

Inside Hillcrest

– Connecting Neighbors to Neighbors –



JANUARY 2020

HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 1

JANUARY INSIDE HILLCREST

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HA HA HA FOLLOWS HO HO HO

Inside Hillcrest starts off every year with our semi-annual “whimsy” issue made up of jokes and inspirational stories sent in by our readers. Well, social media has definitely impacted this month’s issue. Lots of cartoons instead of written jokes/stories. And if you think you have better jokes than the ones in this issue or a great inspirational story, send it to Inside.Hillcrest@comcast.net and we will put it in the next whimsy issue coming up in JULY. Speaking of Inspirational, I love **Suzy Toronto Blue Mountain Arts** greeting cards – you can find them at the Sparkle Car Wash on 441 just after Johnson Street. This one is one of my favorites and yes, I sent the card to my daughter. Her greeting cards are absolutely GORGEOUS!

Wonderful Wacky Words...Wisdom for My Daughter

Your future does not lie ahead of you; it lies deep inside you. Life is not about finding yourself, it is about creating yourself. When life becomes a roller coaster, climb into the front seat, throw your arms in the air and enjoy the ride! Rise by lifting others. When life gets crazy, do something normal and if life gets too normal, do something crazy. Be nice... it always makes you better. Life is all about how you handle Plan B. Practice the art of listening. Play with wild abandon, no matter how old you are. Find the joy in all the choices you make. Think big...if that doesn't work, think bigger. Remember, in the end, good girls always win. And remember, I believe in you...always have, always will. I think you are absolutely over-the-top amazing...don't ever forget it!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hopefully, for many of us, this new year starts with a wonderful Board of Directors; either we kept the good ones we had or elected some stellar new people. How do you know if a board member is good? A good board member is one who focuses on the future and has ideas that he/she believes will make living in the building even better. They

never gossip about other board members or residents and they certainly do not criticize the work of others to make themselves look good. A professional leader moves forward and either continues the good work of the previous board or contributes new methods or processes that will benefit the residents. To lead, you need to look at what is in front of you and pick a direction to inspire trust so that others willingly follow. A true leader does not bad mouth the previous administration. That goes for our local, state and national leaders also. Respect is earned, not bestowed by a title.

2020 MANTRA FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

And yes, I am going to use some of my favorite quotes: People who enjoy meetings should not be in charge of anything. – *Thomas Sowell* Let go of your attachment to being right, and suddenly the mind is more open. You're able to benefit from the unique viewpoints of others, without being crippled by your own judgment. – *Ralph Marston*

IWIN – I WANT I NEED

For you longtime IH readers – and I mean way back in 2008 - we had a page called **IWIN** for residents who had items to sell or post items they needed or even advertise a lost/found item. We are reviving that page starting in this issue. First item – anyone lose a DRONE by Hillcrest Building 4? Call us at 8-HILLCREST with a date and description – we have good news for you!

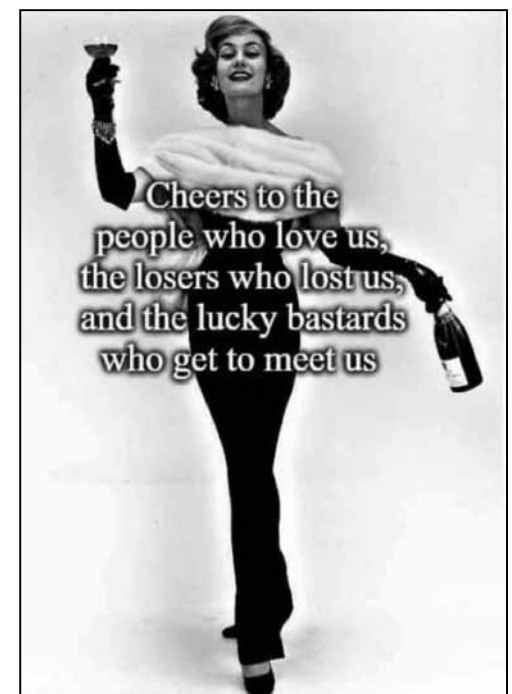
GETTING SERIOUS FOR A MINUTE...

There are many of us who just do not want to retire in the traditional sense. We want to take it easy but still have something to do and somewhere to go some days. A part time job can be a Godsend for us; not to mention a little extra income never hurts. Go to www.aarp.org/searchjobsnow.com and see how it could work for you.

OR TWO...

The Slip and Fall articles in the past few issues hopefully have helped prevent a few. We even asked **Dr. Rotem Amir** (page 3) to write an article about the dangers. But last month, a dear friend in Building 23 fell and passed away from his injuries. Folks, please be careful. If you have fallen even once, take the time to evaluate the reason why and take precautions. I tripped over the dishwasher door in the middle of the night and almost broke my nose! I have learned to NEVER leave the dishwasher door open to air dry the dishes AND we have put night lights in every room.

That one was “my own damn fault” as they say. Many trips and falls are the result of negligence or hazards just waiting for a victim. After the initial embarrassment and the “I’m OK, I’m not hurt”, be smart. Get yourself checked out and get help with possible medical bills. **Peter Bober**, one of my all-time favorite attorneys not only advertises in Inside Hillcrest, he is an expert in the field. Many of you know him from his invitations to our Annual Meetings when he was the Mayor of Hollywood. A stand-up guy and he knows his business. If you need to consult with an attorney because of a slip and fall, call **Peter Bober at 954-922-2298**.



A LABOR DAY TRADITION CONTINUES

By Eric Glazer, Esq. - Published September 2, 2019

Dominic Devoted has been the President of Broken and Bruised Condo for as long as he cares to remember. He longs for Labor Day because he knows that even the condo trouble-makers understand what Labor Day stands for. Even they know not to bother him on what should be the holiest of holy days for board members. For one day, Dominic knows he can't be bothered. While it doesn't say so in the governing documents, it's certainly an understood unwritten rule.

That is until Carla Decomplayner woke Dominic up with a call at 7am. Carla wanted to know if the Board had planned any special activities for Labor Day. Dominic said yes...SLEEP. And promptly hung up the phone.

Dominic drifts back to dreaming andBANG! He hears a car accident in the parking lot. Ida Izblind just smashed her 1983 Camry with 3000 original miles into one of the new electric vehicle charging stations. Ida blames Dominic for allowing these ridiculous science fiction contraptions in the condo and puts on her glasses after the damage is done.

As much as he wanted to stay in bed, Dominic ran down to make sure Ida and the charging station were still in one piece. Nat Nitpick, a retired CPA from New York catches Dominic in the hallway. Nat says that if the Board would only listen to him, nobody would even have to pay maintenance every month. The first thing he suggests is getting two sets of books and faking an insurance claim. He said he did this for some other condos in the Big Apple and it worked out well. In fact, in about 7 1/2 -15 years, the directors will be able to tell you all about it. Dominic manages to get away.

Running past the bulletin board he runs into Allen Aggravator. Allen is pointing at the notice of the upcoming board meeting and starts swearing at Dominic for not giving the owners 175 days advanced notice of the meeting as required by Florida law. Dominic says only 2 days is required. Allen says that's impossible because he attended one of those Condo Craze seminars and he swears Glazer said 175 days is required and if not, the President loses his car. Glazer can't be reached for comment.

It's not even 8:00 am on Labor Day and Dominic is already exhausted. He gets to the parking lot and Ida is fine. The electric charging station is dented but at least nobody is hurt. Then, Joe Muscles, who never seems to leave the gym, threatens to pound Dominic into sawdust because he knows that there is this new law that says directors can't serve more than 3 years in a row and Dominic is in his 5th year. He better step down or else the DBPR will take away his wife and kids. Dominic says the DBPR can't do that. Joe Muscles says that's impossible because he attended one of those Condo Craze seminars and he swears Glazer said so. Dominic promises to give serious consideration to resigning anyway. Glazer still can't be reached for comment.

No point in turning around and going back to sleep at this point. Dominic figures now is as good a time as any to take a lap or two in the pool. To his shock, Freddie Faker is in the pool, and so is his pet porcupine. Dominic swears at Freddie to get that damn pet out of the pool. Freddie says that's not my pet, it's my emotional support porcupine. Ever since the Heat traded LeBron James, he provides me comfort. It's difficult to snuggle with says Freddie but says that's why he has a wife. He also dares Dominic to pick it up if he wants it out of the pool so badly.

Dominic leaves the pool and heads upstairs. Now he knows for sure....if he's crazy enough to be on the board next year on Labor Day, he's staying at a hotel.

START THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT.

Our 2020 Board Certification and Legal
Update Schedule is Out!

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IWIN - I WANT I NEED

Many of us have items that we no longer need that we would like to see go to a good "home". If you have anything that you would like to donate to a neighbor or sell, place an ad! Donate ads are always free and sales ads will be free until the March issue. Take advantage of "free" and send in your ad now to **Inside.Hillcrest@comcast.net**.

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DRONE found behind Hillcrest Building 4. Call or email the date of the loss and a description so we can get it back to the owner. 8-HILLCREST or email **Inside.Hillcrest@comcast.net**.

Anyone need a tall wood cabinet, a china cabinet, a brand new sandwich maker, a couple wall pix or bathroom over-the-toilet shelving? Email us for pictures and make an offer. **Inside.Hillcrest@comcast.net**.

I HATE having a messy house.

Not enough to actually clean it.
but enough to give it a really
disgusted stare from my seat on
the couch.

**A good laugh and a long sleep are the
two best cures for anything.**

Irish Proverb



THE CHARLES SCHULZ PHILOSOPHY

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schulz, The creator of the 'Peanuts' comic strip. You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just ponder on them.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.



How did you do? The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But, the applause dies, awards tarnish and achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List five teachers or coaches who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a tough time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Name five people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Name five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier? The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most.



**worrying won't stop
the bad stuff from happening
it just stops you
from enjoying the good.**



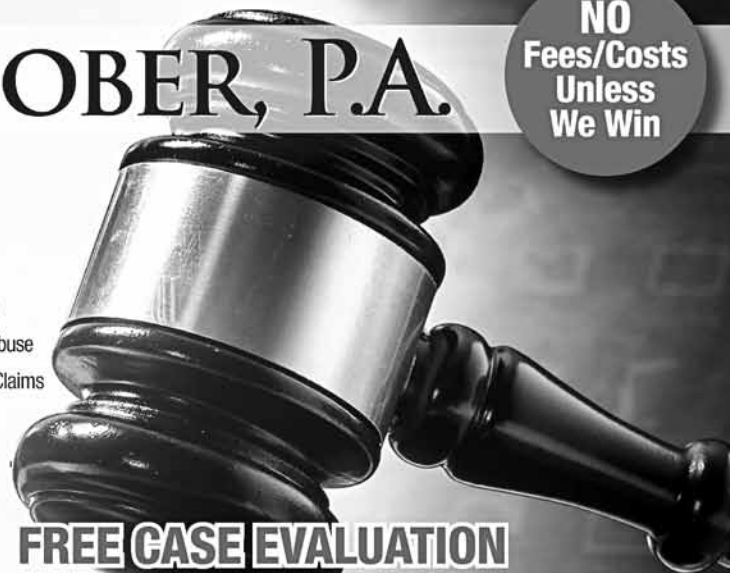
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MAKES SENSE TO ME...

If you have a drink in your right hand, anything eaten with the other hand has no calories. Several principles are at work here. First of all, you're probably standing up at a cocktail party (see "Food on Foot"). Then there's the electronic field: a wet glass in one hand forms a negative charge to reverse the polarity of the calories attracted to the other hand. I'm not exactly sure how it works, but I read it on the Internet so...



Hello, neighbor!

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HAPPINESS

To be happy with a man, you must understand him a lot and love him a little.

To be happy with a woman, you must love her a lot and not try to understand her at all.

HOW TO STOP PEOPLE FROM BUGGING YOU ABOUT GETTING MARRIED

Old aunts used to come up to me at weddings, poking me in the ribs and cackling, telling me, "You're next." They stopped after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

If it has tires or testicles, you are going to have trouble with it.

I AM SO OLD THAT, WHEN I WAS A KID, WE ACTUALLY HAD TO WIN TO GET A TROPHY!

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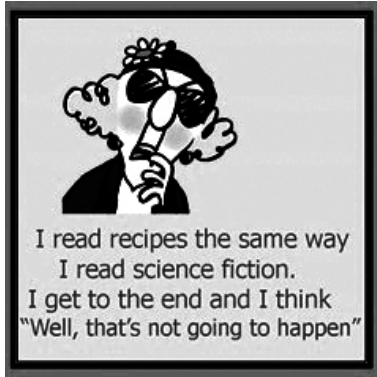
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January Kitchen Korner - by Cindy Abraham

Funny Food Story:

When I lived in Texas, I had a good-sized 4/2 home and ran into a former co-worker who was going through a divorce. She and I had been pregnant at the same time years earlier at Tony Roma's in Florida. Her daughter Daniella was born four days before my daughter Jennifer. Both girls were 10 years old at the time and she had a four year old, Nicole. We became roommates and it was a perfect arrangement; she worked nights and I worked days. Dinner and bedtime were my responsibilities. One evening I made Jennifer's favorite: Garlic-butter broiled chicken, mashed potatoes and corn. Daniella announced that the mashed potatoes "tasted funny" and Nicole agreed. Jennifer and I thought they tasted fine but I told the girls they didn't have to eat them. It was Daniella's turn to clear the table and as she scraped the uneaten potatoes into the trash, I heard her say in a very accusing tone, "OH! Now I know what was wrong with the mashed potatoes; you used real potatoes!" She had seen the potato peels in the garbage and before I could process what she said, I apologized. In those days mashed potatoes came in a box and tasted like crap. But it is what you are used to, I guess...



Homemade usually can't be beat. I remember being very disappointed that Sabra can make hummus as good as mine and very surprised that some bottled Italian sauces were as good as my goombah friend's homemade sauces. However, I am pleased that ready-made mashed potatoes taste like the labor intensive homemade ones (to me but not to Jennifer). I just need to remember that the great

taste probably includes a bunch of chemicals and preservatives. In keeping with the easy breezy theme of the January issue, I am going to clue you in about some store-bought meals I found that are very good and priced right. Lately, with work so crazy, sometimes the day gets away from us we are just walking in the door at dinnertime. There are times (usually on a Sunday) that I prepare some freeze/heat/serve meals to eat during the early part of the week which tends to be the most hectic. As devoted foodies, we still want a satisfying meal.

But then I discovered Hormel Beef Tips, Beef Roast and Italian Style Roast. All are VERY GOOD. Publix actually has their own brand similar meals for \$6.49 which are just as tasty. I believe you can get the Hormel brand at Walmart (I hate shopping there) for under \$6.00. Each meal serves 2-3 easily. The only problem is that we are trying very hard to cut down on beef/lamb/pork because we are watching our cholesterol. So, these need to be a once a week treat at most. Aldi's has ready-made Pulled Pork for under \$5.00 that is as good as what we make from scratch. Serve it on an Aldi's brioche bun and top with ready-made coleslaw and a dash of hot sauce.

Other than a fully cooked whole chicken from just about anywhere (put it in the oven on low for about 2-3 hours before serving and it is GREAT!). So far, I haven't found any boxed or frozen chicken dishes that make the grade. Another Aldi's hit for us are the frozen Salmon Power Bites when they have them. Delicious with the mustard/mayo sauce usually served with stone crabs.

But my biggest success story is discovering boxed Gumbo made by **Jambalaya Girl**. Our buddy, **Bodro the Ragin' Cajun** actually complimented the roux! I would definitely buy it again. Of course, I double up on the andouille, shrimp and chicken for more protein than carbs. Yesterday I made the Jambalaya and yes, way better than any other boxed brand.

PLEASE SHARE THIS MESSAGE – courtesy Friends of Hollywood, Florida Inc.

The Presidential Preference Primary will take place on Tuesday, March 17th. Early voting is from March 7th to March 15th, 10 AM to 6 PM. Any registered Broward voter can vote at any one of the 22 Early Voting locations around the County. You can find the address of an early voting precinct near you at www.browardsoe.org. The early voting precinct in Hollywood is at the Library on City Hall Circle, 2600 Hollywood Boulevard.

WHO CAN VOTE IN THE PRIMARIES?

In primaries, to vote for a Republican candidate you must be a registered **Republican**. To vote for a **Democrat** you must be a registered Democrat. If you are registered **Independent** you cannot vote. If you are registered Independent and want to vote in the primaries you can easily change your Party Affiliation online. Go to www.browardsoe.org and click on "Update Voter Info".

HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL

You can request a Vote-By-Mail Ballot at www.browardsoe.org. Every mailed-in ballot will be processed if you remember to sign your name on the outside of the pre-paid (**postage free**) envelope before mailing.

WAYS TO ORDER a VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT NOW

Online: www.browardsoe.org. By E-mail: VBM@Broward.org. In Person: 115 So. Andrews Ave., Room 102, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301. By Mail: Broward Supervisor of Elections - VBM Request, PO Box 029001, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33302-9001. By Phone: 954-357-7055 By Fax: 954-321-0310

TRACKING YOUR BALLOT AFTER YOU MAIL IT IN

At www.browardsoe.org you can track your ballot from the time your request is received, to the time it is mailed to you, to the time it is received at the SOE, and whether or not your completed ballot has been certified for processing. If you plan to vote online, request a ballot now.

SOME OF THE SERVICES AVAILABLE ONLINE:

Register to Vote.
Change Your Party Affiliation
Order Vote-By-Mail Ballots for All Elections Through 2022
Track Your Vote-My-Mail Ballot - Click on "My Status"
Update Your Voter Info - Including Changing Your Name or Address
For more information about what you can do online go to www.browardsoe.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Mailing Out of Vote-By-Mail Ballots Begins February 6th.
Last Day to Request a Vote-By-Mail Ballot is March 7th.
Ballots Must Be Received at the SOE on or before March 17th.
Order Your Ballot Now.

UPDATE YOUR VOTER RECORD

If you have not voted recently or updated your voter record, go to www.browardsoe.org and click on "Update Voter Info" or visit the Supervisor of Elections Office in person.

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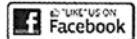
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2019 STATE OF THE MARKET

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



164 Hillcrest units sold through the MLS during 2019. Currently there are 56 on the market. During the month of December, 9 units closed and another 7 went under contract. Of those, only three were in the low rises which doesn't sound like a lot BUT of the 56 current listings only SIX are in the low/mid rises so they are doing quite well percentage-wise! 11 of the 16 pending/closed sales were in over-55 buildings. In this market, with so many baby boomers retiring, there is little difference in how fast or how high over-55 units sell compared to all-age buildings. In fact, the over-55 folks are willing to – and can afford – to pay top dollar for a completely remodeled unit. Most don't want to move again so they want perfection.

We get a fair amount of calls from folks who want to buy and flip a unit. Unless you are big enough to buy and flip several at a time and making a few thousand on each flip is worth it to you, you need to be very careful. Very few condos these days are priced to sell and flip where you can make enough to cover your expenses and come out with more than \$10,000. You are not only paying for the remodel costs, you also pay two sets of closing costs, taxes and the monthly maintenance while you are waiting to resell it.

Another factor to consider is that a one bedroom unit almost NEVER is worth flipping. Figure that a one bedroom still has a kitchen and a bath - many have 1.5 baths - so other than painting and flooring a second bedroom, you are doing the same amount of work and spending close to the same amount of money redoing a 1/1/1 as you would a 2/2.

The smart investors right now are buying multi-family units to rent out. With more than one renter paying monthly, your odds of being able to meet the monthly mortgage are better. With one unit to rent, you are dependent on one renter to help you defray your costs. The rental market is not as tight as it once was and there are tons of rentals available right now. Be sure you work with an agent who knows what they are doing when you are purchasing investment properties. And be sure to hire a professional Realtor to handle your rental so your tenant is properly vetted.

I received a call from someone who received a mailing with a SOLD Hillcrest unit featured on the card from an agent that had nothing to do with the sale. Although it seems to be misleading, this practice is actually perfectly legal if the agent got permission from the selling agent to use their listing for marketing purposes. Also, listing all

Building	Unit #	B/B	SF	Orig. List	Final List	Sold	DOM
Hillcrest 22	900	2/2	1,499	169,000		167,000	37
Hillcrest 26	712	2/2	1,296	185,500	165,000	160,000	140
Hillcrest 22	715	2/2	1,296	175,000	158,000	145,000	225
Hillcrest 22	201	2/2	1,499	127,500		127,000	74
Hillcrest 26	503	1/1/1	844	125,000	119,900	115,000	96
Hillcrest 21	904	1/1/1	844	98,000		98,000	6
Hillcrest 9	315	1/1/1	744	97,900		93,000	72
Hillcrest 25	419	1/1/1	844	95,000		88,750	62
Hillcrest 19	308	1/1/1	830	94,900		95,000	14

the sales in an area on a mailing is also legal as long as the agent doesn't lead people to believe they were his/her sales if they were not.

The following are all the CLOSED SALES for Hillcrest condos listed in the MLS during the month of December. **Once again, you can see that the units priced right sell higher and faster than those that are overpriced and have to lower! Call us at 8-HILLCREST or email us at info@ATeamFlorida.com** to find out your unit's true market value and to learn strategies to get top dollar for your condo sooner rather than later.

DECEMBER 2019 PARKVIEW STATE OF THE MARKET

PARKVIEW AT HILLCREST MLS ACTIVITY

www.ParkviewatHillcrest.com



Remember that these Parkview at Hillcrest market reports are ONLY homes that are listed in the MLS and sold through a Realtor – not directly from the developer. Why hire a Realtor to buy new construction? The better question is why not have your own representation when buying a brand new home? Brian Gaiefsky, Keller Williams A Team Florida, has a construction background and we can assure you that it made a big difference when he was there to monitor the day-to-day construction. You would be surprised at how valuable that was. Especially since our buyers do not pay us, the seller/developer does. It makes

no sense to go it alone. In most cases, you cannot negotiate a better deal than we can. Our buyers paid \$451,900 for a 2257 SF single family home – definitely competitive - AND they had an advocate not only every step of the way but even after the closing.

Below are the current 3 listings and all sales through the MLS (rather than directly from the developer) for 2019. THIRTY-TWO Parkview properties rented in the past year ranging from \$2200-\$2450 per month for the 1499SF townhomes, \$2600-\$3400 for the 3 bedroom homes, to a high of \$3700 - \$4500 for the 6/4 large single family homes. **CALL 8-HILLCREST FOR MORE INFORMATION or email us at Info@ATeamFlorida.com**

Continued on Pg. 11

Love Where You Live!



We want to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to our clients and peers for honoring us with the Our City 2019 Best of Hollywood Realtor award.



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Cindy Abraham & Brian Gaiefsky

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Our goal is to help every homeowner get top dollar for their property. The demand for turnkey properties is at an all-time high because buyers don't want the hassle or added expense of having to remodel.

This is why **WE PAY FOR AN INSPECTION UP FRONT**, so we know which issues need to be addressed before we list your home. As licensed realtors we do what nobody else in the business does; we risk our own money to help you prepare your property for sale. We do it to help you maximize your profits and we do it to make money. Want to know how much your home or condo is worth?

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If you need to downsize or upsize we are in the business of helping families love where you live! We strive to help Veterans and renters achieve and make affordable homeownership a reality. We work with only the top lenders to get you pre-qualified. This call is free, the information is priceless.

Continued from Pg. 10

ACTIVE LISTINGS	#B/B	Sq. Ft	Original List Price	Current List Price	List Date	Pending Date
4658 Greenway Drive	4/3/0	2569	675,998.00	649,998.00	08/26/2019	
1403 Myrtle Oak Terr	4/2/1	2220	499,000.00	525,000.00	10/27/2018	
4974 Greenway Drive	3/2/1		439,000.00		12/12/2019	
4141 Large Leaf Ln	3/2/1	1905	417,000.00	400,000.00	05/30/2019	
4102 Long Leaf Ln	3/2/1	1502	345,000.00		10/03/2019	
CLOSED SALES IN 2019:			Sold Price			
1462 Bursera Terrace	4/2/2	2670	603,465.00	578,000.00	01/30/2019	04/25/2019
4612 Greenway Drive	4/2/2	2802	601,435.00	623,155.00	04/11/2019	12/09/2019
4624 Greenway Drive	3/2/2	2523	580,190.00	581,214.00	01/31/2019	09/20/2019
1365 Silk Oak Drive	4/2/2	2802	593,255.00	580,000.00	01/31/2019	03/19/2019
1476 Bursera Terrace	3/2/1	1825	576,745.00	538,500.00	02/12/2019	05/20/2019
4232 Large Leaf Ln	3/2/1	2257	539,900.00	495,000.00	02/04/2019	08/26/2019
4728 Greenway Drive	3/2/1	2168	503,060.00	483,060.00	12/10/2019	03/27/2019
4896 Greenway Drive	3/2/1	1920	416,935.00	417,000.00	02/12/2019	05/28/2019
4878 Greenway Drive	3/2/1	1920	423,430.00	415,000.00	02/12/2019	05/20/2019
4924 Greenway Drive	3/2/1	1920	422,035.00	423,755.00	02/06/2019	05.20/2019
1422 Silk Oak Drive	3/3/1	1900	439,900.00	415,000.00	01/31/2019	10/21/2019
4875 Eucalyptus Drive	3/2/1	1920	417,885.00	407,885.00	01/24/2019	03/25/2019
4836 Greenway Drive	3/2/1	1920	398,925.00	397,645.00	02/12/2019	06/23/2019
4137 Large Leaf Lane	3/3/1	1904	449,998.00	415,000.00	02/15/2019	12/06/2019
5025 Eucalyptus Drive	3/2/1	1920	375,780.00	368,555.00	01/24/2019	06/11/2019
1425 Silk Oak Drive	3/2/1	1896	400,710.00	395,855.00	01/08/2019	03/04/2019
4912 Greenway Drive	3/2/1	1920	383,915.00	395,000.00	02/06/2019	05/20/2019
4103 Poinciana Lane	3/3/1	1499	311,170.00	311,170.00	01/01/2019	01/14/2019
4025 Poinciana Lane	3/3/0	1482	309,125.00	309,125.00	01/01/2019	01/14/2019

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



Greetings Hillcrest Residents,

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe we are already a month into 2020. I hope that the changing of the calendar and the holidays marked a time to spend with your family and friends. Holidays are a time of reflection and renewal – and hopefully, a lot of good cooking and fun, too. I am glad to be back in the swing of things, and I can't wait to work with our friends at Hillcrest throughout the upcoming

year. This New Year is a little different because it doesn't just mark a new year – it marks an entire new decade. The Roaring 2020s are here, and we have a lot to look forward to.

A new decade is an opportunity to reset and focus on our priorities as a shared Broward County community. What goals do we have as a people? What do we want to see out of government? With the 2020s just beginning, we have an opportunity to contemplate our vision for the next ten years and beyond to make Broward better than ever.

The 2020s should see government that is proactive in addressing problems. We have seen recently with pipe and infrastructure problems in places like Ft. Lauderdale what can happen if we set aside an issue for too long. We should be working to constantly identify what can be enhanced or fixed - and improving it to make this a better place to live, work, and play. Luckily, Broward County has the foundation to do that. We can be proactive by thinking strategically and setting out clear blueprints for progress over the long-term. We have an Airport and Seaport Master Plan that will serve as the guideline to maximize growth, safety, and quality at our economic engines. Just this month, we hired a General Consultant for Transportation Services that will help us in crafting our transit routes and reducing traffic for years to come. We are bringing together multiple plans to best consider how to address the issue of affordable housing and homelessness in Broward County – especially for our vulnerable senior population. These are just a few examples of how we can be thinking proactively while still adapting to our changing needs.

From my perspective, 2019 was an extremely productive year here in Broward County. We made good progress. 2020 will be the start of something even bigger. I am excited to share that experience with you.

Census 2020

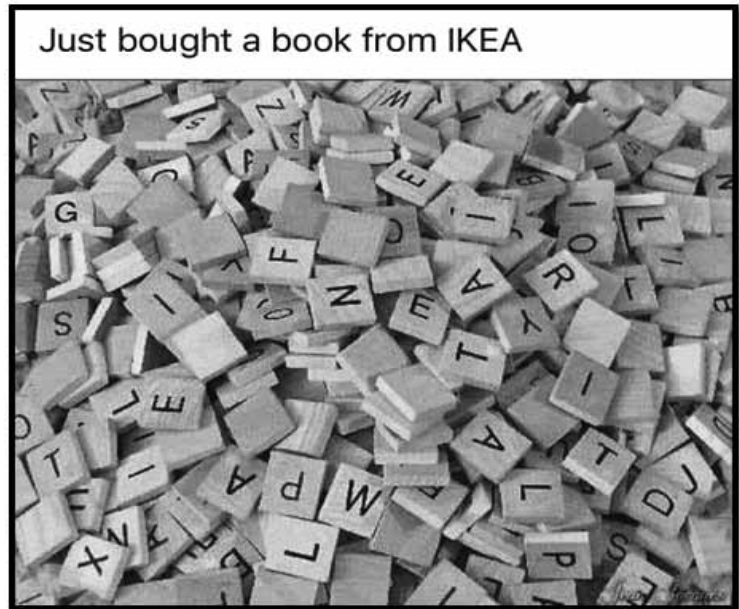
2020 isn't just important as an election year, or the start of a decade – it is also the year of the Census. The Census is absolutely instrumental in making our government and our American democracy function. What does the census do? It determines how many people are living in our

country, including by state, county, and city. An accurate and complete count is needed to ensure that trillions of dollars in resources are allocated correctly. In addition, the Census also determines our Congressional Districts. These are fundamental procedures of our national life – why is why a Census is required by our Constitution every 10 years. Counting will take place this spring, and it is very important you make sure that everyone you live with gets counted! If you want to learn more, go to census.gov or broward.org/census2020 for more localized information on how it will work! Tell all your family and friends!

Contact Your Commissioner

Our District office is conveniently located in the lobby of the Hollywood Branch of the Broward County Public Library at 2600 Hollywood Boulevard, adjacent to Hollywood City Hall. This office is open for your convenience, Monday through Friday, from 10 AM to 4 PM.

If you would like to schedule an appointment, or you have a great idea, suggestion or an issue that needs my attention, feel free to call me at 954-357-7790/7006, or send me an email at bfurr@broward.org.



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Two hours into my first day of work as a Walmart greeter, an ugly woman came in with her two kids. Hearing her swear at them, I said, "Good morning, welcome to Walmart. Nice kids, are they twins?"

The mom answered, "Hell no, they ain't twins. The oldest one's 9, and the other one's 7. Why would you think they're twins? Are you blind or stupid?" I replied, "I'm not blind or stupid. I just couldn't believe someone slept with you twice. Have a good day, and thank you for shopping at Walmart."

My supervisor said I probably wasn't cut out for this line of work.

THE IRISH GUY SAID...

John O'Reilly hoisted his beer and said, "Here's to spending the rest of me life, between the legs of me wife!"

That won him the top prize at the pub for the best toast of the night! He went home and told his wife, Mary, "I won the prize for the best toast of the night."

She said, "Aye, did ye now. And what was your toast?" John said, "Here's to spending the rest of me life, sitting in church beside Me wife."

"Oh, that is very nice indeed, John!" Mary said. The next day, Mary ran into one of John's drinking buddies on the street corner. The man chuckled leeringly and said, "John won the prize the other night at the pub with a toast about you, Mary."

She said, "Aye, he told me, and I was a bit surprised meself. You know, he's only been in there twice in the last four years. "Once I had to pull him by the ears to make him come, and the other time he fell asleep".

DONATION

Father O'Malley answers the phone. 'Hello, is this Father O'Malley?' 'It is!'

'This is the IRS. Can you help us?'

'I'll try!'

'Do you know a Ted Houlihan?'

'I do!'

'Is he a member of your congregation?'

'He is!'

'Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?'

'He will!'

IRISH JOKES

CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL...

An elderly man walks into a confessional. The following conversation ensues:

Man: 'I am 92 years old, have a wonderful wife of 70 years, many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Yesterday, I picked up two hitch-hiking college girls. We went to a motel where I had sex with each of them three times.'

Priest: 'Are you sorry for your sins?'

Man: 'What sins?'

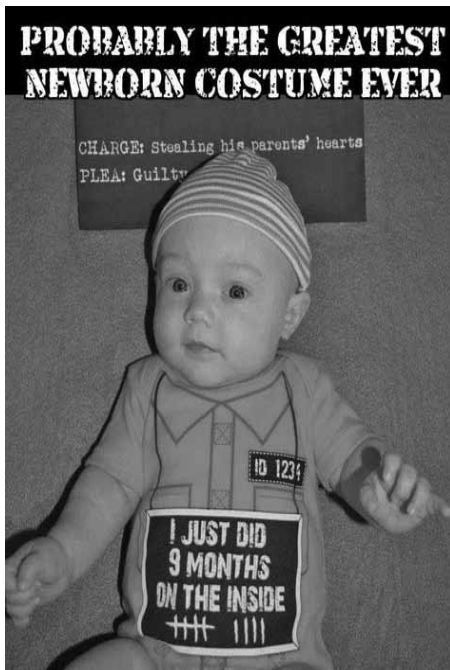
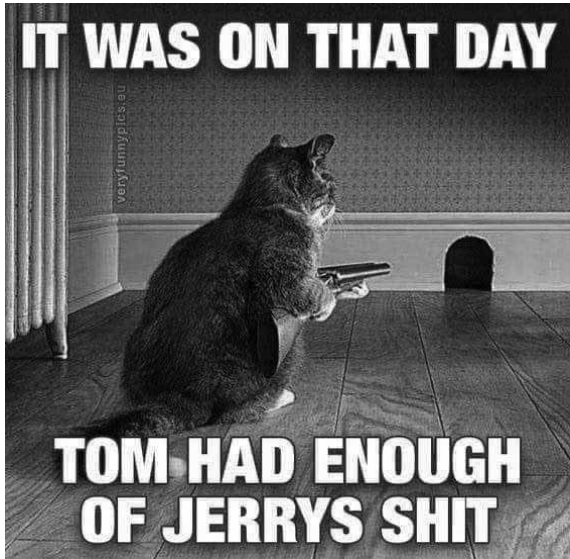
Priest: 'What kind of a Catholic are you?'

Man: 'I'm Jewish.'

Priest: 'Why are you telling me all this?'

Man: 'I'm 92 years old . . . I'm telling everybody!'





Two nuns were shopping at a 7-11 store. As they passed by the beer cooler, one nun said to the other, " wouldn't a nice cool beer or two taste wonderful on a hot summer evening?"

The second nun answered, "indeed it would, sister, but I would not feel comfortable buying beer, since I am certain it would cause a scene at the checkout stand."

"I can handle that without a problem" the other nun replied, and she picked up a six-pack and headed for the check-out.

The cashier had a surprised look on his face when the two nuns arrived with a six-pack of beer. "We use beer for washing our hair" the nun said, "back at our nunnery, we call it catholic shampoo".

Without blinking an eye, the cashier reached under the counter. Pulled out a package of pretzel sticks and placed them in the bag with the beer.

He then looked the nun straight in the eye, smiled, and said: "the curlers are on the house!"

A nice, calm, and respectable lady went into the pharmacy, walked up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes, and said, "I would like to buy some cyanide." The pharmacist asked, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?" The lady replied, "I need it to poison my husband."

The pharmacist's eyes got big and he exclaimed, "Lord have mercy! I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband. Absolutely not! You CANNOT have any cyanide!" The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife.

The pharmacist looked at the picture and said, "You didn't tell me you had a prescription."

DUI - TEXAS STYLE

From the county where drunk driving is considered a sport, comes this true story. Recently a routine police patrol parked outside a bar in Austin, Texas. After last call the officer noticed a man leaving the bar so apparently intoxicated that he could barely walk.

The man stumbled around the parking lot for a few minutes, with

the officer quietly observing. After what seemed an eternity in which he tried his keys on five different vehicles, the man managed to find his car and fall into it. He sat there for a few minutes as a number of other patrons left the bar and drove off.

Finally, he started the car, switched the wipers on and off--it was a fine, dry summer night, flicked the blinkers on and off a couple of times, honked the horn and then switched on the lights. He moved the vehicle forward a few inches, reversed a little and then remained still for a few more minutes as some more of the other patrons' vehicles left.

At last, when his was the only car left in the parking lot, he pulled out and drove slowly down the road. The police officer, having waited patiently all this time, now started up his patrol car, put on the flashing lights, promptly pulled the man over and administered a breathalyzer test.

To his amazement, the breathalyzer indicated no evidence that the man had consumed any alcohol at all! Dumbfounded, the officer said, "I'll have to ask you to accompany me to the police station. This breathalyzer equipment must be broken." "I doubt it", said the truly proud Redneck. "Tonight, I'm the designated decoy."

DECEMBER 2019 COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

by Commissioner Dick Blattner



Hello Hillcrest Neighbors!

JANUARY 2019 REPORT

If anyone doubts that something is amiss with the weather or climate, answer me this: why are we having heavy rain incidents leading to flooding. In December?

VIEW FROM THE CIRC. CIRC is the hotel on Young Circle; the one that includes a Publix and Olivia, a very nice restaurant. On the 12th floor is an infinity pool, bar, nice lounge area, and a great view of Hollywood. We were up there the other night for a YMCA Board holiday event. Looking out over Young Circle and the Arts Park was a look into the future.

The Great Southern Hotel is coming down with the exception of a historic portion. It will be replaced by a 19-story residential building which will include a Hilton Garden Inn. To the south of the circle is the long-abandoned Bread Building, which will be coming down and replaced with a 433-room residential building with retail on the ground floor.

The property where the old Publix was has been sold to a developer who agrees with the idea of punching Westbound Hollywood Blvd. all the way through to the Circle, creating more development sites.

As I said to a companion from Parkland, in five years we won't recognize this place. I really believe that.

YELLOW GREEN. One of the most successful enterprises in Florida, and we are lucky to have it. Yes, it comes with problems and we are working with management to resolve them. These include parking and access, and a proposed new development on property they own to the north.

WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YELLOW GREEN MARKET. One very interesting—and little-known fact—is that YG is an incubator.

Many people who started out with a space, grew to two or three and then left to open their own brick and mortar businesses, many in Hollywood. Some still maintain a YG presence. What's inspiring is these families or individuals had no experience, or were single parents, or retired people, and they "made it." The American dream lives.

Only one meeting in December

- Approved a unique business opportunity on Tyler St. downtown. This will be a bar and coffee shop made from shipping containers. The Commission loved the creativity.
- Approved nearly \$1 million in various Utility projects.
- Agreed to continue negotiations with Broward County on the best location for the public safety tower. You will recall the County wanted it in West Lake Park and we prefer the CIRC. The negotiation lets us move forward with more justification for the CIRC.

Next (and only) Commission meeting

January 15. CRA starts at 9am. Commission meeting at 1:00 pm. Whichever holiday you celebrate, I hope it was enjoyable. My wish for all of us is that we have peace and good health in 2020. Keep an eye on our www.dickblattner.com website, which has been undergoing renovations the last couple of months. The newly renovated website should be functional later this week.

Dick Blattner, Hollywood City Commissioner, District 4
3501 Keyser Ave, #48, Hollywood 33021
Email: Dick@dickblattner.com

MARTY KIAR - BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER



EXEMPTION FILING DEADLINES

While the timely deadline to file for any 2020 exemptions is March 2, 2020, you can still late file up until September 18, 2020. This extended late filing period allows you to apply for or renew any valuable tax-saving exemptions including Homestead Exemption and the Low-Income Senior Exemption for the 2020 tax year. There are no late fees to late file for these exemptions so do not miss out on this important opportunity even if you miss the March 2 deadline. You are entitled to a Homestead Exemption if, as of January 1, 2020, you have made the property your permanent home or the permanent home of a person who is legally or naturally dependent on you.

By law, January 1 of each year is the date on which permanent residence is determined.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION – HOW IS THE \$50,000 EXEMPTION APPLIED?

1. The first \$25,000 of the exemption applies to all taxing authorities and to first \$25,000 of your property's assessed value.

2. The second \$25,000 exemption does NOT apply to school portion of your tax bill. The school budget -- at roughly 37% of the entire property tax bill -- makes up the single largest portion of your tax bill.
3. The second \$25,000 of the exemption only applies to the portion of assessed value between \$50,000 - 75,000. This means you will not receive the full benefit of the second \$25,000 if your property is assessed at less than \$75,000. And -- if your property is assessed at less than \$50,000 -- you will not receive any additional savings from this second \$25,000 exemption.

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

Take care,

Marty Kiar
Broward County Property Appraiser

FIVE MENTAL TRICKS AND FIVE MANTRAS FOR CHRONIC PAIN

Submitted by Etta Stevens from the website Babas Mail

There are many different ailments that can result in pain, such as infections, arthritis, and joint and nerve problems, among many others. **Living with chronic pain** that causes suffering year-round can feel like a living nightmare. Things can feel almost hopeless, but your suffering can be mitigated and managed using a steady combination of medications, as prescribed and advised by your doctor, as well as **positive thinking and self-affirmation**. To this end, we've gathered 10 mental tricks you can perform to keep your pain at bay, as well as 5 mantras you can recite to keep your strength and spirits up!

1. Visualization - Visualization is a method that focuses on the use of the power and strength of your mind to create scenarios that can reduce your pain. One method of visualization requires you to picture your pain in a physical form, e.g. as a giant red throbbing mass. Focusing on the physical form of your pain, you can shrink it or reduce it to a smaller pink mass in your imagination, which should help with the actual pain you're experiencing.

Another use of visualization aims at relaxing and soothing your mind. Picture yourself in a relaxing place, like on a beach with a drink in your hand, or in a warm Jacuzzi with all your joints being warmed and massaged by the water, and experience the pain slowly melting away as you relax.

2. Meditation - Meditation is a great way to manage not only stress and discomfort but also pain. A study conducted in 2011 looked into the effect of mindfulness meditation on pain management. This study conclusively showed that mindfulness meditation can have extremely positive effects on pain management. The combination of meditation and application of heat probes to affected areas reduced pain intensity by approximately 60%, and pain unpleasantness by approximately 70%. MEDITATION is a big part of overcoming pain. Talk to your body, accept the pain and do your best to live in acceptance.

To learn more about meditation and find helpful tutorials on meditation, follow this link: **Helpful Guides on Meditation and Relaxation**.

3. Writing - Believe it or not, **writing** is a great way of channeling any strong emotion. American Social Psychologist, James W. Pennebaker, recommends writing for at least 15 minutes a day before sleeping when struggling with chronic pain and stress. You can write about everything - from what your current struggle is, to things that are worrying you and frustrations you're dealing with, to dreams of the future, places you want to visit, and other thoughts that give you joy.

4. Controlled Breathing - If meditation is not the thing for you, have no fear. Controlled breathing can help immensely. Diaphragmatic breathing can be helpful, as it requires deep breathing from the stomach rather than the shallow breathing from the chest. Dr. Janice M. Singles, Psy.D. of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and

Public Health in Madison, a distinguished psychologist in orthopedics and rehabilitation, states that this sort of breathing from the belly can activate the parasympathetic nervous system, which allows for a quieter response to pain.

5. Laughing - Laughter truly can be the best medicine, and there have been a few studies to prove it. A study conducted by researchers at UCLA determined that kids and adolescents who had their hands immersed in ice water were able to tolerate the pain longer while watching humorous video clips.

A similar study carried out in 2010 showed that humor therapy can be an excellent way of reducing pain and loneliness for elder persons, recommending humor as supportive therapy to nurses and healthcare professionals. At times of intensified pain, ensure to add a dash of comedy to your life!

6. Apples all around - Surprisingly, apples can be effective at pain relief. A study by the Smell & Taste Treatment and Research Foundation in Chicago showed that sniffing test tubes with the green apple scent improved the condition and reduced the pain of patients suffering from migraine attacks. A controlled study in 2016 further showed that the use of apple vinegar could have numerous positive effects in reducing pain and anxiety, particularly in patients suffering from varicose veins. Even eating green apples can help keep the pain at bay. An apple a day really can help keep the doctor away!

7. Turn up the Volume - Most people suffering from joint and nerve issues, like **rheumatoid arthritis** and osteoarthritis will know that doctors often prescribe **more exercise as a means of treating joint pain**, but it can be difficult to carry out such activities when you have persistent pain. Music can serve as a great way to keep your mind off the pain while exercising. A 2013 study determined that music helps control pain levels and can act as an effective therapeutic intervention. And a 2012 study on the effects of music for people with osteoarthritis of the knee suffering from joint lavage similarly showed lower levels of anxiety and pain after the use of music intervention. Music is an effective tool for distracting patients from the pain, which aids in pain relief.

8. Look through a photo album (or the pictures on your phone) - Believe it or not, rummaging through your phone or old family photo albums and surrounding yourself with pictures of familiar faces and loved ones can be immensely good for the brain and the body. Especially in times of heightened pain, looking at the face of a loved one or a reminder of treasured memories can result in the release of chemicals in the brain that can reduce the sensations of pain one may be suffering from. Much like music, it also serves to act as a distraction from the pain as well, making it easier to reduce pain levels.

Continued on Pg. 17

***Join us at ArtsPark the 3rd Sunday of every month at 6pm for WORLD PEACE Sunday, December 15, 2019 • 6:00 pm – 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

Continued from Pg. 16

9. Enjoy some lovely artwork - Staring at masterpieces may not be something you'd ordinarily do in your free time but looking at beautiful works of art and being surrounded by the color and majesty of these pieces can go a long way in easing your pain. A study conducted by researchers at the University of Bari found that looking at beautiful art actually helped reduce the pain levels of a number of hospital patients. Art created by famous creators like Picasso, Botticelli, and even Da Vinci were selected and viewed by the 24 participants of the study. It was found that by focusing on these paintings and what these works of art made them feel and think significantly reduced the intensity of the pain they were experiencing.

10. Recite these 5 pain-relieving mantras - One of the best things you can do for your body, particularly when suffering from an ailment of which chronic pain is a major symptom, is to keep thinking positively. That can be extremely difficult when daily tasks seem like an impossibility and basic movements cause you immense pain. However, reminding yourself of your own true strength and remembering that you can get through anything will keep you steady and dull the pain on the worst of days. Here are some mantras you can recite to yourself on days when the pain is especially unbearable.

(i) I am strong, no matter what - We often feel like the pain makes us weaker, particularly because it impairs our ability to function in our day to day lives. It's important to remember that your strength lies in not what you can't do but what you can. And every day that you are bearing through the pain is another show of your strength and courage.

(ii) One step at a time - This mantra is for those days where a task or event is bearing down on you, and the pain is making it seem like an impossibility to complete. Even things like exercise and physiotherapy can seem like a daunting event; but taking it slowly and appreciating every step of your progress along the way can help immensely.

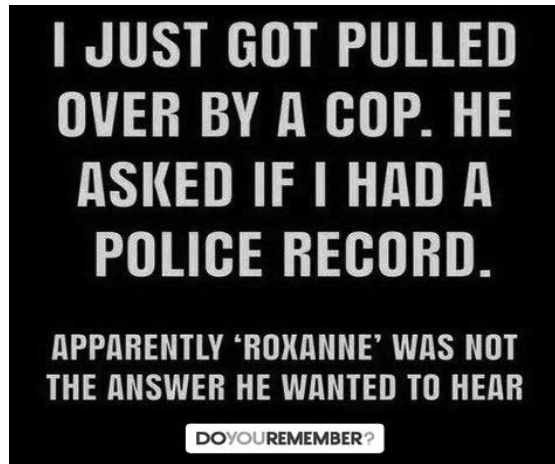
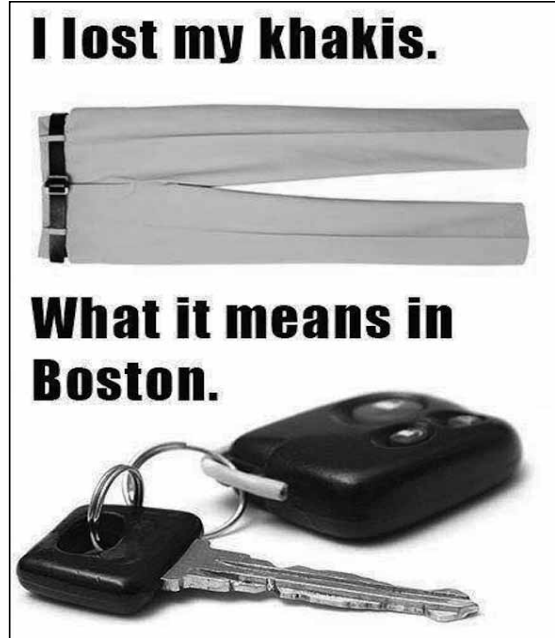
(iii) I will get better - A big part of pain management is reminding yourself that your current suffering isn't going to last forever. Even if you are struggling with a chronic ailment, the intensity of the pain will ebb and flow, and once you find a system that works for you, you will have more good days than bad ones.

(iv) I am not alone. I am safe and loved - These are 2 very important things to keep as a constant reminder. You are not alone in your suffering, and as many before you have recovered and survived the same struggle you bear with now, so shall you. And as you make your way through your journey, place value in all those that support you and give you a safe space to heal.

First three words u see are your reality.

JGLDMGKDMSDOEQVMSMWOQPRYTLMSLFJOMCES
KOGJKLMSMIEOPJMLSMVMGKEJSKNMLESSONSJAPQ
PEICREATIONJMXLAMFAJFLSMCGJIWLOVEPJFLAMVL
WILFEGMLEMFMEPAVBZLSNVMJDKUITTEWJTKDKNV
MSNGKDSLJGKDLJGKLSJGKLSGRATITUDEJGKLSJAKLGZV
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OOMXLAMFAHEALTHJFLSMCGJIWPFJLAMVWLWILFEGM
NNMFMEPAVBZLSNVMJDKUISELFCAREVMSNGKDSL
JGKDLJGKLSJGKLSJAKLGZVNMNCSJWUQDLDPWSJ
GDSKIEMNBSKGMNBAXBDMSGMELNGSANVDSMGEW
JNNZCMANHHFLSTRENGTHWQIRPWQTYIEJJCZXXNR
ZVJSAGKSMZNVLGKELJWJKCNSNFAMILYJDDQRWADE
XCRSUVGCRBYTNKUMLIMLYBJVRNWCGEYVQXDRWS
LJDSKLPURPOSEJKDSLJEMJGLDMGKDMSDOEQVM
STMWOQMIRACLESPTYTLMSLFJOMCESKOGJKLMSMI
ELPJMLSMVMGKEJSKNMJAPQBREAKTROUGHPEIJM
XLAMFAJFLSGMDTVNMWURHDKABNPOIUMAFNHAKHJ
JJHJJHJHSWIIRUMAMBQGEHJAKQWHCSANKNLALADI

(v) This too shall come to pass - This is perhaps one of these most powerful mantras that can help you cope not only with chronic pain but in almost any difficult situation. The knowledge that nothing is truly permanent can go a long way in helping you cope with your pain. Focusing on the good to come in the future can make these periods of pain and suffering pass quicker.



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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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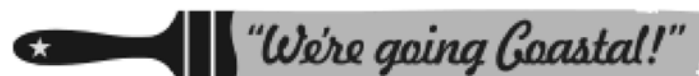
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