

# Inside Hillcrest

– Connecting Neighbors to Neighbors –



MAY 2017

HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

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## MAY 2017 INSIDE HILLCREST

### SMILE, YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA

A few weeks ago, I sent out the following email to the leaders in the 24 Hillcrest buildings: *"Because you all work with the vendors more than I do, would you recommend these companies for cameras for one of our buildings? Thanks."* I listed two companies that were on our Condominium Preferred Vendor list and those buildings who have worked with them, wholeheartedly recommended them. Then the emails started and I realized how much trouble some of us could get in by misusing security cameras – two of which I almost did when I put cameras in my building a few years back. No building likes to get sued; especially if they lose the suit and ends up paying damages. Apparently at least two of our buildings learned the hard way. One building used the cameras to spy on the residents who were thought to be "enemies of the board" and the other put in cheap cameras in of such inferior quality, that when a several cars was robbed in the parking lot, the tape was so blurred it was useless. In the first case, the association had to remove the "spy-cams" and the second case, the association reimbursed two of the owners for damages and stolen items.

If you are doing one or more of the following, STOP – the consequences are not worth it. As I said, numbers 1 and 2, I ALMOST did in my building. Thanks goodness, I found out what could happen and didn't do them.

#1 – put signs up saying there are security camera when there are none. This also goes with non-working cameras and cameras that have been shut off. I thought it would be a great way to save money; no one was going to do anything if they thought there were cameras, right? WRONG. I found out that if people believe there are cameras, they also believe they provide a measure of safety. If someone was hurt or robbed and thought that the incident was captured on camera and it wasn't, they would have a valid lawsuit against us. I installed real cameras.

#2 – I installed cameras facing the elevators, laundry and storage rooms

because they are common-areas and we didn't want to violate our owners' right to privacy. One resident who lived just past the elevator put a big sheet of poster board in front of his door and showed me that the camera would pick up him coming and going as well as any visitor to his unit. Thankfully, I checked with our building attorney who told me that if I could accommodate him by tilting the camera, I should. If ever we as a board made a comment about his comings and goings or who was visiting him, he could have a great case against us! Who knew? Yes, we complied and made sure that cameras only faced entrances and common areas.

#3 – I never did this one. See number 2 – monitoring the cameras to see who is coming and going in a unit owner's apartment. I actually walked into a building one time to see three board members looking over the security guard's shoulder at the cameras. Turns out they thought that two of the residents were having an affair and they told the guard to call them if he saw one of them go into the other's unit. Security staff are supposed to behave like professionals – not be the source of building gossip. Cameras used for voyeurism... not cool. The only time I ever checked the cameras is when someone stuck an old chair by the elevator in the middle of the night and another time when an owner claimed someone stole luggage out of the storage room. In the first case, it was a resident so we quietly let her know that she needed to remove it. The second case was a unit owner employee – she was fired.



#4 – One building claims the president of the building has cameras facing up and down all the hallways and the monitor is

in HIS BEDROOM. Not even going to touch this one – I don't even want to know if it is true.

#5 – Security cameras are intended to keep the building secure and provide a measure of safety for the residents; not to spy on them. Another response I got was that an owner in their building held religious services and the board watched the cameras to see who went in and out. C'mon man! Board members who spend time watching the cameras and reviewing the tapes when there has been no incident reported that would justify that type of behavior, need to get a life – or better yet, goose-step their way out of Hillcrest.

#7 – The attorney I spoke with about putting in the dummy cameras also advised me not to put them by the pool. If something happened and someone drowned and we didn't catch it, we could be held liable. Again, if someone knows they are being recorded, it not only deters illegal behavior but it also makes us feel safe. If your cameras are not working, either get them fixed or at least post something to avoid being held liable – whatever your plans are for installing cameras, check with your attorney to make sure you are not violating your unit owners' rights to privacy.

### SHOULD YOU HAVE CAMERAS IN YOUR BUILDINGS?

I strongly believe they are a deterrent. Cameras should be installed at every entrance door, in the stairwells, elevators either in or facing the laundry rooms and storage areas and even the parking lots. Cameras should never be aimed at unit owner doors. It is too big of a temptation for the yenta board members to spy on their "enemies". The recordings should only be used to investigate reported incidents.

Bruce Bell from Hillcrest # 7 showed me what he has on his door. It is called "The Ring Door Bell", a door bell that has a motion detector and recorder. Anyone who walks by your door is recorded so in case there is a potential problem, you can answer the door or view who's at your

Continued on Pg.2

*Continued from Pg.1*

door from anywhere in your area with your smartphone or computer. It connects to your Wi-Fi network. Most importantly you can see who is ringing your door bell. You can post the recordings on the Ring Door Bell website, so others with the device can also see the potential problems.

Ex: One recording Bruce showed me was of some mischievous kids who were running around Hillcrest, knocking on doors and then running away. It was amazing! Another resident with the Ring Door Bell, recorded an automobile that kept driving through the parking lot at night.

Let's face it, we all know we are on camera anytime we go anywhere – I don't even scratch in Publix anymore. Technology is a great tool when used correctly. It is the weapon of the new generation. As with any weapon, we can use it for protection or we can use it to hurt people. Hopefully, we all choose wisely.

### NEW ADVERTISERS

Speaking of technology being a great tool when used for good rather than evil...I met **Dave Bennett from Connections for Business** when he was the featured speaker at the WOMEN Industry group luncheon. The top was cyber security. Talk about technology being used as a weapon – savvy thieves these days can clean you out without leaving their den. It is all done on line. The Nigerian Prince is an amateur compared to the new cyber criminals. Dave will be writing security tips for us over the next few months.

Everyone has either been a victim of identity theft or knows someone who was. It is a horrible experience. I have **LegalShield (see page 13 and call Nancy Fowler for details)** so I have been lucky so far. The plans offered are individual for \$9.95/month and entire family for \$19.95/month. I have the family plan. But it does not protect me from my own stupidity. If I click on a computer link that I don't know, Legal Shield can only help me AFTER the fact. I get all kinds of notices from banks about my "account", some from the banks I really do business with. I also get \$50.00 coupons from major department, grocery and drug stores (some of whom I do patronize) but I know better than to open them. The scariest are the ones that send me "closing statements". Guess the bad guys know I am a Realtor and why wouldn't I think the email was legit? I have to stop and think before I open the attachment.

Dave taught us how to develop safe passwords. Use a different password for each account. Write them down and stash them somewhere. Your daughter's name and birthdate is NOT a good password. Instead, do something like this. Your daughter's first boyfriend was Tim when she was 17, she loves purple and her first word was Hi. Your password could be Tim17Pur&Hi.

**DON'T OPEN ANY EMAIL FROM SOMEONE YOU DO NOT KNOW!** Don't fall for any email that involves sending money to anyone – your grandson, the IRS, your bank, whatever. **CALL** your grandson, the IRS, the bank before sending any money and I am sure you know better than to send any info through email. I do not allow my clients to send the title company their Social Security # - I make them call. Stay tuned for more tips from Dave Bennett from Connections for Business in upcoming issues of IH– see this month's tip on page 7.

**Dianne Brody** from **Bank United** which does an excellent job of handling the finances for several Hillcrest buildings, attended our last HLC meeting. If you are unhappy with your

current banker, call Diane and check out the services Bank United offers.

**Patricia Roca (GQC) - Graupera Quality Cabinets, Stone and Tile** is a neighbor and has a business that offers high end, custom quality all things wood, laminate and tile from cabinets to flooring. See her ad and bio on page 7. Connecting Neighbors to Neighbors is even better when we can support Hillcrest owned businesses.

I am personally very happy to welcome **UPS at 4302 Hollywood Blvd** (just up the street) as a new advertiser. My sellers have used them for years; they will come to your home or condo and pack up any personal items, valuables, medicines, breakable items and the like to ship to your new place so they are there when you are. Not everything should be handled by a moving company. They bring the packing materials to your home and they do all the work. Check out their list of services. If you use them for nothing else, bring sensitive paperwork to them for shredding. The normal rate is 99 cents per pound but on Sundays they have special rates. Tell Gerardo you are from Hillcrest!

### SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

We didn't have an HLC meeting in April – we will probably have one at the end of May or beginning of June for an update on Parkview at Hillcrest. Pulte is moving right along, we are seeing the entrances getting a facelift and the model homes going up at a rapid pace. Pulte's "Dusty Shoe" event was a great success with guided tours of the construction areas and model home floor plans. Wise buyers make sure they are represented by a professional when buying a high-ticket item. Even with new development, the buyer does not pay us for Real Estate services. **Call Brian Gaiefsky at Keller Williams Realty A Team Florida at 8HILLCREST (844-552-7378) or email info@ATeamFlorida.com** for floor plans, prices and lot availability.

The **REAL ESTATE CAFÉ** is now open for business. Yes, CBS saw one of our A Team Florida ads and called us in to interview us for an "all things Real Estate" radio show. We must have said something right because our first show aired Saturday, April 29th and will run every Saturday for at least the next 90 days. You can join us at the Real Estate Café by tuning in to WQAM – 560 AM radio on Saturday mornings from 7AM to 8AM. Too early for you? The podcast for every show can be found at **www.WQAM.com**. See page 11 for details.

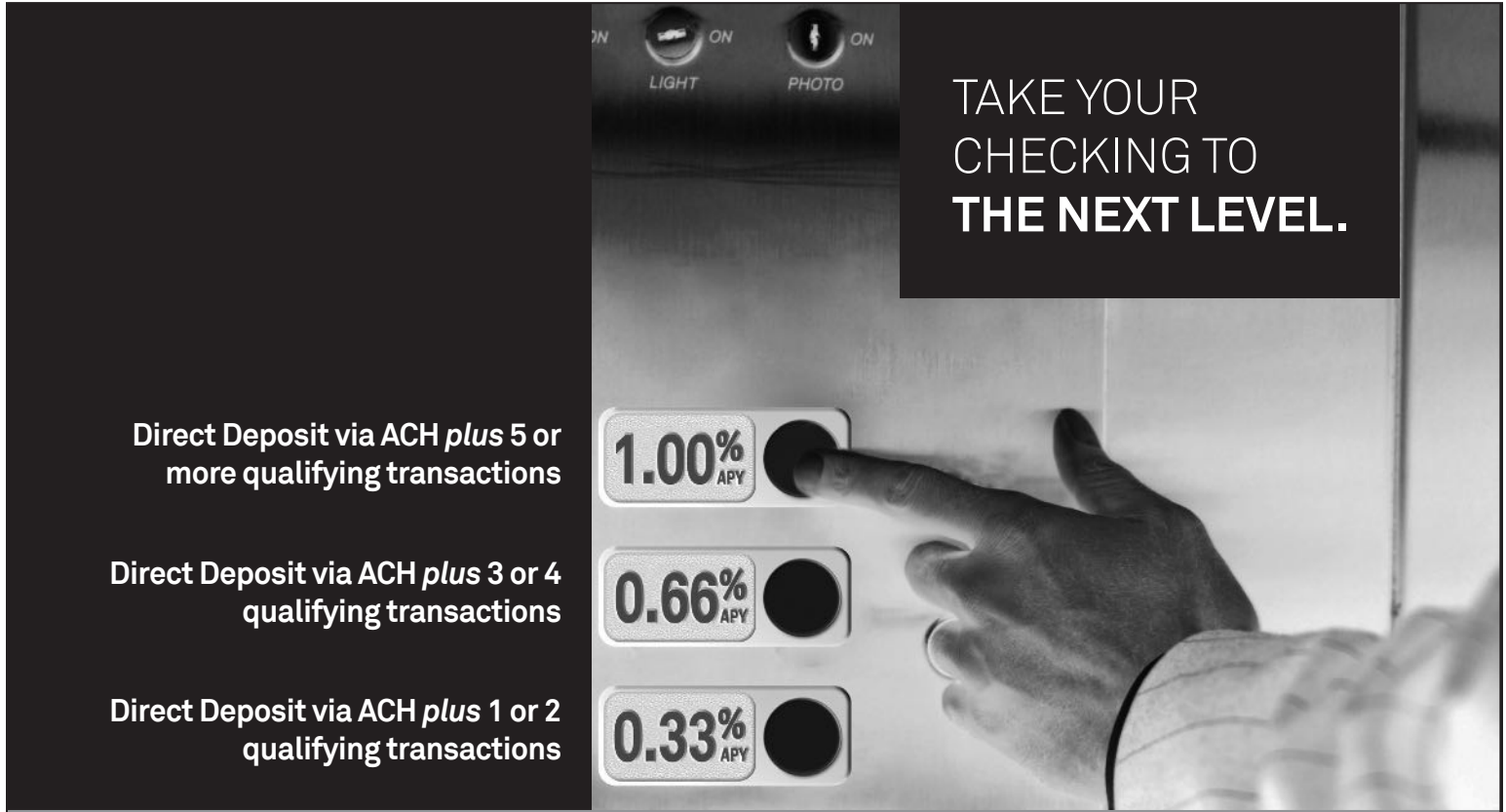
SOMETIMES WE GET INSPIRED WHEN WE LEAST EXPECT IT... found this in a Dress Barn (clothing store) flyer. Kudos to Dress Barn for a great quote and comfortable shoes!

**OK, IT'S TIME. TIME TO FINALLY REALIZE "I WILL" WALKS ALL OVER "I CAN'T".**

**TO PUSH FORWARD-PAST THE COMFORT ZONE, THE HATERS, AND ALL THAT BAGGAGE HOLDING YOU BACK.**

**TO CONFRONT EACH NEW CHALLENGE, AND DECIDE WHETHER TO GIVE UP, GIVE IN, OR GIVE IT ALL YOU GOT.**

**WAKE UP. PUT ON YOUR SHOES. MARCH ON.**



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**Schedule:**

**June 12-16**

**June 19-24 (Morning & Afternoon)**

**June 26-June 30**

**July 10-14 (Morning & Afternoon)**

**July 17-21**

**July 24-28 (Morning & Afternoon)**

**July 31-Aug. 4**

**August 7-11**

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Call 954-967-4653 ext. 3 or email Casey at [cjandersen54@gmail.com](mailto:cjandersen54@gmail.com) for more information.

Camp Sign Up Deadline will be the prior Friday at 6pm.

- **Summer Skills Challenge: Thursday and Friday, August 17-18th.**  
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Greetings Hillcrest,

Shakespeare tells us that “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.” While that may be true, this month I would like to discuss the world of the stage, and our other cultural institutions here in Broward County.

The best thing about the arts scene in Broward County is that it continues to grow by leaps and bounds every year. That’s why it can be hard to keep up with all of the new events around town. The best place to make sure that you stay up to date with all of the arts and cultural events is ArtsCalendar.com. ArtsCalendar.com is brought to you by ArtServe and the Broward County Cultural Division, and this website lists all of the upcoming shows, productions and events in the region. If everyone can please grab their popcorn, take their assigned seats, and silence their cell phones, then we can start the show.

### ArtsPark Amphitheater at Young Circle

The ArtsPark Amphitheater at Young Circle is home to shows and performances of all shapes and sizes. Shakespeare Miami offers free Shakespeare in the Park performances at the ArtsPark every winter, and you can come to see a variety of concerts and shows the rest of the year.

This Thursday, May 11th from 5-8 PM you can come see **SPARK Hollywood** at the ArtsPark. SPARK Hollywood is a pitch competition for early stage entrepreneurs. It’s an opportunity to meet potential investors and experts that may help start your venture or grow existing endeavors. Ideas may be at any stage of development from creation of concept to a finished product or business. Visit [sparkhollywoodfl.com](http://sparkhollywoodfl.com) for more information.

### Downtown Hollywood ArtWalk

On Saturday, May 20th come visit restaurants, galleries and shops in Downtown Hollywood while enjoying art, cultural entertainment, music, murals and more! Don’t miss the Mural Tour at 6pm. This guided tour tells the stories behind the art and artists of the Downtown Hollywood Mural Project. Meet at the Visitor Center Information Booth at the corner of 20th Avenue & Hollywood Blvd. The new Downtown Hollywood Artisan Market at the Artwalk features pop-up shops, artist showcases, handmade items, local purveyors, vintage shopping & fun! At 8pm, artist Daniel Pontet, accompanied by Jeff Lee of Resurrection Drums, entertain the crowds at 2020 Harrison Street with Impulse Art, a fusion of music and foot painting.

### Hollywood Art and Culture Center

The Art and Culture Center at 1650 Harrison Street is one of the jewels of our city. Come by for the current exhibit PLUSH, which runs through June 4th. As Pleasurable, Lush, Utilitarian, Subjects of Humanity, PLUSH is a tactile mindscape. Textiles are inherently connected to the domestic environment. In the U.S., fiber art has often been mislabeled as craft or “women’s work.” However, in many countries, textile is considered men’s labor. Some of the works in this exhibition explore traditional sewing and hand techniques, while others explore non-conventional sculptural methods. The artists included in this conversation explore anthropomorphism, body politics, class, morphing landscapes, multigenerational lineage, and popular culture. This installation encourages viewers to take a seat on artist chairs and view the textiles on the wall as a carnivalesque Pokémon looms from above.

### Adults’ Night Out at Young At Art

Outside of Hollywood, you can come to Young at Art on Thursday, June 8th from 6 - 8 PM for their Adults’ Night Out at the Museum. You can join Young At Art every 2nd Thursday for an evening of fun in the painting studio. Bring your friends, refreshments and snacks. Discounted rate available when booked together with the Adult Clay & Print Mixer. This will be limited to adults 18 and over. The cost is \$35 per person.

### The Frank

The Frank C. Ortis Art Gallery opened on April 27th as the premier exhibition and learning space dedicated to creating a cultural climate to foster connections and community engagement. Contemporary artists, guest curators, performers, and thought leaders will converge to produce and share work essential to building an inclusive creative community. Starting June 15th, the City of Pembroke Pines and the Miami Children’s Museum will open an exhibit called Pirate Island Adventure of Discovery, which should be fun for the whole family. For more information, please visit [thefrankgallery.org](http://thefrankgallery.org)

### The Sue Katz River of Grass Theater

The Pembroke Pines Theater of the Performing Arts will be doing a production of Lin Manuel-Miranda’s In the Heights from July 14 - August 6 at the Sue Katz River of Grass Theater. Lin Manuel-Miranda, who rocked the theater world with Hamilton last year, made his Broadway debut in 2008 with In the Heights, a musical about the largely Dominican-American neighborhood of Washington Heights in New York. Come see why this show won the Tony Award for Best Musical in 2008 and made Lin-Manuel Miranda a Broadway superstar. For more information on the Pembroke Pines Theater of the Performing Arts (named the best Community Theater two years in a row by Broadway World) visit [pptopa.com](http://pptopa.com)

### Pembroke Pines City Center

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts now runs the performance space at the new Pembroke Pines City Center. This beautiful space is set to host a series of amazing events, concerts and shows. This Saturday, May 13th at 8:00 PM the Pembroke Pines City Center will be hosting a performance of Honor Thy Mother starring Ventriloquist/Comedian – Mark Thompson, Magician Taylor Hughes, and Comedian Kerri Pomarolli. Happy Mother’s Day! Please visit [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or call (800) 745 3000 for tickets.

On Saturday, June 24th you can feel the spirit & vibes of the Caribbean at the **Caribbean American Exhibition & Festival**. This event will showcase an indoor-outdoor staging of exhibitors and vendors. Multicultural exhibits will include health and wellness, arts and crafts, island food, and great entertainment.

Later in the year, Shopkins Live! will be coming to the Great Hall at Pembroke Pines City Center. Shopkins Live! which is based on the collectable toy line Shopkins, is particularly popular with the under 8 set. If you have grandchildren who will be in town on October 11th, you might want to consider taking them to this unique show. The residents of Broward County have been fortunate over the years to have such a great theater so close to home. Now that the beautiful new Pembroke Pines City Center is open to the public, the local scene became that much richer. In closing, I hope that this gave you a taste for how much rich culture our County has to offer. Please let me know if you get a chance to attend any of the shows or performances listed here, or send over your own recommendations to me at [bfurr@broward.org](mailto:bfurr@broward.org) or you can call my office at **954-357-7790**.

-Beam



## Graupera Stones and Tiles



We are very enthusiastic to be able to introduce our company to Inside Hillcrest Neighbors to Neighbors. We have been in the carpentry business in Florida for the last fifteen years creating beautiful "custom made" quality kitchen cabinets and installation as well granite or quartz countertops and backsplash.

We specialize in vanities, closets and office furniture. In addition to our carpentry we sell porcelain tiles from Spain, wood and laminate floors and baseboards. We are looking forward to meeting your needs to make your living space a beautiful and functional space.

### IT Security Tip #1: This Will Shock You About Bank Fraud On Business Accounts

**David Bennett**  
PRESIDENT

2843 Pembroke Road  
Hollywood, FL 33020

Direct: 954.624.9511  
Main: 954.920.9604 x 511

Email: [dbennett@connections.com](mailto:dbennett@connections.com)  
Web: [www.connections.com](http://www.connections.com)

Did you know your COMPANY'S bank account doesn't enjoy the same protections as a personal bank account? For example, if a hacker takes money from your business account, the bank is NOT responsible for getting your money back. (Don't believe me? Go ask your bank what their policy is on refunding money stolen from your account!) Many people think FDIC protects you from fraud. Well, it doesn't. It protects you from bank insolvency, NOT fraud.

Quick Tip: Set up email alerts on your account so you are notified any time

money is withdrawn from your account. The FASTER you catch fraudulent activity, the better your chances are of keeping your money. If you contact the bank IMMEDIATELY, you have a very high probability of foiling a hacker's attack.

Are you wondering if there are any holes in your security blanket? Let us help you. Request a Free 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 cyber attacks.

Enjoy, and let me know if there's anything I can do for you!

Sincerely,

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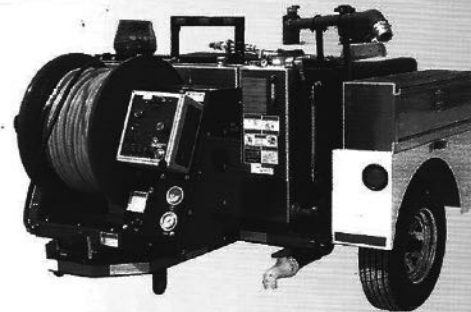
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The letter MUST BE SIGNED and a phone number included so we may verify that you actually sent the letter. In the published edition, only your first initial will be used UNLESS you specifically request that your name be included.



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You can email us at: [inside.hillcrest@comcast.net](mailto:inside.hillcrest@comcast.net) or call (954) 964-2559.

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## LIFE LESSONS FROM RESTAURANTS



I was surprised that so many people liked the Tony Roma's training story in the November issue. Customer Service and Leadership training were my areas of expertise. At both Tony Roma's and jetBlue Airways, I wrote workbooks called "A Complaint is a Gift". What that meant is that if a customer or guest complains about something, they are giving you a chance to keep their business. If they say nothing, they generally do not come back. The 80/20 rule absolutely applies to complaints. 80% of complaints are the same ones every time.

In a restaurant, there are complaints about the food or the service and with a little thought, anyone of you who have frequented restaurants could tell me the top 10. The same for air travel; I'll bet anyone of you who fly a lot could tell me the 10 most common complaints. What I would do is observe our best employees and see how they handled them. There was always more than one way so I put them all in the workbook and the trainee could choose whichever one most fit their personality. It went a long way to help new people handle situations before they got out of hand. Most people in the customer service business truly like making people happy and really enjoyed learning ways to handle situations instead of winging it. No offense to New Yorkers, but when I spent 6 months at JFK training the customer service staff, I quickly learned that "making the customer happy" was not a priority. As soon as I changed the motivation of saying and doing the right thing for customers was "so they don't give you any shit" I got a lot farther with that group.

Good customer service is all about psychology but so is leadership. The staff may serve the customers but it is the manager's job to serve the staff. Good leaders do everything in their power to help make their staff's job easier. I could go into any restaurant and tell by the demeanor of the staff how they were being managed. Getting employees to do what you want must make sense, and there must be something in it for them. The old WIIFM rule always applies: "What's in it for me?" With servers, it was easy. Their performance was tied to tips. But what about the non-tipped positions? They were paid by the hour so motivating them was a bit trickier.

I have admitted in the past, "I have never had an original thought but I know a good idea when I hear it" and this one turned out to be brilliant: The problem was food cost. Food cost is one

of the biggest costs in a restaurant and if items are priced right and there is no waste, it should stay in line. That sounds easy – everything item has a portion and a cost. But there is one food cost area called "gratis food" (free food) which in a restaurant are the condiments, dressings, toppings and even the French fries and other side items that accompany entrees. Every item had a specific portion, for example, French fries were supposed to be 10 oz. portions. Other portioned items: ½ oz. cheddar and ¼ oz. bacon bits on a baked potato, 2 oz. tortilla chips under the jalapeno poppers, etc.

How to manage that? Asking a line cook on a busy Saturday night to weigh every portion of fries or the shredded cheese and bacon stuffed in a baked potato is senseless. But someone gave me a great idea and I wish I remembered who it was – but since I can't I'll take the credit.

To make it work, I had to practice like crazy until I could manually pick up portions of the various items, put them on a scale and have them weigh out perfectly. (Yes, the cooks wore gloves). Then I would go into a restaurant kitchen before the rush and challenge the cooks to beat me at it. I had a pocket full of brand new one dollar bills and for every time they could put any gratis food item on the scale (cheese, bacon bits, etc.) and hit the weight exactly, I gave them a brand new crispy dollar bill. The idea spread and the district managers started visiting their restaurants with pockets full of dollar bills. It wasn't about the money; it was about the competition. Within a couple of months, the gratis food category was back in line in a way that was fun and made it easy for the staff to learn portion control. And it didn't hurt for the "bosses" to learn how difficult it could be to perfectly portion so many items!

Barbecue sauce was another item that impacted the gratis food cost – but that one was easy; the pot of sauce had ladles that measured the exact 1 ½ oz. portions. However, in one of our bigger restaurant, servers working the stations furthest from the kitchen were always getting caught automatically bringing out extra sauce with the entrees. Turns out it was because if the guest requested more sauce, the server would have to walk all the way back to the kitchen to get it. Finally, instead of constant harping about it, a manager with true leadership skills put a crock pot of sauce in the upper side-stand (restaurant speak for work area) during the rush hours - problem solved.

The point is that there is always a way to get employees to do what they are supposed to do without making it distasteful. The first way of course, is to help them understand why the rule is important in the first place. At employee meetings, the managers started sharing the food cost numbers with the staff so that they felt they were part of the goal.

**Leaders always take the time to listen and try to make things easier for the people they are leading. Managers go by the book. Leaders rewrite the book.**

# State of The Market - And The Big News Is

For those of you who don't remember our "Are you a Criminal in Hollywood Florida?" ad, we are also delivering copies of Cahoots Magazine with this issue of Inside Hillcrest. The ad is on page 16 in Cahoots. As luck would have it, the cover story of this issue of Cahoots featured Joe Rose of WQAM Sports radio. WQAM-560 covers the local sports teams. When they saw our ad, they thought it was hysterical. Other fun ads in Cahoots are "Wombs to Go" and "Get Clean with Sheen". That we are called the "A Team" gave them the idea to have a Real Estate Team as part of their line-up. Starting Saturday, April 29th, we had our own radio show, **REAL ESTATE CAFÉ**, from **7AM to 8AM**. We signed up for commercial air time and hired a moderator. We also have to pay for our own hair and make-up which turns out to be very cheap since we are on the radio and not TV...

The show opened with this: "If you want expert advice, the Real Estate Café is now open and the A Team Florida with Keller William's Realty Professionals is serving up the LATEST in South Florida Real Estate every Saturday morning - for you Early Birds out there - from 7 to 8 AM."

Moderator: "Welcome to the Real Estate Café. Come on in, sit anywhere you like and make yourself at home. Today's menu features food for thought regarding the South Florida Real Estate Market. Introducing your hosts, A Team Florida's Brian (Million Dollar Man) Gaiefsky and Cindy (Momma) Abraham."

If you or anyone you know are getting ready to buy, sell or rent, this show really does have a lot of great info and advice. We even have advice for people who are already listed or just bought a home. We used our phone number 8-HILLCREST as the contact number so it was easy to remember. And we added [www.8HILLCREST.com](http://www.8HILLCREST.com) to be directed to our A Team website.

It has been quite an experience. If you would like to hear our first show, here is the link: <http://cbsloc.al/2pgmvVI>, The link to all our shows (only 3 so far) is on the [www.WQAM.COM](http://www.WQAM.COM), click on AUDIO, scroll down to our picture and click. We sent several Hillcrest neighbors and friends the link right after first show. Thank you for the positive feedback. It gave us the confidence to do it again!

For more info, go to our website, [www.ATeamFlorida.com](http://www.ATeamFlorida.com). We have a list of vendors for buyers and sellers - painters, stagers, mortgage lenders, etc. We also have a list of referral partners all over the US and Canada that buyers and sellers should interview before hiring an agent.

Some of you know first-hand that we are always here to answer your real estate questions and help you decide your best course of action. We are your neighbor first, but of course we would also like to earn your business. Thank you, Hillcrest for your support over the years!

Sat. mornings at 7:00 a.m. on 560 WQAM





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# The Kitchen Korner

by Cindy Abraham

## Surinam Cherries: It's That Time of Year



This article is worth a reprint. Usually the cherries bloom in April but because of the lack of rain this year, they started late. You should still be able to find them when you get this issue of IH. . . More and more folks are starting to realize how good they are and I see them out there picking "my" cherries! So for you beginners, here is your refresher course.

The Surinam cherry is not a cherry nor is it exclusively from Surinam. It's also not from Florida but it is naturalized throughout the state and here in South Florida, usually blooms only in the month of April and I make it a point to get out there and gather as many as possible.

I will freely admit these little red pumpkins are an acquired taste because most folks are expecting some kind of cherry taste and they don't have that. No matter how ripe, there is a resinous quality. To be blunt, you either like them or you definitely do not. More so, they must be picked when absolutely ripe or they are a very unpleasant edible experience. What is absolutely ripe? There is orange red, the color of cars, and here is blue red, the color of old-time fire trucks and blood. Surinam cherries are edible when they are a deep blood-red. Let me repeat that: A deep blood-red And I know you will push the envelope and try one that is orange red which won't harm you, but it may turn you off to the cherries if it is your first try. I kind of like the contrast of a few dark orange ones in the jam but to keep it sweet, I add more purples. When fully ripe they are very sweet and juicy. And the term "pick them" is incorrect. You gently slide your hand under the cherry and let it fall into your hand. If you have to tug at all, it is not ripe. So the color blind can enjoy them also...

I make a lot of jam and wash and dry the biggest and juiciest to freeze in snack bags. It's like having little popsicles and they last for months. Seeding them is a daunting chore – it can take hours and what a mess. I found a contraption at William Sonoma for twelve bucks that deseed cherries. Because these are so soft, I put them in the freezer for about 30 minutes first and it seems to work better to pop out the seeds.

### Surinam Jam

2 Cups Surinam Cherries (deseeded)  
 ½ Cup Sugar (preferable Turbinado or you can even use ¼ cup Truvia if sugar is an issue)  
 2 Tbsp. Lemon Juice (or for an extra kick, 1 Tbsp balsamic vinegar)

Place the cherries, sugar and lemon juice in a pan – the more spread out, the faster the juice will evaporate. There is a lot of juice but resist the temptation to pour some off in order to hasten the process – you will lose flavor. Bring to a high simmer and stir. Lower the heat and allow to simmer on medium heat stirring intermittently. Do this until you get a jam like consistency (it can take a couple of hours). Pour into sterilized jars and refrigerate. Enjoy with bread and feta cheese. You can even glaze chicken or pork with it.



### Surinam Cherry Pie

Ingredients:  
 3 cups sweetened condensed milk  
 ½ cup sour cream  
 1 cup smashed, seedless cherries with their juice

Pie Crust: 1 (9 inch) prepared graham cracker crust or 12 little Keebler crust

Combine ingredients and mix well. Pour in graham cracker crust. The flecks of red are beautiful! Bake

for 8 minutes until tiny bubbles form on surface of pie(s). Do not brown. Chill thoroughly before serving. Top with whipped cream (optional) and fresh whole cherry.

### Cherry "Popsicles"

Take the biggest and juiciest, rinse and dry. Place several in small snack bags and freeze – delicious! Oddly they can last in the freezer for months although they start to shrivel and lose flavor if kept in the refrigerator for more than a day!



# April 2017 Report - Commissioner Dick Blattner



There was an important and interesting workshop to discuss maintenance issues downtown.

There is total agreement that we need to do a better job. A strong recommendation was made to consider creating an assessment district for maintaining infrastructure in the Downtown CRA.

A consultant's report laid out the options and we will be considering them. Right now, the Downtown CRA

pays for most of the maintenance and cleanup, but it is not enough.

By creating an assessment district, funds would be available to standardize and coordinate efforts. And, importantly, when the DCRA sunsets in about eight years (absent creation of a district), those expenses will become the responsibility of the City.

Key expense items approved at the last two Commission meetings.

IT: \$352,000  
Public Utilities: \$672,000

While this is a lot of money, it also costs a lot to keep things going, including such items as chemicals to keep our drinking water plentiful and safe and hardware such as pumps, filters and engineering services. April was a big travel month for me. Attended a Strong Cities Conference in Tulsa with about 200 people interested in making cities work better, moving people more efficiently and improving quality of life.

Then, this past week, along with Executive Committee members of the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMPO), I traveled to our nation's capital to meet with the Broward legislative delegation (Nelson, Wilson, Wasserman-Schultz, Deutch, Rubio and Diaz-Balart as well as Alcee Hastings' staff) and the Department of Transportation. The purpose was to advocate for continued funding of transportation projects.

Bottom line: this is a work in progress.

Mayor Josh Levy was also in DC with the city's lobbyists, fighting to retain Community Block Grant and CDBG funds. Cuts to these programs will be felt hard in Hollywood. There was an important and interesting workshop to discuss maintenance issues downtown.

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plentiful and safe and hardware such as pumps, filters and engineering services.

**Commissioner Comments**

I asked for-- and received support from-- the Commission to create an ordinance prohibiting renting hotel/motel rooms by the hour (yes, it's currently legal). This ordinance will pass, giving HPD the ability to fine and otherwise penalize motels and hotels who may be renting to prostitution, sex trafficking and other illegal activities.

**Upcoming Events**

**May 3**

10:00 am	CRA Meeting
12:00 pm	Awards and Recognition ceremony
1:00 pm	Commission Meeting

**May 17**

9:00 am	Parking Workshop
10:30 am	Status report on 911 System
1:00 pm	Commission Meeting

Regarding the parking workshop, we will be addressing the following questions: Should meters be installed downtown? Should garage parking be free? How will we accommodate new and significant businesses who require parking? What is the status to the Parking Fund?

**May 22**

3:00 pm	Advisory Board Appointments
---------	-----------------------------

**Fill-er up?**

In the two and a half months I've been driving my Chevy Volt, have **not added any gas!** Hope my family members who work for Exxon-Mobil will still talk to me.

**Beautiful Ohio**

Family reunion last weekend. 29 members in Cincinnati, where my great grandfather landed from Bohemia about 1869. Name is on a plaque at Plum Street Temple (Awesome), showing he contributed \$200 probably about 1900. What would that be today? What is your immigrant story?

If you visit Cincinnati, include a visit to the National Underground Museum. Remarkable.

**From the Blattner Library**

*The Orphan Masters Son*, Adam Johnson. Life and maybe fantasy in North Korea. Who knows?

*A World in Turmoil*, Richard Haas. He is Chair of U.S. Council of Foreign Affairs. Interesting but am plowing through it.

*Devil in the Grove*, Gilbert King. This is a MUST read about the civil rights events in central Florida in the 40's, centered around the life and role Thurgood Marshall played. I guarantee you that the preface and first chapter will make your heart race and suck you in.

**Finally**

Discovered a great little boutique Italian restaurant, SASA, at Van Buren and 20th --in a house! Great atmosphere and food. We'll be going back.

Hope you are well. Happy Mothers Day!

# Whiskey Tango, Go Early for The Food Stay Late For The Drink

- Michael Killeen



Almost every day of the week at this established there is another delicious special. I arrived on a Monday between 4-9 and found \$5 burgers. Fortunately, these are not ordinary burgers. This half pound burger has bacon and an egg, Lettuce and tomato, onion and hot sauce all on a toasted bun. Did I say it was only \$5 yes \$5! Did I say it comes with fries and was

delicious? Yes, it comes with fries and is delicious. Did I mention you get it cooked to order any way you like it? Yes, rare to medium to well done. Did I mention it's cheaper than McDonald's or Burger King? Well, it is.

I don't get overly excited when it comes to food but Whiskey Tango's got me very excited. The great tasting food more than compensates for the routine service.

Upon entering Whiskey Tango, you might have to look for someone to seat you. If nobody is there as was the case this evening just wait and somebody will come and allow you to sit anywhere. There is a large bar area with only a few booths inside. Outside there are many tables with another bar serving up your favorite cocktails beer or wine. We sat on the booth inside and was promptly given menus. We ordered the Bangkok Burger specials and waited. I was very curious to see what a five-dollar special looked and tasted like. Much to my surprise, it was hot, delicious and cooked to perfection.

There was an egg, bacon, lettuce and tomatoes, onions and hot sauce all on a half-pound burger. Other specials include two dollar tacos on Tuesday and fifty cent chicken wings on Wednesday.

Whiskey Tango is located on Hollywood Boulevard in downtown Hollywood. It is one block west of Young Circle. In addition to the daily specials there is live music Saturday and Sunday and NEVER a cover charge. They are open at 11am daily and close in the wee hours of the morning and until 4AM Friday and Saturday. Ladies night is Tuesday night where ladies drink free from 9pm to Midnight.

Furthermore, there are over 40 TV's showing all your favorite sporting events. I would definitely recommend Whiskey Tango whether it be for the food or drink. It's an exciting place located in the heart of downtown Hollywood.



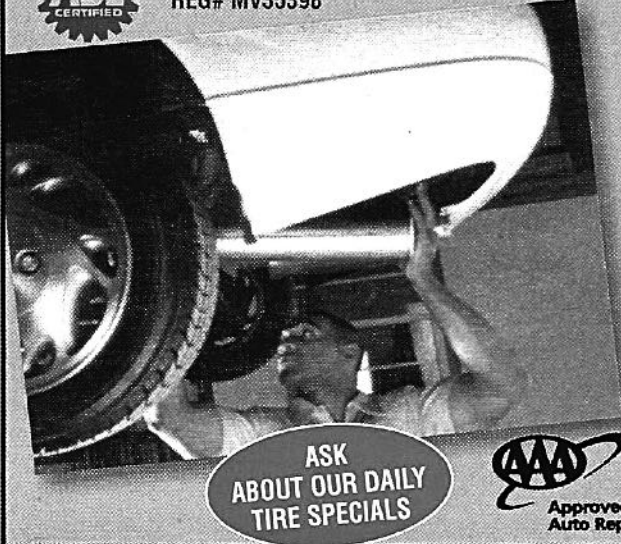


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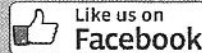


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# Care-More

**By Aruna Ladva Brahma Kumaris London, England – submitted by Etta Stevens**

When there is an attitude of care and attention given to something, then we are more likely to get things done accurately. When we are careless, there is chaos and confusion and generally things end up being a mess. The amount of energy that we give to something is exactly proportionate to what we will get back from it.

Sometimes we can be a bit cavalier and thoughtless in the use of resources. This can apply to both our personal and professional life. But this carelessness can in the end take its toll in life too. Many companies are at a mega loss due to staff carelessness. For example, wasting paper, printing emails and large booklets when not necessary. Wasting food and other valuable resources because of poor planning, or for the sake of being extravagant or wanting to maintain a high corporate image. Remember, that if we had to pay for these resources from our purse, we might well care-more as we would feel the pinch in our own pocket.

If we just took the time to care more, be more mindful and think things through, then we would perhaps save time, money and many other important resources. How many of us really appreciate what we have? Just the simple, and often taken for granted fact, that we have access to education, health and welfare services in developed countries. There are many people in less fortunate countries who do not have the luxury of such things and for them it can be a daily struggle. In this regard to care means to appreciate.

Kids would also fare better at school if they could understand and connect back to Nature; how we are provided for and sustained by our precious planet. Some schools are making this effort. It would be helpful if children, and even adults too, could maintain a greater awareness of how interconnected everything is. Then we may well find that people would all be a great deal happier and more content in the world.

If we were able to teach our children how to appreciate, and acknowledge their good fortune then perhaps they would be able to appreciate what they have, rather than complain about what they do not have. If we could teach our children to just care a little more and give extra time to their studies, to teach them to be distracted less then maybe they would learn more. Perhaps some form of activity where they connect more with the physical world, and not just more time for play in the virtual world would help them re-connect and to re-create themselves too. Fewer distractions at the time of study would mean they would have more time for play and other re-creational activities of their choice.

Matter too responds to our energetic vibrations. This means that it is imperative that we treat things around us with love and care. How much do we use the things that we have with respect? For example it would be better to fold a blanket or sweater and lay it down on the couch, rather than to simply throw it. It would be better to wash the dishes and put them away than to have them pile up in the kitchen sink. In this way things last longer, even for years, and one need not spend extra time and money purchasing new things every year.

When we care about things, we are also respecting our self. Litter on our streets is not a sign of respect. Most of us would not choose to live in unclean or messy home, then why do we dis-respect the world and our own self? When we respect our environment, the environment will also show us respect too. Positive energy ripples back. Clean and tidy environments make us feel

peaceful, healthy and relaxed. It comforts us to know that everything is in the right place and right order. This is why we love the things of Nature so much, because everything has an order and a natural rhythm.

When we care for people, we invest in them. We plant seeds of good deeds and the return always comes back in the form of love and kindness. Caring never goes to waste. When we use our positive qualities in a worthwhile way then those qualities too will come back to us from other people. It works just like a boomerang. If we show that care for others, then that care and respect will get reflected back to us too. Of course this also applies equally to that which is positive or negative! So it pays to be positive. It's Time... to care more and not be so careless. To be less cavalier with what we have and what we do. Every moment we have a choice with our thoughts, to care or not to care. The difference may seem to be minuscule but the effects can be long lasting and have greater impact than we may even realize.

This month of May is the time I find I have deep and loving thoughts of my beloved mother, Sarah Kartman. She is an angel now for many years but the presence of love and caring are just as apparent and alive as it was over 33 years ago when she left this earthly journey to another spiritual journey into Gods arms. The values my mother taught to me years ago are still relevant and in my heart every day. Deep emotional needs and love have graced my life since I was a child and here today I find that as a meditation teacher for the Brahma Kumaris at the Hollywood Library every Tuesday morning at 10:15 am, these value blessings are the ones that I give to our students so that they can make their life more meaningful and authentic. Meditation takes you into a place of peace, love and understanding and brings back the innocence of our childhood by remembering this basic qualities. Honesty, love, cooperation, kindness, loving and caring along with many more are part of a full meditation class. We want to all live in PEACE and by bringing peace to ourselves we can share it with others easily.

Classes are free and many venues for you to choose from almost every day of the week. Join us, bring happiness and love back into your heart.

Wishing all the mothers of this world a beautiful and Happy Mothers Day!

## *Meditation Schedule*

**Hollywood Library**, 2600 Hollywood Blvd., Every Tues 10:30 am & 6:30 pm.

**Hallandale Beach Library**, 300 S. Federal Hwy. 1st & 3rd Every Sat, 10:30 am

**Carver Ranches Library**, off Pembroke Road and 48th, Every Sat 10:30 am

**Call Roz (954) 962-7447**

All Classes sponsored by Brahma Kumaris are free of charge as a service to our community.

**Brahma Kumaris Hollywood Meditation Group**

## GLOBAL MEDITATION FOR WORLD PEACE

**Sunday, May 21, 2017 • 6-7:30 pm**

Bring a chair and a flashlight, see you there. Meditation at the school is changed to the Church at the corner of Polk and 46th street. Wednesdays at 4-5pm. Watch for something new to be happening in the future!

## 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/mailling\\_list](http://brahmakumaris.org/interactive/mailling_list)



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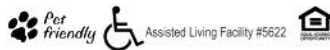


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