the stage, which let me look out and see the beautiful balconies."

Those balconies, indeed all seating in the various Carnegie Hall auditoriums, provide temporary lodging for music lovers. The entertainment takes place against a backdrop of midtown Manhattan, with the south entrance to Central Park only a two-block hansom cab trot away. Chorus members took their places on the Perelman Stage of the Stern Auditorium, which seats 2,804 people. It is the largest auditorium in the iconic brick building, which opened in 1891.

Shuster, a paralegal for the city of Ft. Lauderdale, serves as a volunteer with Nova Singers, as do all the other members. By flying to Manhattan, she crossed out a line on her bucket list; she had finally visited this major American city, if only for a long weekend that started on a Friday evening. The Manhattan sojourn culminated a few nights later in a standing ovation and an encore after the completion of Jubilate Deo.

The joy of the performance, Shuster said, was enhanced by something unexpected. "I didn't know how many people would come on a Monday night," she said. "But it turns out Broadway is closed that night, so not only was the audience full, but leading musicians from Broadway shows played in the orchestra."

The Nova Singers, in their 42nd year, were invited to Carnegie Hall, in part, because they had premiered Jubilate Deo to South Florida audiences in March 2017, according to Chuck Stanley, the artistic director.

They also included some of the seven movements in their March and May concerts this year. The movements are sung in Latin, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Hebrew, Zulu, Spanish and English, Stanley said. The piece was commissioned by Henry Leck, the founder and conductor laureate of the Indianapolis Children's Choir, who led the choir singers at Carnegie Hall. The Nova Singers have appeared twice before at the Manhattan music hall; first in 1990 and again in 2000.

The 2018 New York City appearance was a long time in coming for Shuster, who joined the choir in 2001, at the invitation of a friend. Shuster remembers auditioning for Peggy Barber, the choir founder, who played piano. The test involved singing notes Barber played. At one point, though, a cell phone went off, and Shuster said she sang that note instead. "Everyone laughed and I got to join the group."

Said Stanley, who was not at Shuster's audition, "The audition is to ensure that the singer has a good ear and would be able to match pitches with the other singers in their section of the choir. This is one of the key requirements for entry in the Nova Singers." Obviously, he added, "Meredith has a good ear if she was able to match the pitch coming from the cell phone."

INSIDE HILLCREST

JULY 2018



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Never make a woman mad. They can remember stuff that hasn't even happened yet.

Arguing with a woman is like reading a Software License agreement. In the end you have to ignore everything and click "I agree".

If a woman says, "First of all..." during an argument, run away. Because she has prepared research, data, charts and she will destroy you.

A wise man once said nothing.

Lessons Learned

Some things are better left unsaid. And I usually realize it right after I say them.

Been there, done that. And then I've been there several more times because apparently I never learn.

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But this is definitely an exception:

- Do you have feelings of inadequacy?
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of Cabernet Sauvignon may cause you to tell your friends over and over again that you love them. The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may cause you to think you can sing. The consumption of Cabernet Sauvignon may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter, faster and better looking than most people.

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* * THE 60TH HIGH SCHOOL REUNION * *

He was a widower and she a widow. They had known each other for many years, having been high school classmates and having attended class reunions in the past, without fail.

This 60th anniversary of their class, the widower and the widow made a foursome with two other singles. They had a wonderful evening, their spirits high, with the widower throwing admiring glances across the table and the widow smiling coyly back at him. Finally, during one dance, he picked up courage to ask her, "Will you marry me? After about 6 seconds of careful consideration, she answered, "Yes... yes, I will!" Needless to say, the evening ended on a happy note for the widower.

However, the next morning he was troubled. Did she say Yes, or did she say No? He couldn't remember. Try as he would, he just could not recall. He went over-and-over the conversation of the previous evening, but his mind was blank. He remembered asking the question, but for the life of him could not recall her response.

With fear and trepidation, he picked up the phone and called her. First, he explained that he couldn't remember as well as he used to. Then he reviewed the past evening. As he gained a little more courage, he then inquired of her, "When I asked if you would marry me, did you say yes or did you say no?

"Why, you silly man, she replied, I said Yes. Yes, I will! And I meant it with all my heart!" The widower was delighted. He felt his heart skip a beat. Then she continued. "And I'm so glad you called, because I couldn't remember who asked me!"

* * * * TRUISMS 1 2 3 * * * *

- 1. The best teachers show you where to look but don't tell you what to see.
- 2. You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have.
- 3. Don't look back. You're not going that way.

* * * * * * WHO DAT? * * * * * *

Boudreaux, the smoothest-talking Cajun in the Louisiana National Guard, got called up to active duty. Boudreaux's first assignment was in a military induction center.

Because he was a good talker, they assigned him the duty of advising new recruits about government benefits, especially the GI insurance to which they were entitled.

The officer in charge soon noticed that Boudreaux was getting a 99% sign-up rate for the more expensive supplemental form of GI insurance. This was remarkable, because it cost these low-income recruits \$30.00 per month for the higher coverage, compared to what the government was already providing at no charge. The officer decided he'd sit in the back of the room at the next briefing and observe Boudreaux's sales pitch.

Boudreaux stood up before the latest group of inductees and said, "If you has da normal GI insurans an' you goes to Afghanistan an' gets youself killed, da govment' pays you benefishery \$20,000. If you takes out da suppmental insurans, which cost you only t'irty dollars a munt, den da governmen' gots ta pay you benefishery \$400,000! Now," Boudreaux concluded, "which bunch you tink da governmen' gonna send ta Afghanistan first?"

* * * A FEW IMPORTANT RULES TO TEACH YOUR DAUGHTER * * *

- Travel light through life. Keep only what you need.
- It's okay to cry when you're hurt. It's also okay to smash (some) things; but, wash your face, clean your mess, and get up off the floor when you're done. You don't belong down there.
- If you're going to curse, be clever. If you're going to curse in public, know your audience.
- Seek out the people and places that resonate with your soul.
- Just because you can, doesn't mean you should.
- 5-second rule. It's just dirt. There are worse things in a fast food cheeseburger.
- You are a woman, you may WANT a man, you do NOT NEED a man!
- Happiness is not a permanent state. Wholeness is. Don't confuse these.
- Never walk through an alley alone.
- Be less sugar, more spice, and only as nice as you're able to without compromising yourself.
- Can't is a cop-out.
- Hold your heroes to a high standard. Be your own hero.
- If you can't smile with your eyes, don't smile. Insincerity is nothing to aspire to.
- Never lie to yourself.
- Your body, your rules.
- If you have an opinion, you better know why.

- Practice your passions.
- Ask for what you want. The worst thing they can say is no.
- Wish on stars and dandelions, then get to work to make them happen.
- Stay as sweet as you are.
- Fall in love often. Particularly with ideas, art, music, literature, food and far-off places.
- Fall hard and forever in love with nothing but yourself.
- Say Please, Thank You, and Pardon Me, whenever the situation warrants it.
- Reserve "I'm sorry" for when you truly are.
- Naps are for grown-ups, too.
- Question everything, except your own intuition.
- You have enough. You are enough. Know your worth.
- You are amazing! Don't let anyone ever make you feel you are not. If someone does....walk away. You deserve better.
- No matter where you are, you can always come home.
- Be happy and remember your roots, family is EVERYTHING.
- Say what you mean and mean what you say.
- No one will ever love you more than I do.
- Be kind; treat others how you would like them to treat you.
- If in doubt, remember whose daughter you are and straighten your crown.
- Always pray.

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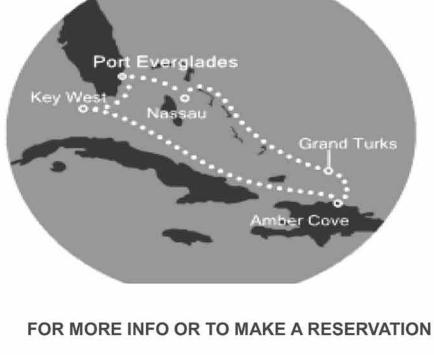
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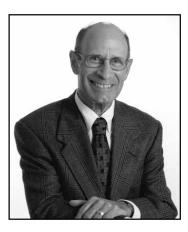
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COMMISSIONER DICK BLATTNER Some Words on Leadership



Leadership. Who is responsible? Millions of words have been written on the subject. Mine are unscientific but may be helpful in simplifying the importance of good leadership.

Until maybe 8-10 years ago, few people were enthusiastic about going to Ft. Lauderdale High School. Then the School Board built a new building and within a year or two, people were literally standing in line to get in. Still are.

I don't think the new facility was as responsible for the change in attitude and perception as...a new principal.

Never met the lady and don't know her name. But she recruited a talented teacher core, hired very competent administrators, and now Ft. Lauderdale High School is one of the best in the State. They also added the Cambridge curriculum, the same now offered by South Broward HS (excellent principal) which is now at capacity, and at Attucks Middle, a feeder to South Broward.

At McArthur, there is a charismatic principal who has filled the building with a variety of programs, built amazing spirit and pride, and has raised academic results significantly.

Is there any confusion between who gets to steer and who sets the course? It's easy to steer: just stay away from icebergs. It's much harder to set course because you have to know where you are, where you are going and the best way to get there. I think we steer too much and don't take enough time to set a course and it's taking forever to get to our intended destination. So, who is responsible?

Every organization has someone in charge: Captain, CEO, Chief, Mayor, City Manager; etc. They set the course and then turn the ship over to those who steer. Are the directions clear? Is the destination/ goal clear? Does the staff or team buy in? Is the Captain on the bridge or in his bunk? It is hard to say.

Organizations are not democracies. We don't all get a vote; yet, we all signed on or elected, so do we have responsibility for carrying out the mission?

I say, without fear of contradiction: "Yes." Our responsibility is to not only do the best we can, but to find ways to help others around us do their best; rise to the occasion and learn how to avoid the icebergs. And if sometimes it seems as if failure is inevitable, now, choices are made: stick it out in the hope things will get better; abandon ship and find a newer one with a respected captain; or harder yet, try to make changes from within. Risky, that one.

But if there is a point to stress for all of us on the crew, it would be: lead, follow or get out of the way and make room for others.

Klink

Continued from Pg.4

Stanley described Shuster's voice this way: She "sings in the Alto section of the choir and she has what I would describe as a beautiful, "rich" alto sound. And, since she is a good musical sight-reader, she is a leader in her section and helps others who can't read as well. The richness of her voice also helps to set a standard for tone in the alto section and is a good model for others to emulate.""

Shuster is aware of the power of her voice, Stanley said, and modulates it to blend in because the "goal in choral singing is to have many singers in a section sound more like a singular voice so that you don't hear individual voices sticking out over the rest." To learn more about the Nova Singers, go to nova. edu/novasingers.

Between practice sessions, Shuster got to see some of midtown Manhattan. The Wisconsin native, whose husband passed away in 2012, enjoyed walking along 5th Avenue, in search of a pair of earrings to buy to remember her trip. At one point, though, big, foreboding, unsmiling doormen silently encouraged her to keep walking past a few prestigious jewelry stores. Fortunately, she felt welcome at Tiffany's, where she purchased "little infinity earrings in rose gold."

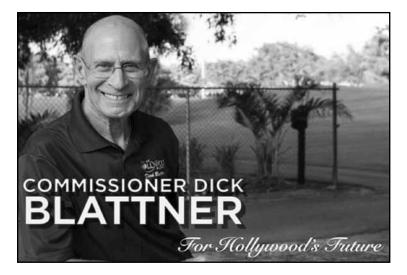
Shuster also took in three plays, including two on Broadway, and watched the Tony Awards on a big screen television in a bar at the Top of the Rock in Rockefeller Center.

A Catholic, she attended Sunday morning mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The 10:15 a.m. mass was offered by Cardinal Timothy Michael Dolan, the 10th Archbishop of New York. Celebrating her life-long love of singing, Shuster joined with the church cantor, choir and parishioners as they sang religious hymns.

The New York City excursion allowed Shuster to do something inscribed on a sign on the front door to her condo: Just Sing.

JULY 2018 COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

by Commissioner Dick Blattner



Tuesday July 3 was our final Commission meeting until August 29. This is our vacation period; but you can always reach me via email or phone.

While we are gone, at least theoretically, staff will also be scheduling their time off while the Finance and Budget people will be hunched over their desks working to firm up the projected budget for 2019. More on that later.

Comments on recent meetings

• Arranged for a line of credit with City National Bank. This is actually a reserve to assist the City in meeting costs that could arise during hurricane season.

• Accepted a Quit Claim Deed from the Armory Board of the State Department of Military affairs for conveyance of the Armory building at 901 N. Dixie Highway. The building is basically a barn and requires a significant investment on our part for ADA compliance etc. Funds to accomplish this, and repurpose the building, could come from the General Obligation Bond referendum planned for March. Still, we absolutely can use this facility.

• **Appropriated \$83,245** to purchase RFID system for HPD. This tagging system will allow for more rapid identification and logging of seized property.

• **Appropriated \$1.1 million** for phases of the septic-to-sewer conversation program.

• Extended all our sanitation service provider contracts for six months while we navigate the complex issues of garbage, bulk waste and junk, and recycling.

• **Passed much more rigorous noise standards,** making it easier to issue citations for excessive noise.

• Approved closing portions of Harding Street near 441, so that through traffic will be prohibited. This is part of the Toyota of Hollywood project, scheduled to open this month. \$30 million building cost and the dealership will hire up to 100 additional employees. Great addition to the landscape.

• **Approved an \$80,000 contract** for a Dune Master Plan. The Committee has already met twice.

• **Had a long discussion** on the 3rd trying to determine what kind of lifeguard stands we need on the beach. The current stands are more than 20 years old, made of wood, and failing. We Commissioners can rival Congress in kicking the can down the road. Agony.

Now for the budget discussion

While the value of Hollywood properties has increased 9.06%, most of that money will go to personnel services for 2019. We project this will be a very tight year. In the workshops and during the Commission meeting Tuesday, we agreed to keep the total millage rate for residents at the same rate as this year's. By that I mean that we have set the not-to-exceed millage rate at that level.

When we hold Public Meetings (September 12 and 26, 5:30 in City Hall), we can vote to lower the rate, but not raise it. We are increasing the Fire Rescue fee from \$225 to \$280. That is because only 2.5% of the cost of running HFD is in the General Fund.

For those who have been asking, I need to make it clear the Beach CRA will be transferring \$3.5 million to the City General Fund to keep the rate as is, but there are other funds that still need to be calculated for us to determine a final number. This includes \$1.4 from the Seminoles.

We still face challenges with unfunded pension liabilities, which will take a long, long time, to reduce.

On the November ballot

The State Charter Amendment includes one which grants an additional \$25,000 exemption for all homes valued between \$100,000 and \$150,000. It will pass; however, the cost to Hollywood will be more than \$4.5 million, causing another tax issue in 2020. Just another illustration that nothing in government is free.

Other News

• The US Army Corps of Engineers has allocated funding for beach re-nourishment caused by Hurricane Irma. This will mean 123,200 cubic yards of sand for the area from Port Everglades to Hallandale. Usually we have to pledge our firstborn children to get the Corps to loosen the purse strings. The city has its own re-nourishment plan for later, but this is really good news.

• The U.S. Secretary of the Treasury has certified two Opportunity Zones in Hollywood, designed to spur economic development. This sounds promising and I will be meeting with staff this week to gain a more complete understanding of how these zones work.

Hope you enjoyed your 4th of July celebration. If you are going on vacation, be safe and have a good time. And remember: it's Hurricane Season, so you should have stocked up on supplies by now.







I saw a woman wearing a sweatshirt with 'Guess' on it. So, I said 'Implants?'

Why is it that our children can't read a Bible in school, but they can in prison?

How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?

There is great need for a sarcasm font.

How the hell are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?

Bad decisions make good stories.

Shirts get dirty. Underwear gets dirty. Pants? Pants never get dirty, and you can wear them forever.

Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone, and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey - but I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time.

The first testicular guard, the "Cup," was used in Hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974. That means it only took 100 years for men to realize that their brain is also important.

Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.

Nothing irks me more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.

You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.

I keep some people's phone numbers in my phone just so I know not to answer when they call.

I disagree with Kay Jewelers. I would

YOU CAN MEDICATE CRAZY, BUT YOU CAN'T FIX STUPID

I talk to myself, because sometimes that is the only way I can get an intelligent answer.

I don't need anger management. I need people to stop pissing me off.

My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance for idiots that needs work.

Some people just need a sympathetic pat on the head – with a hammer.

Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.

I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars team up to prevent a jerk from cutting in at the front. Stay strong, brothers and sisters!

* * THE STORY OF MY LIFE * * (I knew better but I did it anyway)

I hate it when I see an old person and then realize we went to school together.

I've reached the age where my brain goes from "I shouldn't say that" to "What the hell, let's see what happens."

When I was a kid I wanted to be older. This shit is not what I expected.

Age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying you.

Lately, I've noticed people my age are so much older than me.

The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it.

These days, "on time" is when I get there.

I thought growing old would take longer.

I still haven't learned to act my age.

It just gets better as you get older, doesn't it?

I just realized I haven't done the "Hokey Pokey" in over ten years. I guess when you get older, you just forget what it's all about.

* * * * **WEIGHT FOR IT...** * * * *

I am not fat. I am just easier to see.

I have a hard time deciphering the fine line between boredom and hunger.

Now that food has replaced sex in my life, I can't even get into my own pants.

I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!

When I was young we used to go 'skinny dipping.' Now I just 'chunky dunk.





It's nice to have a Realtor with vast construction experience on your side when shopping for new construction homes. There are sales people and then there are construction people. If you are buying new construction, you should have both on YOUR SIDE. **Brian Gaiefsky**,

Keller Williams **A** Team Florida is an experienced Realtor with a construction background.

When Brian represents a buyer for one of the new Parkview at Hillcrest homes, he not only negotiates and monitors the progress of the transaction from offer to close; but also walks the property during the construction process. In any major new development project, attention to detail is an ongoing challenge.

If you or anyone you know is interested in buying new construction homes or townhomes, call Brian Gaiefsky at 8-HILLCREST or email him at info@ATeamFlorida.com.

info@ateamflorida.com 8-HILLCREST (844.552.7378) www.ATeamFlorida.com



July State of the Market

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



In the first 6 months of the year, there have been 84 closed sales. Sold prices ranged from the low of 52K for a low rise 1/1 to 265K for a 3-bedroom in Hillcrest 26. A 2-bedroom in a mid-rise sold for 189K while the lowest this year for a 2/2 was 75K - the last foreclosure on the market so far this year. A few 1-bedroom units sold in the low 100's. The market has definitely improved.

Currently there are 48 units on the market here in Hillcrest. 17 one-bedrooms, 28 two-bedrooms and 3 three-bedrooms.

Many are overpriced. Again, buyers study the comparables and know the values better than the sellers, so overpriced listings rarely get shown and will not sell anywhere near asking price. It takes a few price reductions for most to get in market value range, and THEN they sell – statistically for less than they would have had they priced right the first time. There is even a name for this - "chasing the market." Meanwhile, sellers are paying maintenance, taxes, insurance and utilities which further reduces their eventual profit.

We see a few units that are underpriced and, of course, a bidding war ensues, and they end up getting over list price. Pricing at market value is the way to go. That way sellers get the most showings which increases the chances of the right buyer coming along sooner rather than later. Any unit on the market more than 60 days is either overpriced or there are problems associated with the unit such as major repair issues.

There are strategies to overcome almost every obstacle to a fast sale at or above market value, and A Team Florida knows what they are. We also have marketing strategies that get our listings in front of the biggest buyer pool. It is always a numbers game and we know how to play it. **Give us a call at 8-HILLCREST.**

July Kitchen Korner - by Cindy Abraham



ALL THINGS MANGO - and yes, I saved the best for last

This season has been extremely bountiful. Everyone I know has tons of mangos. I feel sorry for the stores. Even the little boys up the street who usually sell them for 50 cents each have them at 3 for a dollar this year.

My friends Allan and Cindy Libero have a huge tree and can hardly keep up with the number of mangos. Luckily, I am a good person and offer to go over there every few days to help them keep the lawn clean. Mangos bring out the best in people. According to Cindy, total strangers come by and pick up the mangos for them. Cindy waits until it looks like they are finished. Then she goes outside and is always nice about thanking them when she takes them back. She even brings out her own container, so they don't have to give up the boxes and bags they bring with them.

Before I forget – WEAR GLOVES when handling mangos unless you like orange fingernails. I wear gloves for everything. Old restaurant habits die hard. And it is worth buying turbinado sugar; available everywhere.

MANGO JAM

Mango jam is easy to make. After I peel the mango, I score it horizontally and vertically into cubes and then slice them off into a skillet. About 6 big mangoes are perfect for a batch. Add ¹/₄ cup of brown sugar and start out on medium heat (5) and just keep stirring every few minutes until a lot of the juice is gone and they start to stick. Then I turn it down to 4 and then at the end, when most of the juice is gone to 3. Since my computer is in the kitchen, I can work and stir. Remove from heat, let cool and then jar. Here are some more recipes:

MANGO JALAPENO JAM

All you need is one large jalapeno, seeds and pith removed and minced into small pieces. Right when you remove from heat, stir in the jalapeno pieces. Let cool and jar.

MANGO CHUTNEY

You are lucky I make the recipes first. This one called for 1/4 cup crystallized ginger which was WAY too much. 2 TBS suffice or 3 if you really like ginger. This recipe is a BIG HIT. Use it as everything from a dip for fish cakes to a glaze for roast pork.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup distilled white vinegar
- 6 cups mangoes cut into 3/4 inch pieces
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup golden raisins (I used dried cranberries)

- 2 -3 TBS crystallized ginger finely chopped
- 1 minced garlic clove
- 1 tsp mustard seeds, whole (or 1 ½ tsp dried mustard)
- 1/3 tsp hot red chili pepper flakes

Combine sugar and vinegar in a 6-quart pot; bring to a boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Add remaining ingredients and simmer, uncovered, until syrupy and slightly thickened, 45 minutes to an hour. Stir occasionally during cooking.

THE BEST MANGO BREAD EVER

You know I do not bake unless the result is beyond delicious and a 6-year-old can follow the recipe. Boodro's friend Gina Cigala gave me this recipe and you are going to love it! The joke in this recipe is that I accidentally used baking powder in the first batch instead of baking soda because I read it wrong. Want to know the difference between baking soda and baking powder? Without going into the chemical make-up of each, when I used the powder (little red can), it didn't rise very much and was denser and richer. When I used the baking soda like I was supposed to (the stuff we put in our fridge to keep it fresh), it rose by double, so it was lighter and bigger. Both tasted great.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tsp baking soda
- ³/₄ cup turbinado (or white) sugar
- ³⁄₄ cup brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts, raisins or sunflower seeds (optional)
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- 3 eggs slightly beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 34 cup canola oil
- 2 cups diced mango

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray non-stick butter into (2) 5X9 inch bread pans or (2) 12-cup muffin tins (or do like I did, one pan and one muffin tin). I use paper cup liners for the muffin pan and spray them with butter spray.

Stir together flour, cinnamon, baking soda, both sugars and salt. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix. Fill pans or muffin tins HALFWAY and bake for 45 minutes. Use a toothpick to see if they are done; if not bake 10 additional minutes.

MANGO RUM

Being as frugal as I am (I have been told not to say "cheap" anymore since I started getting mash notes from strangers (you gotta be 80 to understand that one), I do not waste chopped mango to make my rum anymore. The seeds have plenty of flesh left on them. Put about 12 fleshy mango seeds in a large glass bowl. In a 2-cup glass measuring cup, put ½ cup sugar (preferable turbinado) and fill with purified water. Microwave for 3 minutes. Stir until dissolved. Pour over seeds. Add 2 cups dark rum. Stir and cover with plastic wrap. Let sit for 5 days, stirring once every day. On the 5th day, wearing gloves, squeeze out the seeds into the rum mix. Discard seeds. Strain the remaining liquid through cheese cloth or a fine mesh strainer a few times to remove any pulp. Bottle, chill and enjoy.





SIX BEST DOCTORS IN THE WORLD

Maintain them in all stages of Life and

* * * **TEACH YOUR CHILDREN WELL** * * * *

Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be Happy. When they grow up they will know the value of things not the price.

Eat your food as your medicines. Otherwise you will have to eat medicines as your food.

The One who truly loves you will never leave you for another because even if there are 100 reasons to give up he or she will find one reason to hold on.

There is a big difference between a human being and being human. Only a few really understand it.

You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between, You just have to manage!

If you just want to walk fast, walk alone! But if you want to walk far, walk together!

*** ** ** THREE IRISHMEN ** ** ** **

Three Irishmen are sitting in the pub window seat, watching the front door of the brothel over the road. The local Methodist pastor appears, and quickly goes inside.

"Would you look at that!" says the first Irishman. "Didn't I always say what a bunch of hypocrites they are?" No sooner are the words out of his mouth than a Rabbi appears at the door, knocks, and goes inside.

"Another one trying to fool everyone with pious preaching and stupid hats!"

They continue drinking their beer roundly condemning the vicar and the rabbi when they see their own Catholic priest knock on the door.

"Ah, now dat's sad." says the third Irishman. "One of the girls must have died..."

* * * * * * * * * * * * * **MALE LOGIC...FLAWLESS** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

The following is a conversation between a husband and wife. Note that she asks seven questions which he answers quite simply. But then she is left speechless after only one question from him on the same topic.

WOMAN: Do you drink beer?

MAN: Yes.

1. Sunlight

Exercise
 Diet

6. Friends

5. Self Confidence and

enjoy a healthy life.

2. Rest

WOMAN: How many beers a day?

MAN: Usually about three.

WOMAN: How much do you pay per beer?

MAN: \$5.00 including a tip.

WOMAN: And how long have you been drinking?

MAN: About 20 years I suppose

WOMAN: So, a beer costs \$5.00 and you have 3 beers per day which puts your spending each month at \$450 and in one year would total about \$4500, correct?

MAN: Correct.

WOMAN: If in 1 year you spend \$5400, not accounting for inflation, the past 20 years puts your spending at \$108,000, correct?

MAN: Correct.

WOMAN: Do you realize that if you didn't drink so much beer, that money could have been put in a step-up interest savings account and after figuring in the compound interest for the past 20 years, you could now have bought an airplane?

MAN: Do you drink beer?

WOMAN: No.

MAN: Where is your airplane?



THE DOCTOR SAID TO "WATCH MY DRINKING."

INSIDE HILLCREST

July 2018 IT Security Tips YOUR FIREWAL IS COMPLETELY USELESS UNLESS...



Since this is the semi-annual jokes/stories issue, here is one of ours. For starters, let me provide you with some context. A firewall is a device that acts like a security cop watching over your computer network to detect unauthorized access and activity – and quite truthfully every business and every individual really needs one.

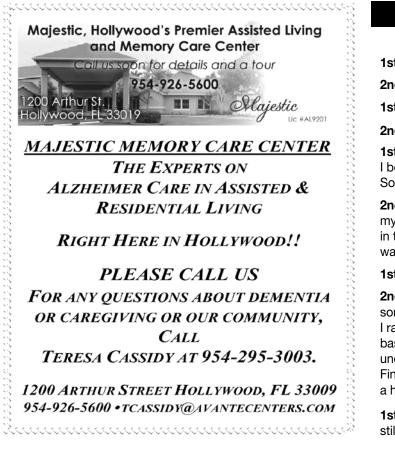
However, there is something you should be aware of. If not set up and maintained properly, then your firewall becomes completely useless. Your firewall needs to be upgraded and patched on a continual, and consistent basis. Security policies and proper configurations should be set. This isn't something you want to try handling on your own – you are best served by letting the pros handle that for you. It's not my style to push myself on you or your business, but Connections for Business could offer this support – this is our area of expertise.

The Good News: If you're already a Connections' customer, then we're already covering this for you, and your firewall is doing its intended job. If on the other hand, you're not a customer then let me just say, you are very welcome to contact us with any questions.

If you're concerned about the security of your business, then you should call us.

True Story:

We onboarded a new client who at the time already had an IT support staff. However, they quickly came to realize after we'd performed an



audit of their infrastructure, that they'd not only lost valuable data, and money, but that it was still ongoing. They were losing valuable information with every with every passing minute. This went unnoticed for a long enough period of time that it did some damage. It hurt the business financially & the scary truth was that they really believed that their IT staff was doing a good job. We were really glad we were

able to uncover the issue – in the end we got a new client out of the experience.

I hope you found value in this IT Security Tip! Please let me know if there's anything I can do for you!

Sincerely,

Eric Chafin Business Development Manager 954-624-9518 echafin@connections.com www.connections.com



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Email: echafin@connections.com Web: www.connections.com

TWO LADIES TALKING IN HEAVEN ...

1st woman: Hi! Wanda.

2nd woman: Hi! Sylvia. How'd you die?

1st woman: I froze to death.

2nd woman: How horrible!

1st woman: It wasn't so bad. After I quit shaking from the cold, I began to get warm & sleepy, and finally died a peaceful death. So, what about you?

2nd woman: I died of a massive heart attack. I suspected that my husband was cheating, so I came home early to catch him in the act. But instead, I found him all by himself in the den watching TV.

1st woman: So, what happened?

2nd woman: I was so sure there was another woman there somewhere that I started running all over the house looking. I ran up into the attic and searched, and down into the basement. Then I went through every closet and checked under all the beds. I kept this up until I had looked everywhere. Finally, I became so exhausted that I just keeled over with a heart attack and died.

1st woman: Too bad you didn't look in the freezer... we'd both still be alive.



So I'm getting older and I'm not as well balanced as I once was and my Doctor recommended I put a bar in my shower. I have to say, I'm really quite happy with it.



* * * GOTTA PEE * * *

Two women friends had gone for a girl's night out. Both were very faithful and loving wives, however they had gotten overenthusiastic on the Bacardi Breezes. Incredibly drunk and walking home they needed to pee so they stopped in the cemetery.

One of them had nothing to wipe with so she thought she would take off her panties and use them. Her friend, however was wearing a rather expensive pair of panties and did not want to ruin them.

She was lucky enough to squat down next to a grave that had a wreath with a ribbon on it, so she proceeded to use the ribbon.

After the girls did their business, they proceeded to go home. The next day one of the woman's husband was concerned that his normally sweet and innocent wife was still in bed hung over, so he phoned the other husband and said: "These girl nights have got to stop! I'm starting to suspect the worst. My wife came home with no panties!!"

"That's nothing said the other husband, mine came back with a card stuck to her ass that said, 'FROM ALL OF US AT THE FIRE STATION, WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU.'





A police officer called the station on his radio. "I have an interesting case here. An old lady shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped."

"Have you arrested the woman?" "Not yet. The floor's still wet."

* * A WELL-PLANNED RETIREMENT * *

Outside England 's Bristol Zoo there is a parking lot for 150 cars and 8 buses. For 25 years, its parking fees were managed by a very pleasant attendant. The fees for cars (\$1.40), for buses (about \$7).

Then, one day, after 25 solid years of never missing a day of work, he just didn't show up. The zoo management called the city council and asked it to send them another parking agent. The council did some research and replied that the parking lot was the zoo's own responsibility.

The zoo advised the council that the attendant was a city employee.

The city council responded that the lot attendant had never been on the city payroll.

Meanwhile, sitting in his villa somewhere on the coast of Spain, or France, or Italy, is a man who'd apparently had a ticket booth installed completely on his own and then had simply begun to show up every day, commencing to collect and keep the parking fees, estimated at about \$560 per day – for 25 years. Assuming 7 days a week, this amounts to just over \$7 million dollars.

And no one even knows his name.









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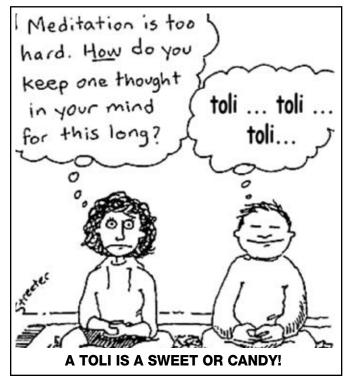


Laughter - one of the greatest spiritual qualities

From Osho, Eighty Four Thousand Poems:

In fact, laughter

Is one of the greatest spiritual qualities. In deep laughter the ego disappears Just as in deep dance the ego disappears. When you really have a belly laugh You are no more there, only laughter is happening You are not there as an observer You are totally immersed in it. And that gives you a taste of meditation



MEDITATION

THIS IS A RIDDLE FOR YOUR JULY ENJOYMENT....... SEE IF YOU CAN GUESS WHAT THIS IS?

I am your constant companion.

I am your greatest helper or your heaviest burden.

I will push you onward or drag you down to failure.

I am completely at your command.

Half the things you do, you might just as well turn over to me, and I will be able to do them quickly and correctly.

I am easily managed; you must merely be firm with me. Show me exactly how you want something done, and after a few lessons I will do it automatically.

I am the servant of all great men. And, alas, of all failures as well. Those who are great, I have made great. Those who are failures, I have made failures. I am not a machine, though I work with all the precision of a machine. Plus, the intelligence of a man. You may run me for profit, or run me for ruin; it makes no difference to me. Take me, train me, be firm with me and I will put the world at your feet. Be easy with me, and I will destroy you. Who am I?

now wait for it.....

I AM HABIT!!!

In meditation we ask that you make daily meditation a habit! This is something that is good for you and works well enough to change your life. You can find "Peace of Mind" by looking within in silence. Breathe in peace and breathe out negativity. Follow your breath like the waves of an ocean. This will help clear your mind and set it up for positive thoughts instead of the wasteful, negative ones that often occupy our heads.

MEDITATION CLASS

Join our weekly FREE MEDITATION class at the new HILLCREST COMMUNITY CENTER, WEDNESDAY, 5:30-6:30PM. This is the smaller building on the right. We have a wonderful class and we would love you to join us every Wednesday.

The Hollywood Library continues with weekly meditation on Tuesday morning 10:15am and 6:30pm.

These 2 classes run all throughout the year. And don't forget, make it a habit to join the monthly meditation at ARTSPARK every third Sunday of the month, July 15 at 6pm.

*Call Roz with questions or to sign up for course at 954-801-6639.

*Join us at ArtsPark the 3rd Sun at 6pm for WORLD PEACE Sunday, August 19, 2018 • 6-7:30 pm

Bring a chair and a flashlight, see you there.

*MEDITATE@8 CALL IN FOR LIVE MEDITATION

Call: 712-775-7031 • Meeting ID 660-469-256# Thurs. 8-8:10 pm

*FOR A FREE THOUGHT OF THE DAY INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE SIGN UP: http://brahmakumaris.org/interactive/mailing_list

* * * * HAPPILY EVER AFTER * * * * *

A police officer pulls over a speeding car. The officer says, 'I clocked you at 80 miles per hour.' The driver says, 'Gee, officer, I had it on cruise control at 60; perhaps your radar gun needs calibrating.'

Not looking up from her knitting the wife says: 'Now don't be silly, dear – you know that this car doesn't have cruise control.'

As the officer writes out the ticket, the driver looks over at his wife and growls, can't you please keep your mouth shut for once?'

The wife smiles demurely and says, 'Well, dear you should be thankful your radar detector went off when it did, or your speed would have been higher.'

As the officer makes out the second ticket for the illegal radar detector unit, the man glowers at his wife and says through clenched teeth, 'Woman, can't you keep your mouth shut?'

The officer frowns and says, 'And I notice that you're not wearing your seat belt, sir. That's an automatic \$75 fine.'

The driver says, 'Yeah, well, you see, officer, I had it on, but I took it off when you pulled me over so that I could get my license out of my back pocket.'

The wife says, 'Now, dear, you know very well that you didn't have your seat belt on. You never wear your seat belt when you're driving.'

And as the police officer is writing out the third ticket, the driver turns to his wife and barks, 'WILL YOU PLEASE SHUT UP??'

The officer looks over at the woman and asks, 'Does your husband always talk to you this way.?'

'Only when he's been drinking.!!'

ONTR

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* IT'S A GRAND OLD FLAG *

Ray and Bob, two government maintenance guys, were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking up. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing.

"We're supposed to find the height of the flagpole," said Bob, "But we don't have a ladder."

The woman said, "Hand me that wrench out of your toolbox." She loosened a few bolts, and then laid the pole down. She then took a tape measure from their toolbox took a measurement and announced, "Eighteen feet, six inches" and walked away.

Ray shook his head and laughed, "Well, ain't that just like a 'Miss-know-it-all woman'" he said, "We need the height and she gives us the length!"

Ray and Bob are still working for the government. But now they are congressmen.



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