

Inside Hillcrest

– Connecting Neighbors to Neighbors –



FEBRUARY 2018

HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

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JANUARY INSIDE HILLCREST

THANK YOU!

The first thank you has to go to **Steve Schneider of Hillcrest 8** who volunteered to write articles for Inside Hillcrest. I don't even have words to describe the contribution he has made in the past few months. From "Spotlight on..." articles to covering community events that Hillcresters need to know about. When I called Steve at the last minute to cover the Commission in the Community meeting and he returned with an in-depth article complete with follow-up interviews with many of the participants, I was blown away. Steve is a GREAT addition to our Inside Hillcrest family and has THREE articles in this issue – another "Spotlight on..." two of our amazing residents, his report on the Commission in the Community meeting and an interview with one of the best things that every happened to Hollywood, **Chief Tom Sanchez**, who retired this month after 30 years of service.

The second thank you goes to Chief Sanchez, an amazing man and a remarkably enlightened, progressive, Chief of Police. He is one of my personal heroes. I wrote an article about him in the April 2016 issue and the March 2017 issue of IH because I was so impressed with the positive changes he made year to year. If you have been following his career, he has made a major impact on the Hollywood Police Department with his approach to public service and efforts to bring back the "neighborhood cop" mentality to both the police and the public. Chief Sanchez has instituted programs and disciplines that resulted in him being invited to police departments around the world to speak about his innovative ideas and how he implements them. Don't miss Steve's article about him on page 4. Talk about big shoes to fill. Hopefully, by next month a replacement will be named and we will interview him/her also.

CONGRATS!

To Broward County Mayor Beam Furr, our own former Hollywood Commissioner. Not only are we in good hands in our great City, but we have a great man in the Mayor's seat in our county! Mayor Furr continues to share his thoughts with us in every issue of IH.

AND WELCOME

Inside Hillcrest wants to welcome our newest readers, our Parkview at Hillcrest neighbors who have closed on their new

homes and townhomes. All have been sent a copy of Inside Hillcrest with a certificate for a free glass of wine certificate at our favorite AUTHENTIC Italian Restaurant, Allegria Ristorante on Harrison as well as the enclosed tri-fold with the best local vendors for home and condo owners that we have met over the years.

"OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER" or "IT TAKES A VILLAGE"

We have been stressing to our building presidents that they do not have to get involved if one of their residents seems to be having age-related problems; whether it be with health issues or finances – or even suspected elder abuse. We understand that board officers have enough to do so we have put together a team of experts whose contact info can always be found on the last two pages of every issue of Inside Hillcrest. All you need make a phone call and one of our qualified experts will take it from there. In fact, here is a letter from one of our building presidents about Warren Diaz of Specialized Nursing Services from a building President who did just that:

I met with Warren Diaz of Specialized Nursing Services today along with my neighbor and her son. Warren is incredible; extremely professional kind and unbelievably helpful. He went way above and beyond anything that was expected. He arranged to have one of his associates come by three Mondays in a row in two-hour increments to provide the care she needs. In addition, he was a wealth of knowledge about anything to do with short term or long-term care and what resources are available. Warren also took the time to call my neighbor's personal physician to ask that they try to provide a minimum of 20 visits for home healthcare.

Since her release from the hospital, her doctor was able to set up three nurse visits and five rehabilitation visits. Her son followed

up by calling the service that is providing these visits to explain the severity of the situation and to try and extend the number of visits. Warren spent over two hours with them and was an absolutely delight to work with.

Thank you again. After seeing first-hand Warren's professionalism and knowledge of healthcare, I would not hesitate to recommend him to anyone for the services that his company can provide. Terry Adamo, President, Hillcrest Building 5.

The "See something, say something" applies to much more than criminal activity. Hillcrest is more than a community, it is a family. We should all be looking out for each other.

PREFERRED VENDORS

For years we have had a list of vendors for Building issues that is made up of recommendations from the various building board members of people that they have successfully done business with. Most buildings need to get at least 3 estimates for large or costly projects and this has been a godsend for board members to be able to call vendors with a solid history here in Hillcrest. Also, we are as careful as can be as to whom we allow to advertise in Inside Hillcrest. Our advertisers may not be the least expensive for what they do, but they are reliable, honest and dependable. We have made up a list of the most common vendors that we, as condo and home owners, may need. You will notice that Pest Control professionals, Roofers, etc. are not on the list because these services are covered by our respective Condo Associations and HOAs. If you have a business relationship with any local business that you feel does an exceptional job, they are welcome to advertise in IH. That is how we got Q-Spa. We heard from a resident in Building 6 and Building 27 how great they were, and we invited them to advertise. See their ad – and a helpful tip – on page 11.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY

January issue was one of our most popular joke issues ever! Thanks to all who sent in jokes and stories over the past 6 months. I have to say that our readers submissions have gotten much better over the past year. Very few groaners. We already have 12 submissions for the July issue and they are laugh out loud FUNNY. Keep 'em coming!



INJURED?

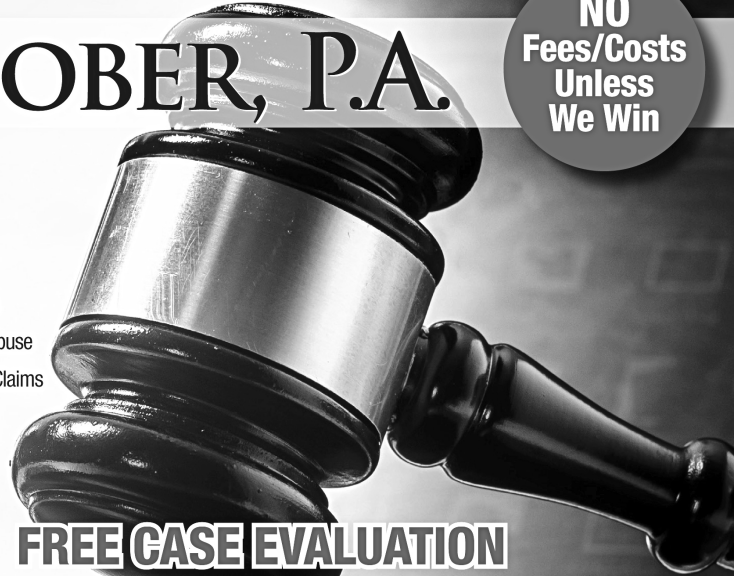
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COMMISSION IN THE COMMUNITY RECAP

- By Steve Schneider



A cell phone tower contract signed about 18 years ago has implications for unit owners living in Building 24 now. A roundabout built outside of the new Clubhouse on Hillcrest Drive raises possible safety concerns for residents of Building 21, who live adjacent to the new structure. And trees torn from the ground about a year ago have not been replaced by Pulte.

These are some of the topics discussed when Hollywood City Commissioners took their Commission in the Community meeting to Washington Park Community Center on Jan. 24. The meeting,

which lasted more than two hours, allowed residents from all over Hollywood to discuss subjects that concern them, and get answers from their representatives.

Joseph White, who recently stepped down as president of Building 24, brought up a contract signed by a previous Board around 2000. The contract permitted Verizon to install a cell phone tower on the roof of his building. Years later, Verizon, and Melody Wireless, a company that leases the tower from Verizon, want to construct a bigger platform to hold a larger tower, White said in an interview after the meeting. The companies also want to run a natural gas pipeline up the side of the building and attach it to the new generator to power the new cell phone tower. The current system is run by an electrical hook up with the building.

White asked if the city can help as officials review and approve a permit for the work. He requested this help because Building 24 residents are concerned the new construction may be too heavy for the roof. He also said a lack of safety and alarm features may create a more serious problem should the natural gas pipeline catch fire. White is also concerned about the lack of research regarding the stronger transmissions that will be generated by the bigger cell phone satellite tower.

Commissioner Peter Hernandez, from District 2, said it is possible that height requirements in city zoning may limit the height of the proposed structure.

Continued on Pg. 8



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RETIRED HOLLYWOOD POLICE CHIEF TOMAS SANCHEZ

– By Steve Schneider



Tomas Sanchez left his retirement party on Jan. 30 and walked outside the Hollywood Police Department headquarters to shake hands with Mayor Josh Levy and pose for pictures. An officer with the Crime Scene Unit snapped digital photographs. Sanchez, who spent nearly three years as chief, and retired on Feb. 2, was now ready for the next chapter of his work life. He entered a room on the fourth floor of the department and took a seat at the head of a rectangular table in a conference room. Sanchez, wearing a suit, was clearly a cop, although his gun and badge were not on display. A department veteran of almost 30 years, his demeanor could just as easily give the appearance of someone who is a business executive or educator.

For an hour or so, he spoke with Inside Hillcrest about his work as chief and the thinking that guided his decisions. At one point, he mentioned Robert Peel, who Wikipedia credits with being the “father of modern policing” in democratic societies, having established the Metropolitan Police Force for London, at Scotland Yard, in 1829. Peel is known for having said, “The police are the public and the public are the police.” Sanchez said that as chief he wanted the Hollywood Police Department to put more focus on prevention, as well as patrolling and making arrests. “To some degree,” he said, “we have failed when a crime is committed. Even if officers catch a burglary suspect and return the stolen goods,” a Hollywood resident still feels violated.

To get ahead of crime and prevent it HPD was encouraged to conduct proactive patrolling and by deploying neighborhood officers in the 22 “sectors” the department polices in Hollywood. These officers are “The sharpest tool in the shed,” are given the flexibility to adjust their hours, ride a bike, change their wardrobe and even make drug buys, he said. The neighborhood officers make connections with area residents and businesses, identify problems, and can request a greater police presence based on intelligence they have gathered.

According to Sanchez, each year HPD handles a staggering number of calls for service, in 2017, the Hollywood Police Department got 220,000 calls for service. So, when he took over in 2015 he wanted the

department to become more than “slaves to radio calls.” Because the city and its taxpayers can’t “hire more and more cops,” Sanchez said he employed business principles to run the department. Once a week, he said, he met with his leadership team to study crime statistics and discuss programs and strategy. “When results are stagnant, Sanchez said, “we must evaluate what we’re doing.” Worldpopulationreview.com reports 151,998 people live here.

While crunching numbers on the top call for service locations in each sector of the City, Sanchez learned that some local businesses cost his department a lot of manpower. One Nursing home was continuously one of five locations in its sector for police calls, he said. Here’s why this problem is so big: Rocked by the July 27, 1981, disappearance and murder of 6-year-old Adam Walsh, the Hollywood Police Department has detailed rules to follow when getting a missing person report. So, when a local nursing home calls to say a resident is missing, at least eight to 10 officers are put on the case, Sanchez said. “That means some parts of the city may not see an officer” when they need one. To deal with the problem, he started visiting nursing homes with fire department officials and state inspectors to motivate nursing home administrators to be more attentive to the needs of residents, he said.

Studying crime statistics taught him another lesson. Hollywood used to get 5,000 domestic violence calls a year. This number is now down to less than 4,000 a year, in part because research showed Sanchez 69 people charged in Hollywood with domestic violence were arrested in connection with a total of 480 violent crimes. “Getting them off the streets” helped reduce violent crime and meant “there are more than 1,000 less domestic violence victims” in Hollywood, he said, adding officers also visit abusers to remind them of the consequences of their actions if they hurt someone again.

Sanchez noted cops with “guns and badges and street experience” sometimes think they know all they need to know. But, he said, it is important for police departments to conduct market research like businesses do, and to learn from a variety of sources, including the public, Criminal Justice researchers, hospitals and even medical examiners. Applying a business principle helped his department “cut down on hundreds of calls a month,” Sanchez said, by communicating with business owners. When an alarm goes off at a local business, an officer responds. Sometimes the alarm goes off night after night. Now, he said, officers contact the owner and let them know they have a problem they may not know about and need to fix.

The chief is also a proponent of learning from the successes experienced by police departments across the country and around the world. He cited the United Kingdom and Australia, which cut down on car theft by using license plate readers. Now, Hollywood mounts the readers on police cars and places them at strategic stationary locations and uses mobile license plate reader trailers around the city. The readers can isolate felony vehicles and drivers with suspended licenses. Armed with the readers, Sanchez said his department witnessed a 55% increase in auto theft arrests.

Closed-circuit television cameras are another example of success experienced by other police departments.

He said Hollywood now uses them on North Beach, resulting in an 86% reduction in car break-ins and thefts. The cameras are also placed downtown and along the Broadwalk. Still, Sanchez said he hopes the department purchases more cameras. He would like to see cameras put on Federal Highway, which is the number one crime area in Hollywood, as well as along 441, to the west.

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Continued from Pg. 4



Dealing with opioid addiction is another area the department will need to continue addressing. In 2016, 51 people died in Hollywood from an opioid overdose, Sanchez said. While there is no simple solution, he reached out to the Hollywood Fire Department chief to learn locations at which Narcan was deployed to treat overdoses. Sanchez also spoke with leaders of local hospitals, and got support from Memorial Regional Hospital, and Kindred Hospital which donated

money so police officers can get out the word to addicts about where to go to get help. Officers have even taken addicts to Memorial Hospital for treatment, providing they sought help independent of an arrest, he said. However, the problem can't be solved by the police department alone. Sanchez said his research suggests many of the local rehabilitation facilities are not very good. What's more, police work revealed drug dealers have set up shop near many of these facilities, so they can make deals with people seemingly trying to get off drugs.

Sanchez also hosted a breakfast for Hollywood's faith-based leaders, where he encouraged them to do more to help the community. In response, he said, various faith-based institutions raise money that provide funds to support police programs locally, including the reunification of homeless people with family members. Some religious institutions also give shelter to victims of domestic violence.

Replicating an FBI "trip wire" program, devoted to preventing terrorism, Sanchez assigned officers to visit Hollywood businesses to train employees about purchases and activity that might be suspicious. This effort led to an early success with the arrest of organized crime members who were filling bladders in two trucks with hundreds of dollars worth of gasoline bought with stolen credit cards. Officer Ramiro Valdes made the arrests at the RaceTrac station at 5800 Hollywood Blvd. Valdes is one of the officers who trains employees at privately-owned businesses. Sanchez said the men arrested were planning to resell the gasoline, and he called the vehicles they were driving "rolling bombs." In another Hollywood Police Department effort tied to organized crime activity, an investigation caught the Poste Haste Pharmacy on Sheridan Street ripping off the Veterans Administration, he said, adding the federal government has clawed back about \$1.6 million from the business.

Sanchez, who earned a Bachelor's in Business Administration, as well as a Master's in Criminal Justice, also practiced his executive skills when confronting massage parlors in Hollywood. After undercover officers made arrests, he contacted the business and property owners and invited them to meet him at police headquarters. Sanchez also asked them to bring an attorney. At the meetings, he explained why their businesses had a negative impact on the community and assured them that if they continued to run criminal enterprises within the city limits, "I will do everything in my power to shut you down." This effort worked when a South American businessman agreed to close five massage parlors across the street from the Hard Rock Casino and Hotel, Sanchez said.

It's also important to listen to the ideas of officers, he said. Constantly seeing homeless people while patrolling Hollywood Beach, an officer, now retired, asked why the department didn't help reunite homeless people with a family member. In about three years, Sanchez said, the Hollywood Police Department has found the money to relocate 61 of our homeless citizens with the cooperation of relatives to make sure the homeless person had a safe, welcoming place to go.

While discussing changes he brought to the department, Sanchez was asked twice if he encountered resistance. He simply said yes but noted that burn-out is a very real problem in a job as stressful as this one and seeking help is a tough move to make for most. He guided many officers to seek help although he did have to relieve some officers

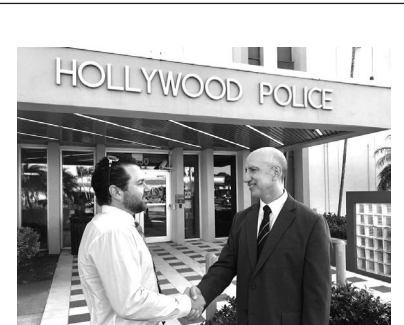
from the job. Sanchez also reassigned or demoted several other officers and replaced several members of his executive staff. Referring to national figures, he said police departments typically deal with a one percent termination rate a year for new recruits. This figure, Sanchez said, compares with a 25% termination rate for new officers during his tenure.

Although the median age in Hollywood is 41 and young people under 21 only make up about 20% of the Hollywood population, Sanchez said police-youth programs are an important investment in the future of the community. His professional website, policeology.com, backs up his claim. The website offers links to 12 papers he has written on policing. Five of those papers deal with the connection between young people and officers.

Sanchez, who experienced oppression as a child in communist Cuba, also learned about tyranny later on when he witnessed how the mob in New York City prevented his father from making a living. These lessons, in part, explain his dedication to criminal justice work. Sanchez served seven years in the Army before he worked as a state and federal corrections officer. He joined the Hollywood Police Department in May 1988, starting as a patrol officer. Eventually, Sanchez worked on loan to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, where he played the role of a cocaine dealer in South Florida. The retired chief served in a variety of leadership roles before becoming the top cop. A member of his leadership team, Assistant Chief Chris O'Brien, is serving as interim chief until the City Manager names a successor. A recent article in the Sun Sentinel quoted a city spokesperson as saying Hollywood is not rushing to hire a replacement for Sanchez because officials have confidence in the work O'Brien is doing.

Clearly, there is no magic formula for serving and protecting the public. Sanchez seemed to acknowledge this when he gave a nod to business people who constantly evaluate information and make changes when necessary. Obviously, the comments he made in an interview after his retirement party do not promise an end to crime. But the remarks offer insight into how Sanchez performed his job as top cop here. "We can't work in a vacuum," he said. "We have to reach out."

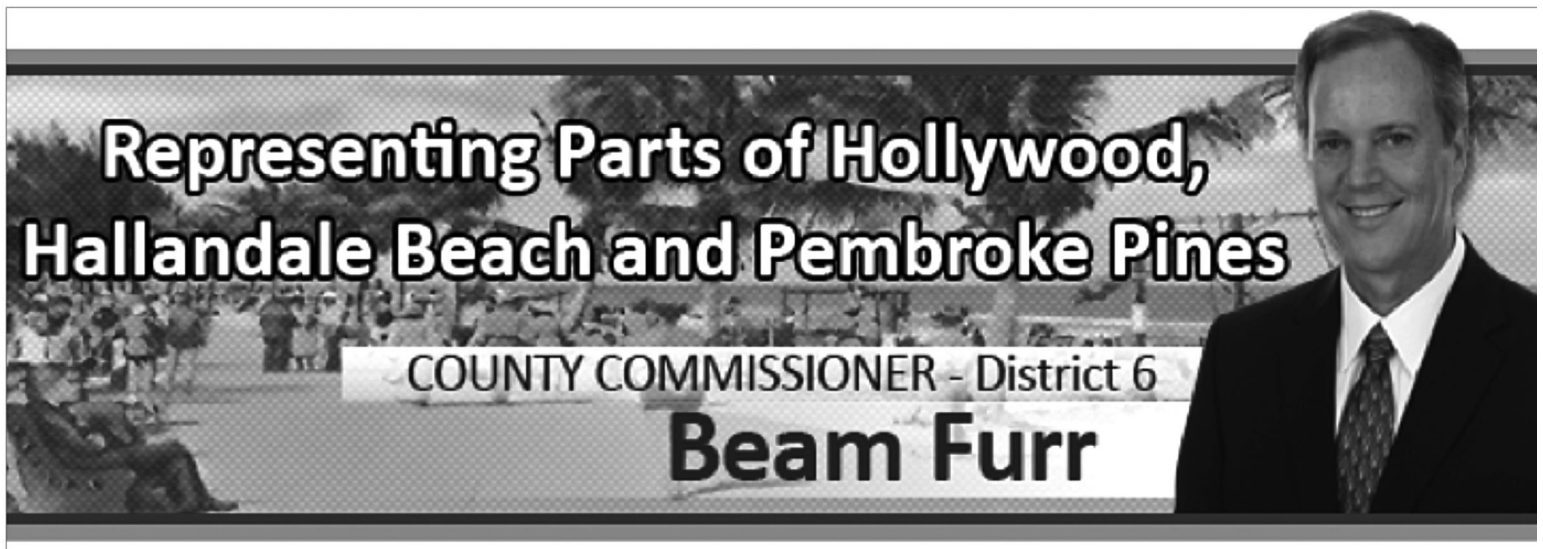
"Highest appreciation and thanks to Hollywood Police Chief Tom Sanchez on his retirement, following 30 years of Service with Hollywood PD. Chief Sanchez is retiring with accomplishments across the board; introducing new technologies that keep watch on our city, hiring and training a new generation of officers for our force, maintaining a culture of professionalism with all personnel and setting a nationally recognized example for 21st century Community Policing, to name a few. Crime rates are continually down year over year and we thank all the men and women of the Hollywood Police Department for all that they've done and all that they will continue to do 24/7 to keep us all safe here in Hollywood."



– Josh Levy, Mayor

"I loved Tom Sanchez. In a way he was a renaissance man: boxer, teacher, lecturer, police officer. Tom. Had an international reputation and travelled extensively to help police agencies all over the world. And, he was kind, soft spoken, respectful and respected."

– Dick Blattner, Hollywood City Commissioner District 4.



Greetings Hillcrest Residents,

One of the small joys in life is the thrill of a new book, or logging online to read through some fascinating research and learn more about our world. In 2018, Broward County is making it easier than ever for residents to have access to the treasures of our libraries. Broward County Library is launching a unique new program called Library for Life. This program grants every person born in Broward County a lifelong library card as a birthright. This exciting new program will give residents access to all the digital resources of their hometown library, no matter where they are in the world. This initiative says for all to hear that Broward County values an informed and knowledgeable citizenry.

Here's how the program works: Any resident born in Broward County can apply for the online library card, no matter where they now reside. If you are an individual born here, you are eligible to sign up. Families may sign up their children to receive their card from the moment they are born. The card is renewable every ten years. The e-card can be used for instant access to eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, music, movies and television shows, research databases, educational materials and more.

The card can be used anywhere in the world. For instance, if someone moves to Japan, they can still use their card to check out a book or access a database through Broward County. It is particularly useful if you travel a lot or plan to spend part of the year somewhere else – even on the road, this card can be used for whatever your library needs may be! This gives an unprecedented level of access to all the tools available at Broward County Libraries.

One goal of this program is to get residents more involved with their hometown library. We want everyone, from young students to long-time residents, to make better use of the resources we have available. Broward County Library offers over 18,000 e-books to patrons, as well as digital databases, A/V materials, and periodicals dating back to the 19th century. In addition, Broward Libraries feature Creation Stations, Reading Centers, and other public events that mix literacy with innovative engagement. We are dedicated to stimulating a lifetime of learning, and these resources are an important step in promoting literacy and good reading.

Another amazing thing about Library for Life is that it gives full access to every database and resource bank available online to Broward County Library patrons. Every one of the vast databases our county provides can be accessed with just the click of a button. These resources are filled with articles, academic journals, and other incredibly useful information. Google only offers the scholarly articles that are available to them for free. Our databases offer much more in-depth and rare items that cannot be found using a search engine. Moreover, Broward County Library offers them free of charge! Whether it is a student writing a paper, an employee conducting research for a project, or a retiree compiling information to share with their community, Library for Life offers these limitless resources on a global scale.

Before I was elected a Commissioner, I was a librarian, working as a media specialist at Flanagan High School. To my knowledge, I am the only librarian in the United States to be elected to public office. As such, I have seen first-hand the powerful impact libraries can have on improving literacy and stimulating a desire to learn. I have witnessed students pick up a book and suddenly discover a whole new world they did not know was out there. Library for Life is designed to make it so everyone has that ability, no matter how they were raised or where they may be in the world. This guarantees that the resources of the Broward County Library are always available to help finish a paper or open a mind.

I look forward to watching residents make use of this program. A great way to use your library card is to check out the book "In the Time of Butterflies", by Julia Alvarez. This book is our selection for the Big Read 2018, an annual nation-wide reading event that Broward County participates in. In addition to this wonderful book, there will be community events highlighting the themes of the story and helping you get more involved with your local library. For more information, visit <http://www.broward.org/Library/Read/Pages/Default.aspx>. I hope you participate!

A Message From Josh Levy - Mayor of Hollywood, Florida



Greetings, Hillcresters:

Thank you for your interest in our great City of Hollywood. The following is a report on our city's economic performance and outlook for 2018.

Let's start by looking at 2017's numbers: First, residential and commercial property values are up, way up. Citywide, we enjoyed a 15.6% year over year increase in taxable property value. We went from being a \$13.2 billion city to a \$15.3 billion city, in one year; the greatest city value appreciation of all the cities in Broward County. My goal is to get us to be an \$18 billion city. Doing so will enable our city government to have a better capacity to fund continuing improvements to city services, city public spaces and city infrastructure. We are on our way.

In 2017, we issued over 13,000 building permits, so many that the City's old Building Department systems are having a hard time keeping up. 2017's building permits brought in improvements valued at \$365M, with the majority of permits for smaller projects, which is important because it indicates that broad reinvestment taking place in neighborhoods throughout the city, adding to the longevity of our housing stock and helping to sustain the residential tax base.

As for business and employment in Hollywood, our primary employment drivers continue to be are tourism, healthcare, and the service sector, and all grew in 2017, with unemployment at record lows - under 4%. In 2017, we added over 2,000 new jobs, in hospitality, construction, retail, healthcare, specialty manufacturing, the service industry and other sectors. Most notable was bringing in over 1,000 new jobs with the addition of Chewy.com's relocation of its customer service center to Hollywood Hills Plaza.

We also saw the groundbreaking of an exciting new 52,000 sq. ft. advanced aerospace component manufacturing facility being built by Sintavia at our Port 95 Commerce Park north of Griffin Road. When completed, Sintavia's new facility will create 130 high paying, highly skilled jobs. That's in addition to Quantum Marine's new 30,000 sf LEED certified facility that opened at Port 95. Business Tax Receipts indicate 2,304 new businesses registered in Hollywood in 2017, with a record total of 12,834 businesses now registered in our city.

A lot is happening, and yet driving through city commercial corridors such as Federal Highway, Dixie Highway and State Road 7, we can all see that so much more opportunity for new investment continues to be had. In this regard, know that in 2017, we enacted new zoning to facilitate reinvestment in these corridors, and that the City's newly organized Department of Marketing, Communications and Economic Development will be hard at work, rolling out an effort to attract additional investment that will continue the City's strong economic momentum through 2018 and beyond.

Lots of investments of all sizes are already in the pipeline from west Hollywood and all the way to the beach. We've spent a lot of time visioning putting plans in place these past twelve months, and for Hollywood, 2018 and beyond is the time for execution. So, I invite you to join us in 2018, join us in boosting Hollywood and marketing Hollywood. Help us amplify the buzz. Invite your friends and business associates to see the opportunities of our city and to join us in our pursuit of making Hollywood an even more welcoming, vibrant, sustainable, destination city.

Here's to a great 2018!

Josh Levy, Mayor



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Continued from Pg.2

Commissioner Linda Sherwood, from District 6, who hosted the forum, encouraged White to meet with city officials after the meeting to get more information.

Sam Tyler, the president of Building 21, talked with commissioners about issues related to the nearby construction of new town homes and houses and a clubhouse, which face three sides of his building. He said in an interview that the roundabout Pulte built on Hillcrest Drive, near the new Clubhouse, sits “so close to our exit. We’ve had some near misses and are afraid a serious accident can possibly happen.” Before the roundabout was constructed, drivers leaving his building could more easily leave the parking lot and turn west to head toward 441 and the turnpike. But the proximity of the building exit and the roundabout could force residents to turn east and head out of their way to go to work or run errands.

Thus, Tyler told the commission the Building 21 Association has a “solution to this problem that we would like to discuss with Pulte and the City Traffic Planning Engineer.” The proposal was discussed at City Hall on Jan. 30 at a meeting arranged by Sherwood.

Ronnie Hall, a community activist who lives in Building 4, said Pulte put in a waterway on the east side of 52 Avenue, near her building. But almost a year later, trees that were removed for construction have not been replaced. Hall asked if Pulte was required by law to replace the missing trees in the same area. In an interview, she made the following point about the required replacement of pulled trees. “Let’s say they take out 100 trees in 60 acres. Do they have to put them back in the same place? Or can Pulte put the 100 trees back in two acres?” and still comply with contract and city requirements. She added, Pulte has not put down grass to cover the exposed land. The lack of grass, Hall said, makes it possible for dust to blow and hit buildings 1 to 6, which are near that part of the construction project.

In another Hillcrest-related topic, Commissioner Sherwood updated residents on Pulte construction in the community. She said Phase 1 land development on the north side of Hillcrest is complete, except for a turn lane; Phase 2 work is underway, with new home construction slated to start in March on the south side of Hillcrest. Sherwood also said the community park will be built in phases, with the first phase being completed in March; the community clubhouse and tennis facility is waiting for a final city inspection and should be open in March; and Pulte will relocate the charter school playground to nearby property once it purchases the playground lot and the plat is recorded sometime this month.

Residents from other parts of Hollywood also addressed the Commission. Here is a recap of some of the points they raised:

- Brenda Livingston said the Park East Civic Association unanimously backed a restoration plan for the Orangebrook Golf & Country Club, which is located near the Hollywood Police Department. Her organization displayed a schematic drawing of the proposed changes they support. The display included a redesigned golf course and an aquatic and splash park, tennis courts and new clubhouse. Commissioners said they are considering proposing a general obligation bond that could fund the Orangebrook project and other local needs. In an interview, Sherwood said the city-owned site loses about \$500,000 a year. To make the golf course

profitable, a variety of changes, including the one put forth by the Park East Civic Association, are being considered, she said. Changing the nature of the property, Sherwood added, would have to be approved by city voters in a referendum. The money to pay for the redevelopment would also require voter approval as part of a larger general obligation bond that would fund numerous unmet needs. Sherwood said the city has deferred meeting these needs in part because of the financial collapse that struck the country in 2008. Voters may be asked to make decisions later this year or in 2020, she said.

- A businesswoman affected by the sewer construction project near Johnson Street and 441 learned business owners must pay to connect to the sewer system that is being built. They must also pay to pump out and fill in a septic tank if one exists at their business.

- Lee Lippman, who lives a few miles away from Hillcrest, questioned why the city requires homeowners to pay to fix sidewalks near their property. He also said homeowners should not have to pay to repair a sidewalk if a city worker or contractor damaged the sidewalk. Two commissioners said they agreed with this second point, providing the damage has been documented and given to the city. Commissioner Hernandez also said the proposed general obligation bond might include money to more broadly cover the cost of sidewalk repairs.

- Rosa Johnson, who lives near Hillcrest, was one of a few neighbors who mentioned having trouble driving in the area. Traffic is backed up on 56 Avenue and Pembroke Road because of construction several blocks away on 441. Commissioners said traffic should get back to normal when the road project is completed. Commissioner Sherwood added 441 up to Fillmore Street will be finished by the end of this year. Some of the speakers also said drivers were speeding on side streets. A few commissioners replied that increased traffic enforcement by police might help.

- Residents also shared information with the Commission and audience about upcoming charity events and celebrations. The “Be Mine” Annual Dog Show was held on Feb. 10 to raise money for the Peter Brewer Scholarship Fund, which gives scholarships to Hollywood residents who graduate from one of four local high schools. The scholarship is sponsored by the Hollywood Council of Civic Associations. For more information, email be.mine.dogshow@gmail.com.

- And Juneteenth 2018 will be held on June 16, at the Attucks Middle School baseball field, 3500 N. 22 Ave., in Hollywood. The Juneteenth celebration “is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States,” according to a flyer distributed at the Commission meeting. The event dates to 1865, the flyer said, marking the African-American Emancipation Day. For more information, contact Georgette Lasley at 954-237-9844.

All commissioners attended the meeting. They are: Debra Case, vice mayor; Peter Hernandez, Traci Callari, Richard Blattner, Kevin Biederman and Linda Sherwood. Mayor Josh Levy also sent a message via email. He was at the airport returning from a day of meetings in Washington, D.C.



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Spotlight on Etta and Larry Stevens, Hillcrest 22

- By Steve Schneider



When two Hillcrest residents interviewed a Broadway and Hollywood actress in her Chicago hotel room, a maid, cleaning a nearby room, inadvertently taught the Building 22 residents something about the character of their radio guest. During the interview, which Larry and Etta Stevens taped for their celebrity program, a maid was busy vacuuming another room. Each time

the machine cranked up, Debbie Reynolds politely asked the maid to stop so she could complete her interview. But the vacuum started again and again. And, when the couple got to the hotel lobby, they listened to the tape to make sure it came out well. Unfortunately, the conversation was not clearly audible because of the loud noise coming from the high-decibel machine. Said Larry Stevens, "Debbie could have told us she had an appointment when we asked if we could come up and do it again." But Reynolds, who made a splash in the 1952 movie "Singin' in the Rain," consented to a second interview. This time the recording session went well, and the interview aired on their radio show.

Larry and Etta Stevens also interviewed Reynolds in 1977. A recording of the program shows Reynolds casually discussing a film her then-20-year-old daughter, Carrie Fisher, was filming. Reynolds, who also starred in the 1973 Broadway play "Irene," mentioned a movie she called "Star War." Reynolds just slipped the information into the conversation, obviously not knowing how that movie would define her daughter's career and captivate movie-goers for the next 40 years. Fisher played Princess Leia in "Star Wars," the first in a series of movies that has spanned decades.

The couple, married for 44 years, started broadcasting on WXFM in Chicago, their hometown, and moved over to WNIB-FM,

Continued on Pg.11

Continued from Pg.10

where they ended the show in 2000, after a 26 year run over the airwaves. With the jump to WNIB, the program expanded to an hour a day, with 53 minutes set aside for the interview, and seven minutes for advertising. Said Etta Stevens about their style, "We listened to what our guests had to say. That was never a problem for us. Listening is the most important thing." Coming in a close second was reading a book written by someone appearing on their weekday morning show. "We read the books," Larry Stevens said. "You get more from someone because they know when you have read it."

G. Gordon Liddy, convicted in the Watergate scandal that brought down President Richard Nixon in 1974, is one example of the importance of reading books. During the interview, Larry Stevens asked why the book was published six years after Nixon resigned. A recording of the discussion shows Liddy listing a few reasons for his initial silence. The former FBI agent and attorney said speaking before 1980 could have "put at risk the liberty" of other people, and himself. He also said, "My dad taught me you don't get out of trouble by snitching on" other people. The interview was recorded when Liddy came to Chicago to hawk his newly published autobiography, "Will." Liddy had refused to appear for an interview at the radio station. Citing death threats, he also declined to let Larry and Etta Stevens interview him at his Chicago hotel room. So, the couple, who have lived in Hillcrest for 25 years, first as snowbirds, later as full-time residents, asked Liddy if he would meet them at the apartment of a friend who was out of town. He agreed, and showed up without a security detail, which followed him as he made most of his rounds in the city.

The couple, parents of three children and four grandchildren, had little radio experience when they started the show, other than Larry Stevens singing on radio shows several times before. They landed the gig when he was working as a singer at a Chicago landmark club, The London House. One day, as he was singing on a Chicago television show, Larry Stevens said, someone approached him and asked if he would like to do a radio program. He said yes, but added, "I want to do it with my wife." At that time, Etta Stevens was a homemaker who also made money designing and selling jewelry. Thus, the Larry and Etta Stevens celebrity radio interview program was born.

During their long run, they interviewed many hundreds of national, international and Broadway stars, including singers and musicians such as Bette Midler, B.B. King, Simon and Garfunkel, and Tony Bennett. Advice columnists Ann Landers and Dr. Joyce Brothers also made appearances, as did actors Vincent Price, Mickey Rooney and Louis Gossett Jr. They talked with Gerry Spence, a famed "Cowboy" attorney who wore cowboy garb, including hats and boots. The pair, now retired, also interviewed talk show hosts Phil Donahue and Oprah Winfrey. They interviewed

Winfrey as she was getting started in Chicago. The future media mogul and billionaire gave clues to her elegant personality in 1985 when she sent Larry and Etta Stevens a note on purple paper. The note, placed inside a purple envelop, with a return address that only contained the word Oprah, said Winfrey would be out of town for most of the summer because she was filming a movie, *The Color Purple*. Oprah added she wanted to meet them for lunch when she got back to Chicago.



While their radio days provide moments to reminisce, Etta Stevens nowadays works as a teacher for the Brahma Kumaris, an international spiritual organization based in India. The group offers a variety of activities, including mainly free meditations and lectures around the world. In Hollywood, on Tuesday at 10:15 a.m., Etta Stevens leads a meditation at the Hollywood Library, in the City Hall complex. Sometimes she speaks or plays a recorded meditation on a boombox. Other times, she listens as people in the audience offer their insights or reads aloud the words of experienced meditators. Larry Stevens occasionally attends the meditations. Almost two decades removed from their radio program, the couple continue to listen and read together.



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Do you need to spark up your view? Are your window treatments complimenting your home? The advances in window treatments are numerous. You can choose window treatments not only to enhance your décor, but also for saving energy. Did you know that carefully selected window treatments can reduce heat gain in the summer? Now that's something to Love!

3. Get to the Heart of the Matter by Decluttering and Reorganizing



There isn't anything romantic about clutter. We've all heard the expression, "You can't see the forest through the trees"! Well, nothing can breathe new life and love into a home than getting rid of what's not working any longer.

Get started by allocating your stuff to trash, give away, keep or relocate.



4. Upholstery and New Furniture you are sure to Love

Now that you are left with the treasures you love, a new space plan can create a room that you and your guests will surely Fall in Love with. Is that old chair feeling

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5. Set the Mood with Lighting



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February State of the Market

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

STAGE YOUR HOME/CONDO TO SELL

A Team Florida INSISTS that home seller stage but more and more we are encouraging our condo sellers to invest in staging also. We routinely beat the highest sales in Hillcrest, but it rarely happens if the condo is not staged. The numbers don't lie – one of our sellers got 5K more for a 1/1 after spending \$1200 on staging. Last month two of our sellers got 4K and 5K respectively over the previous highest sales for a convertible and a 1/1/1 because of staging. One only spent \$1000 on staging because the stager was able to use a lot of what they already had. Only when our second seller showed us she had the ability to stage her condo like a professional, did we allow her to do it herself. Staging is that important!

To earn top dollar and sell your condo more quickly, you must make it stand out from the competition. And one of the best ways to do that is staging. At the very least, the following need to be done, then numbers are the percentages of professional Realtors who agree:

- Declutter – 93%
- Full home cleaning – 89%
- Carpet cleaning – 81%
- Remove pets before showings – 80%
- Make minor repairs – 75%
- Depersonalize the home – 72%
- Paint walls – 68%

On the previous page are some great tips from DeNunzio Interior Design. We have known Mary and Karen for several years and of course, we are great admirers of their work. We have seen them magically transform everything from a single condo to an entire motel.

There are 4 IMPORTANT REASONS TO STAGE:

1. Your home/condo will shine online. Buyers first found 92% of the homes they visited on the Internet so good staging can make your property stand out before buyers see it in person.
2. It shows off the potential. 77% of agents say staging makes it easier for buyers to visualize a property as their future home.
3. It spurs walk-throughs. Customers are more willing to walk through a property that's been staged, according to 40% of agents.
4. Your home/condo will sell faster. Nearly two-thirds of agents say staging decreases the amount of time a home spends on the market.

COST OF PROFESSIONAL STAGING:

Most stagers charge \$300 to \$600 for an initial consultation, then \$500 to \$600 per room per month. About one-third of buyer's agents say staging increases selling price by 1% to 5%. 13% of agents say staging increases selling prices by 6% to 10%. 5% of agents say staging adds 11% to 20% to selling price. Sources: NAR 2017 Profile of Home Staging.

February Kitchen Korner - by Cindy Abraham



Speaking of SWEETS. Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Anniversary to my partner in life and love - Brian Gaiefsky. 7 years together, who'da thunk it? If I had my life do over I would find you sooner so I could love you longer.

February is "sweetheart" month and I know I have mentioned that I do not bake BUT I found this recipe and happened to have all the ingredients on hand so I tried it. OFF THE CHARTS GREAT! Also made them twice. The one weird ingredient you need is tahini oil (used to make hummus). You can find it at Damascus Mid-East Food Market up the street at 5721 Hollywood Boulevard. The coconut oil you can find anywhere these days. Aldi's carries it and the light agave nectar cheaper than anywhere else.

The tahini oil mixture with the agave is so good that you can use it as topping on cheesecake, ice cream or even Labneh (Lebanese yogurt) which of course is at Damascus, but also at Penn-Dutch. And, as long as I mentioned Labneh - and Mediterranean foods are so "in" right now - I will re-share my other go-to favorite dessert. But first the brownies. They taste exotic because of the ingredients but both recipes are super easy.

CHOCOLATE-TAHINI BROWNIES

3 TBS cornstarch
2 TBS unsweetened cocoa powder
6 oz. (1 1/2 bars) semisweet chocolate broken into pieces
3 TBS coconut oil
4 TBS tahini (divided use)
2 large eggs
1/3 cup granulated sugar
1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
1 tsp kosher salt
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 TBS light agave nectar



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line an 8x8" baking dish with 2 overlapping pieces of parchment, leaving overhang. Whisk **cornstarch** and **cocoa powder** in a bowl until no lumps remain. Heat **chocolate pieces**, oil, and **1 TBS tahini** in a small saucepan over low, stirring, until melted and smooth, about 1 minute; remove from heat.

Using an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat **eggs** and both **sugars** in a large bowl until light, smooth, and doubled in volume, about 4 minutes. Reduce speed to medium and beat in **salt and vanilla**.

Scrape in chocolate mixture and beat to incorporate; beat in cornstarch mixture. Increase speed to medium-high and mix until batter is thick and stiff, about 1 minute. Scrape into prepared baking dish and smooth top.

Stir **agave nectar** into remaining **3 TBS tahini** in a small bowl. Dollop spoonfuls over batter in 5 or 6 spots; drag a skewer or toothpick through to swirl.

Bake brownies until edges are puffed, top is browned, and a tester inserted into the center comes out with a few moist crumbs attached; 22-26 minutes. Let cool. Remove from pan; cut into squares.



LEBANESE YOGURT WITH SAUTEED DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS

(makes 6 servings)

You may have to take a trip to Damascus Mid-East Food Market for the grape molasses and I found pomegranate molasses there also. The last time I printed this recipe it was detailed in the types of nuts and dried fruit, but I found an easy way to do it because we like this dessert a lot and it needs to be fast and easy. Just buy your favorite trail mix that has dried fruit and nuts. You can throw in some pine nuts if you want and the chopped pistachio topping is a must in my opinion. But the best part is when I added the tahini/agave mix in the above recipe to this one, sometimes too, some of these ingredients. I found the dried sour cherries at CVS and you can probably find most of the nuts there also. Or use your imagination and substitute!

2 cups Labneh (Lebanese yogurt)

2 TBS butter
1 cup of your favorite fruit/nut mix (EX: walnuts, dried sour cherries, raisins, hazelnuts, raw almonds, cranberries, pine nuts, etc.)
Pinch of cinnamon
2 TBS tahini at room temperature
2 TBS grape or pomegranate molasses

1 TBS chopped pistachios
3 TBS tahini mixed with 1 TBS light agave nectar

Cover the bottom of 4 heatproof glasses with some of the tahini/agave mix. Spoon 1/4 **cup yogurt** on top.

In a large skillet, melt 2 TBS butter. Add the **fruit/nut mix and pine nuts**. Sauté over medium high heat, shaking the pan, until the butter is sizzling and beginning to brown around the edges.

Stir in the room-temperature **tahini, grape molasses and pinch of cinnamon**. Spoon the mixture into the glasses and top with 1/4 cup yogurt.

Sprinkle on the **pistachios** and a dollop of the tahini/agave mixture and serve.

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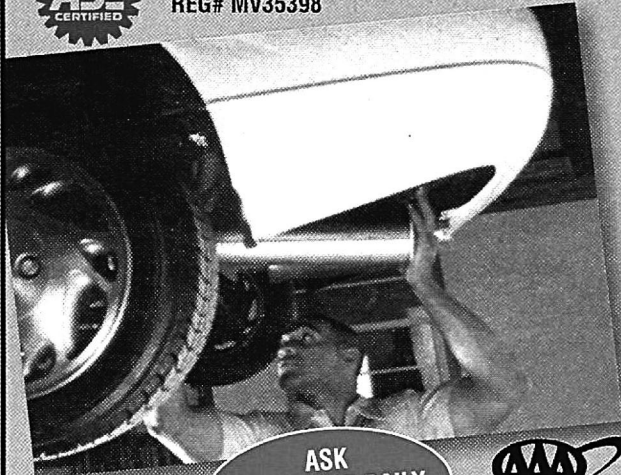
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WHO YOU THINK AND SPEAK OF YOU BECOME

By Sister Jenna - Submitted by Etta Stevens



Sister Jenna is a spiritual leader, author, radio and TV personality, renowned speaker and founder of the Meditation Museum in Silver Spring, Maryland and McLean, Virginia. Selected by Empower a Billion Women 2020 as one of 100 Most Influential Leaders of 2015 and served as a principal partner with the Oprah Winfrey Network and Values Partnerships on the Oprah Winfrey Belief Team, a community of individuals from diverse

spiritual, cultural and faith backgrounds, and as an influential connector, she coordinated bringing on-board organizations and thought leaders to engage in this global dialogue on Belief.

Her mission is to decode critical current issues and offer a perspective for folks to find clarity, power, and insight. Despite the many life challenges that we face on a global scale, Sister Jenna has an uncanny ability to connect us back to where our problems originated and shift our awareness toward the solutions. Her voice of influence is particularly needed in the wake of tragedy and increasing violence in our world.

For decades, she has demonstrated an extraordinary level of improvement in the quality of lives of people ranging from heads of government to children in villages. She has traveled to over 80 countries where she continues to provide practical life tools and solutions that empower people to foster and build stronger relationships. Her wisdom, peace, and compassion for humanity are expressed through the variety of initiatives she spearheads for youth, women, governments, and communities. She has collaborated with Fortune 500 companies on key issues and her syndicated radio show, America Meditating is a popular global online show. She holds an honorary doctorate by St. Thomas Aquinas College and her latest meditation soundtrack, Inclusion Revolution: Together with Love brings together people from all backgrounds and experiences.

The mind and intellectual abilities are so very powerful. The more we understand how consciousness and thoughts work, the greater our ability to make it through whatever situation emerges because of our very own thinking. As a meditation teacher, author and lecturer, I know that our thoughts create our actions and with positive actions we create a live of purpose.

After watching Oprah's speech as she received the 2018 Golden Globes Cecil B. DeMille Award, it became clearer than ever how important it is to think and speak about the people who model our innate values, those who speak a universal truth and those who inspire us to be better human beings. Then, I began to ponder on the people who have given the soul sorrow, or who have been deceitful, angry, manipulative and negative and the impact it would have on our soul compared to the ones who offered hope and joy. The reality was two different truths.

The one who inspires us to become better makes the soul stronger, clearer and closer to God. The one who makes our spirit dark takes us down a tunnel with no way out. Now, do know, we give folks permission to access our soul field which then triggers what we believe in and become. So, at the end of the journey it will be about us and the choices that we make. However, it all begins with our thoughts.

What we think we become. Living is only ever in the Now, the present moment in time. The mind, however, is most often in the future or the past. The past is gone, the future an illusion in our minds, but the present is a gift we experience Now. Look around at the friends you keep. The space in which you live. The way you carry yourself. It's all coming from your thoughts. So, I found myself thinking about all the folks who I have loved and have been inspired by.

Each one carries a value, a virtue, something graceful, divinity, nobility and a vision greater than themselves. I then realized the more I thought and spoke of folks who inspired me to soar, the more it was worth adding them on my list as the folks who have impacted me in a good way. I am keeping my eyes and heart opened to those who are about to enter my fields of consciousness and evolution.

As Oprah once said, "Breathe. Let go. And, remind yourself that this very moment is the only one you know you have for sure." You are in control of your thoughts. What do you want to think about today?

#God (because God's energy is carved in everyone) and to everyone who went out of their way to make life better for me and everyone else. When I have thought of them, I was inspired to keep living a life of greater truth, values and dignity. To be myself and to trust my pure thoughts from above to guide me and those around me towards a life of compassion, generosity, sacrifice, courage and joy. What is your list?

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Sterling Rd. Library's Wellness Program:

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February 2018 IT Security Tips



Automatic Updates have a Purpose!

If you want to ensure online security, then I suggest you take advantage of automatic software updates. Software updates are like oil changes... updates are a huge pain in our you-know- what, but they're a lifesaver in hindsight!

Hackers will always be looking for new ways to exploit you. The truth is that "most" modern software will update itself if you let it. Using old software will only put you at risk because you'll be missing out on the latest protections built to keep you safe. The trick... is to make sure you have auto-updates turned on and working to protect you.

Unbreakable Passwords

We have the ability to create challenging passwords that are even hard for hackers to crack, yet most aren't taking these precautions. If I had to guess, I'd say it comes down to laziness. People just don't want to put in the effort to remember more challenging passwords. The irony is that we under-estimate our ability to remember important things like a security password. Think about it. We remember entire songs word for word and movie quotes – so why wouldn't we be able to do the same for a password. **If you're interested in learning some good PASSWORD tips, please read below;**

Stop Making Sense: String together unrelated words. This is called the Diceware Method. The thought is that you roll the dice and pick from a list of thousands of words. Just pick 5 long, random words and put them together. Some websites want you to include a digit so you have that option as well. Example: StrawberriesSuperbowlNovemberCharlieAirplane2002

Use a Password Manager: LastPass and 1Password are great password managers. Now all you need to remember is ONE password to house all of your passwords. See, life's getting easier already!

Write them down somewhere: Don't be scared by the thought of having a written copy of your passwords hidden somewhere. Just be smart about it. Don't leave a post-it note stuck to your laptop!

Password Loyalty: Don't be scared! There's no truth in needing to change your passwords often. If your passwords are strong there's no sense in changing them (unless of course they've been discovered/hacked).

Double your Safety with the Two-Factor Authentication 2FA stands for Two Factor Authentication. This is something that helps prevent un-authorized access to email, financial and other accounts. In a nutshell, when you enable this service, you'll be asked to enter an additional piece of information, this is usually another set of numbers (passcode) sent to your mobile phone. Basically, for a criminal to gain access to certain accounts, they would need your password and your mobile phone. Go to www.twofactorauth.org for a partial list of sites that offer 2FA.

Lock your Screens!

I'm going out on a limb and guessing that most people these days are smart enough to have passwords and pins for their screens. Any device (tablet, computer, smart phone) without a screen lock is essentially open playing grounds for thieves/hackers. They'll access your email, social and banking information before you could spell CYBER CRIME. Here's how to do a screen lock the right way;

1. Go Long: Use six digits instead of 4-digit pins.
2. Be Unique: Don't be captain obvious, 1234, 0000, 1111, 1212
3. Don't be too Personal: Don't ever choose birthdays, SSN, phone number
4. Get better at Finger Art: Attention Android users: Make your password a little trickier. My half blind grandma can crack your finger art screen password

Keep your Fitness to Yourself!

So many devices and wearables are paired with our Smartphones using Bluetooth technology – but those phones aren't the only hardware scooping up the signals. A study proved that many Bluetooth devices don't prevent data access by "sniffers" located nearby. Fitness trackers and Running Watches for example can broadcast your private, sensitive data (about you!) such as your name, address, password and GPS data. **Here's a helpful tip!! Keep your wireless settings turned off until you choose to upload the data to your phone at the end of a workout or at night. (As an added benefit, that will extend the battery life).**

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.

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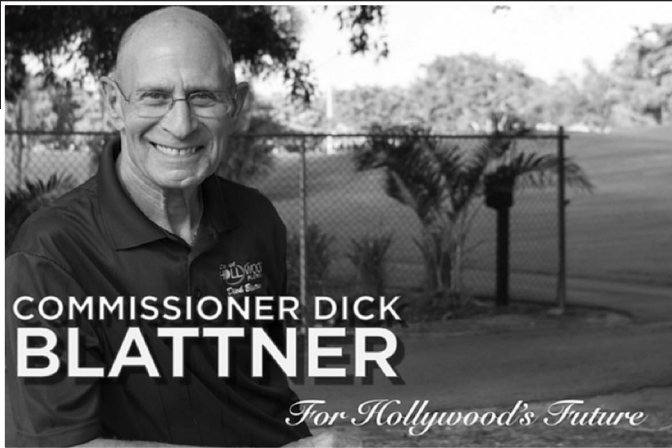
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JANUARY 2018 REPORT

by Commissioner Dick Blattner

THE COST OF EMS

When Fire Rescue comes to the aid of someone who is ill or who has been in an accident, there is a cost. The individual is billed through their insurance, or through Medicare or Medicaid. But, the city's ability to collect is—in a word--abysmal. In 2017, our city had an EMS billing shortfall of more than \$2.6 million. That deficit comes out of the General Fund. In other words: our tax bill. So, in 2018, we will be much more aggressive about out collection efforts.

You may recall in last month's report I warned that if the November referendum to grant an additional homestead exemption passed (and why wouldn't it), it would cost Hollywood \$3 million, or more? Maybe we can make some of that up by collecting the money owed to all of us.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

Having written previously about how increased economic development and property values don't do much more than pay next year's bills for almost every city in Broward, the Commission is now considering a debt finance program to pave streets and alleys, install new lighting, upgrade recreation facilities and more. However, WE NEED YOUR INPUT. Please let me know if you can attend, either by email at rblattner@hollywoodfl.org or by phone at 954-558-0175.

- Agreed to purchase 29 vehicles for Public Works to replace beat up and decrepit cars and trucks. Note: at the Feb. 7 meeting we will be asked to approve the lease of 48 vehicles for police, including a number of SUVs, which are necessary to traverse high tides and other weather events.
- Approved \$20.5 million for a watermain replacement project, part of the 2007 utility master plan.
- Approved \$1.65 million for rehabilitation of equipment at the Waste Water Treatment plant.

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

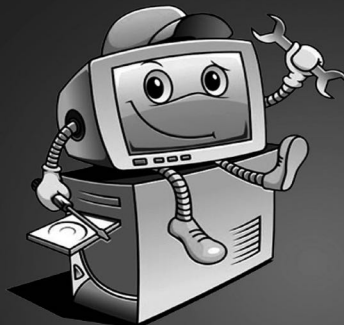
Police Chief Tomas (Tom) Sanchez has retired after 30 years in public safety. Tom managed the transition of the department through the financial urgency issue several years ago. The department is young but performs like veterans. Tom is unusual: he is very cerebral and taught police organization and tactics all over the world, as well as at the Federal level. I loved working with Tom and wish him well. Chris O'Brien is Interim Chief.

Thanks for listening. I do think this turned out better the second time.

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On-site Estimate	\$ 0	
Windows Install/Repair	\$95	\$150
Tune-up	\$19	\$65

* Pricing above are valid when you schedule an online appointment.



LIGHTING TIPS



Check out these tips on an inexpensive home upgrade:

- If your home is like many, it probably has basic plastic light switches and plugs. The easiest improvement anyone can do is to upgrade the light switch covers. The best places to do this are in the bathrooms, kitchen, master bedroom, and at the front entrance. It adds a little extra touch that will definitely leave a great impression.
- If yours is also an older home, it probably does not have GFCI (ground-fault circuit interrupter) outlets. These outlets (identified by the red reset button) are used wherever water increases the risk of shock. To improve safety and add value to your home, replace regular outlets with GFCIs in the kitchen, bathrooms, laundry room, and anywhere that water is present.
- Dimmer switches are also a nice touch to add in areas such as bedrooms, hallways and living rooms.
- These are easy, do-it-yourself jobs, but remember to always cut the power at the main panel before attempting these upgrades. If you are not familiar with how to safely replace an electrical outlet, hire a qualified electrician. This will be a little more expensive, but it will be worthwhile.



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2018 US Postage Rates as of 1/21/2018:

Domestic Mailing:

- First Class Mail Letters (1 oz.) rates **will increase** from \$0.49 to \$0.50 when purchased at the Post Office. Each additional ounce will cost \$0.21.
- The discounted "Metered Mail" category for First Class Mail Letters (1 oz.), which includes online postage providers and postage meters, **will increase** from \$0.46 to \$0.47. Each additional ounce will cost \$0.21.
- First Class Mail Flats (1 oz.) **will increase** from \$0.98 to \$1.00. Each additional ounce will cost \$0.21.
- Postcard rates will increase one cent to \$0.35.

Post Office/Retail Rates:

First Class Mail - 2018 Rates

INCREASE PER LETTER - 2018 rates vs. 2017 rates

Mailpiece Weight	2018	2017	Increase
Letters - 1 oz.	\$0.50	\$0.49	\$0.01
Letters - Additional Ounces	\$0.21	\$0.21	\$0.00
Metered Mail Letters (Stamps.com Rate) - 1 oz.	\$0.47	\$0.46	\$0.01
Metered Mail Letters (Stamps.com Rate) Additional Ounces	\$0.21	\$0.21	\$0.00
Flat/Large Envelope - 1 oz.	\$1.00	\$0.98	\$0.02
Flat/Large Envelope - Additional Ounces	\$0.21	\$0.21	\$0.00
Postcards	\$0.35	\$0.34	\$0.01
International Letters - 1 oz. (Country Groups 1-9)	\$1.15	\$1.15	\$0.00
International Postcard (Country Groups 1-9)	\$1.15	\$1.15	\$0.00

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The letter **MUST BE SIGNED** and a phone number included so we may verify that you actually sent the letter. In the published edition, only your first initial will be used **UNLESS** you specifically request that your name be included.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We reserve the right to condense, but we will not edit the piece in order to distort your intent. Anytime we condense, it will be indicated by ...

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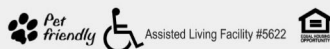
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