

Inside Hillcrest

– Connecting Neighbors to Neighbors –



OCTOBER 2018

HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 10

OCTOBER INSIDE HILLCREST

GET OUT AND VOTE!

I don't have to tell you how important this election is; it can turn the tide on our impending Tsunami if we make our voices heard. I have learned that people who use negative ads about their opponent to make themselves look good, are usually a bad choice.

We need **Ann Murray** to stay on the **Broward County School Board**. As far as the City Commission races go, our district commissioner is not up for re-election this year, but three other districts are.

Remember that Commissioner's votes affect ALL OF US. So, I hope **Traci Callari (District 3)** and **Kevin Biederman (District 5)** are re-elected. In District 1, Debra Case is not running this time which is a shame – she is amazing. One of the candidates, Caryl Shuham, seems to be the most qualified. If she gets in and is as fair, honest and altruistic as Debra Case, District 1 will be in good hands.

Commissioner Dick Blattner has a rather personal story in this issue along with his usual update on our City happenings. Dick and I most certainly do not agree on everything but this time he is spot on! It is a good read; and when he says he would like to know what you think, he really means it. Email him at dblattner@hollywoodfl.org. An example of something I disagree with him about is in his Commission news article also in this issue. The last line is incorrect – it should say Go Gators! He wouldn't let me change it...

As far as the Amendments go, they are poorly worded, the practice of adding irrelevant trailers to an amendment that also get passed or not – I think that is blatantly unfair. This is one situation where you should NOT vote if you don't know what you are voting for or against. You probably can't go wrong voting NO on all of them but the slam dunk **NO's in my opinion are #1,2,5,6,7 and 10**. The only **YES votes** that I feel fairly good about are **4,9 and 11**. 3 and 12 are sloppily written and 13 is a choice between

saving the greyhounds or putting a bunch of people out of work so you are on your own on that one.

GUBERNATORIAL LUNCH

Where did that word come from and why?! Our crack reporter, Steve Schneider, was dispatched to go to hear what Ron De Santis (R) and Andrew Gillum (D), candidates for Governor, had to say. Didn't turn out that way but it was still an informative afternoon. His article is on page 17.

OUR GREAT ADVERTISERS

When you need a doctor (or lawyer or realtor), you want to know a little about them. These are not professions you want to pick out of the phone book. A friend or neighbor's recommendation makes feel easier about our decision. I had heard high praise about Dr. Amir from Loretta Merlini, Hillcrest 16. "**Dr. Rotem Amir** has been my primary care doctor for many years. She is thorough and treats her patients like family, with great care and compassion. And, she has a very professional and courteous staff." Loretta J. Merlini.

We are always looking for GREAT people who we know do the right thing by our community. For **HEALTHY PARTNERS Primary Care Services**, we now have Dr. Amir and Dr. Foucald's contact information to share with all of you on page 5. And be sure to read Dr. Amir's heartfelt message to Hillcrest on page 4.

I have known Ricky Rash and Miguel Moita of **Health Options USA** for many years. Sondra Marcus just moved into Hillcrest, so she is now a neighbor. This is open enrollment time for health insurance.

If you are getting ready to turn 65, you will get all kinds of "stuff" in the mail. Deal with people we know, like and trust. **Health Options USA** contact info is on page 3.

IH received another compliment on one of our advertisers, Sandy Briglio of **Briglio Insurance**, our Hillcrest connection for home and auto insurance: "Sandy was super. He got me a new policy with Progressive for \$150/month - similar and better in some ways than what I had with Esurance @ \$300/month. Thank you, Cindy! A.L. – Bldg. 16." Anytime you need a local recommendation for any goods or services, email us at inside.hillcrest@comcast.net.

STILL MISS THURSDAY NIGHT KARAOKE AT THE HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB?

Back in the day, Thursday nights meant Katarina and Karaoke at the Hillcrest Country Club. Well, we are getting the "band" back together – and for a good cause. My good friends, Toni Saldano from Union Institute and University, Katarina Linne our Karaoke Mistress Extraordinaire, John Moore, the 1st Vice Commander and Adjutant of American Legion Post 304 in Dania Beach and Hillcrest 23 resident, and Brian Gaiefsky and me from Keller Williams' A Team Florida, are sponsoring an event with all proceeds going to help our Veterans. For \$25.00 you get good food, good fun and good karaoke from 3PM to 6PM on **Veteran's Day, Monday, November 12th** at American Legion Post 304. Kind of a Hillcrest Country Club reunion. Details are inside. Feel free to share the flyer and/or post it in your buildings.

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

If you like movies and have never been to Cinema Paradiso in downtown Hollywood, you are missing a great experience. The movies are carefully selected not only for their entertainment value, but for their intelligent treatment of unique subject matter. Free popcorn if you mention you are from Hillcrest. See their ad on page 7.



INHERITING DEBT - A QUICK LESSON

Spouses are generally responsible for their mates' debts after death by virtue of marriage. Siblings and children are not. There are few exceptions. If the deceased had a credit card IN THEIR NAME ONLY, the spouse may not be responsible. This is known as an un-secured creditor since the credit card company has no collateral to secure the money they have "loaned" the credit card holder.


SAFE from un-secured creditors– Life insurance payments, pay-on-death bank or brokerage accounts, jointly held property that passes directly to the surviving owner and retirement plans (401Ks and IRAs) that have NAMED BENEFICIARIES. If your retirement funds do not have a named beneficiary but are just a part of your estate, they are NOT safe.

If you signed a joint application for a credit card, YOU OWE THE BALANCE. Doesn't matter if you have no idea what the purchases were for or how high the balance had become. If you are just an "authorized user", depending on the state, you may be off the hook UNLESS you use the card after the owner dies. If you have the funds to pay off the balance of your charges you are OK but if you use it after the owner dies and the estate is broke, you can be charged with fraud.

You still owe on all private debts you signed with the deceased – private mortgages, private student loans, etc. If your mate was

in the hospital, you probably signed the admission papers which include a payment agreement. Unless the surviving spouse can prove that he/she has very little income, he/she may have to pay it off. Sometimes health providers may write it off the account if the surviving spouse can prove financial hardship.

However, remember that if a spouse dies, you are in a very vulnerable position. BE TOUGH! Do not pay any "debts" until you consult with your tax professional or your attorney. Of course, if you are unsure and need help, contact us at inside-hillcrest@comcast.net or call 8-HILLCREST and we will direct you to someone who can help.



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Ricky Rash, Sondra Marcus and Miguel Moita

MEET HILLCREST'S MEDICARE TEAM (954) 289-0333

As you know, Inside Hillcrest only allows advertisers that we personally know or who have been recommended by Hillcresters. I have known Ricky Rash and Miguel Moita for years through the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and had the pleasure of meeting Sondra Marcus when she became a Hillcresters a few months ago.

All are caring people and passionate about helping others –qualities that I admire.

Ricky Rash is a true Hollywood native (born at Memorial Hospital!) and has been married to Maureen for almost 15 years. He is the father to 12 year-old Juliette, a member of Temple Sinai of Hollywood and an active participant in the community. Ricky has worked in the Medicare industry for the last 10 years after working nearly 18 years in the real estate & mortgage world. "I absolutely love helping seniors make tough decisions about their Medicare and other needs, such as Long Term Care and Final Expense Insurance. Most importantly, I take pride

in making sure my clients save as much money as possible without sacrificing quality.

"Our own **Sondra Marcus** (a resident in Hillcrest 22) is the mother of three grown children and calls them her "proudest achievement". She goes on to tell us, "I was born in Queens, NY and moved to Miami at the age of three. I graduated from Miami Beach High and Miami Dade Jr. College. Worked in retail on Lincoln Road and owned a small boutique. I love the outdoors and dance. My background includes sales, administration and more recently as a Medicare Advocate, which is where my heart is now. Being able to help people has always been my passion and I am happy to be fulfilling it this way.

"**Miguel Moita**, originally from Portugal, is a long time Hollywood Resident and has been married to Rezeda since 2011. He is a proud father of two beautiful boys, David and Michael.

"I got into the Medicare business by accident, after my stepfather passed away many years ago, I needed to help my mother with everyday life since he took care of everything for her. When it came to Medicare, I knew very little and decided to get educated in order to help her. I still take care of her today and she is now 87 years young, by helping her, I found my new career.

I've been serving the Hollywood community for many years as a Medicare Advocate, helping thousands of Seniors in the process. My passion is educating and helping people make smart decisions with their Healthcare and Life insurance needs. I also help Seniors in need apply for additional benefits like Medicaid, Extra Help on their prescription drugs, utility discounts, etc.

I am a proud member of the Hollywood Jaycees where I served as International Vice President, also a proud graduate of Leadership Hollywood (Class of 33). I am fluent in Spanish and Portuguese."

HILLCREST HELPING HILLCRESTERS

Inside Hillcrest is not-for-profit. The purpose of IH is to keep our community informed about anything that affects our Community and our residents. Our advertisers pay for the printing, bookkeeping, graphic designer, proof and delivery. The profits go to help Hillcresters in need. Because we do not solicit advertising, we depend on YOU to let us know when you have someone that you believe is EXCELLENT in their field and would like to share their information with your neighbors.

When you read Dr. Amir’s story below about what inspired her to devote her career to helping seniors, you will understand why we are SO PROUD to have her and her and her amazing team as part of our Hillcrest Family.

LOCAL BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS HELPING HILLCRESTERS – Meet Dr. Rotem Amir



Dear Hillcresters,

I always knew I wanted to help people. I recall telling my parents at the age of twelve that I have chosen a profession. As an internal medicine physician, I help adults diagnose and heal many ailments. I was not prepared for a unique situation that presented in my office 4 months ago.

While seeing my regular patients, a long-term couple who sees me regularly showed up to my office without an appointment and

asked to be seen promptly. Since I have known them for nearly a decade and I realized an urgent matter must be at hand, my staff accommodated them promptly. I entered the exam room to find the husband in despair. “We have nowhere to go,” he muttered. “We were evicted and are now homeless,” he stated. At his side was his wife sobbing holding her parrot’s cage. “I do not want to live,” she cried, “help me end my life. “They were locked out by the landlord without their belongings with their beloved parrot in the cage. I knew I had to act quickly and find these amazing seniors a safe residence. I quickly contacted the hospital and notified them I had a senior couple in crisis.

We quickly became a rescue mission, my staff and I and the hospital team. My heart was filled with joy to see this couple reach safety. Admitted to the hospital as at-risk seniors, they were medically stabilized and located to a local shelter allowing their birds to accompany them. Soon after they were placed in a safe housing development in Hollywood. At their follow-up visit, tears of joy dripped down our faces. I knew I saved their lives with a quick action plan and some convincing.

Being a doctor allows me to have these special moments where humanity is helped with more than just medicine or a lab test! Kindness, devotion, and trust are qualities I share with my patients. I learn from them and with them every day as well I share their joys and sorrows. I am honored to serve in this honorable profession!

Sincerely,

Dr. Rotem Amir

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ LETTER TO THE EDITOR ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



HILLCREST ROCKS!

I sent out an email about some of our residents taking the carts from CVS and leaving them all over the place. When I found one in MY building, I took it back and then a couple days later there was another one. If you HAVE TO TAKE A CART – for the love of Pete, bring it back the next time you go!

The day I brought the second cart back, there were NO carts in the rack and a lady with a cane was coming up to the door.

So, I was just in time – but I was not happy - and I was also embarrassed that Hillcresters would behave like this. Long story short, within days of my email to the building leaders, 7 carts were returned to CVS. Remember that the folks there – Jade, Aaron, Luke, Katrina, Schibea, Brittany, Nicole and the rest of the staff are EXTRA nice to all Hillcresters and go out of their

way for us. Please don’t discourage people from shopping there because “there are never any carts.”

We also received this letter from one of our residents:

Cindy,

So glad you addressed the issue of the CVS shopping carts. I go to CVS quite often and I totally agree the entire staff there are wonderful and always so sweet and kind.

The last couple times I complained about not being able to have a shopping cart and they apologized and said that the customers were taking them away and they did mention especially Hillcrest. You are correct that it is theft, and although I feel sorry for those people who have to walk and can’t carry heavy packages, on the off chance that they do want to take the cart, why can’t they bring it back? Even if they don’t go back immediately the next time they go out bring it back to the store. But there are some people who are very selfish and only think of themselves.

Thank you so much for staying on top of this situation and for everything you do for us.
TA – Hillcrest #6

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



Greetings Hillcrest Residents,

It is hard to believe that the midterm election is finally upon us, but it is. On Tuesday, November 6th, you will have the opportunity to vote in an incredibly important election. Almost every election cycle we say that this is the most important election of our lifetime. But this election, that saying is truer than ever before. We are at a time of an incredibly heated division and debate. This is a chance to get through all the noise and let your voice be heard. If you

are upset about toxic algae in the water, or about healthcare costs, or about attacks on the press, or about gun safety, or about any other major issue affecting our state, this is your chance to hold your leaders accountable. You should demand answers from anyone who is asking for your vote. This is your chance to play a major role in our democracy.

Some of you may have probably already voted by mail or at an early voting site. But many of you may like the excitement of election day, and plan to vote in person on November 6th. Before you cast your ballot, make sure you know where you're going. In Hillcrest, you vote at the Orange Brook Elementary School. Make sure to bring your voter registration card and a photo ID. If you have any problems, the helpful poll workers will be happy to assist you.

It is a very extensive ballot this year. Don't use that as an excuse to not vote on every item! The Governor and U.S. Senate may get the headlines, but the down-ballot candidates and questions have an immense impact on our every-day life. There are twelve constitutional amendments, eleven county charter review questions, and a major question on transportation. There are also judges and school board races that need your attention. So, take your time! Go in with a reference sheet, and make sure you clearly and neatly fill in your choice for every single question.

I want to take a moment to talk about one of those constitutional amendments you will have a chance to vote on – Amendment 4. This amendment would restore the right to vote for anyone – excluding those who have committed murder or sex crimes – that has a felony conviction and has served their time. The State of Florida is one of four states whose constitution permanently disenfranchises citizens with past felony convictions. This policy bars more than **1.6 million Floridians** from exercising their constitutional right to vote. Florida has by far the highest disenfranchisement rate in the country, impacting 10 percent of the adult population, including one in five African-Americans in the state.

If Amendment 4 passes, it would be a major step forward for civil rights and voting rights in Florida. The majority of who are currently disenfranchised are for non-violent crimes. They made mistakes, but they have served their time and paid their debt to society. If we truly believe in people earning second chances, this is a great opportunity to prove it. Voting is the most fundamental right we have as Americans. Being able to participate in our democracy gives everyone a sense of worth and accountability. Restoring voting rights will be a valuable next step in helping those who served their

time continue to get back on their feet and contribute to our society. It will also end the shameful statistics that make Florida the harshest state in the country on this important civil rights issue. This could be a landmark moment for our state.

This entire ballot is filled with opportunities to make a huge difference, from candidates to causes. That includes the hugely important vote on our county transportation plan. You will find this question on Page Six of your ballot on the left side. This is your chance to revolutionize transportation in Broward County. If implemented, the enhancements in this plan could significantly reduce traffic and produce a bevy of affordable public transportation options for residents like you. **Our plan includes 73 major intersection improvements, 46 miles of expanded roads, 40 miles of new sidewalks, 27,000 feet of drainage along roadways, 9 miles of resiliency improvements, 95 miles of greenways, and 75 miles of fiber optic cables that will be used for traffic light synchronization.** It also includes many new and more frequent bus routes, paratransit improvements, community buses, and light rail. You can learn more about the plan at broward.org/pennyfortransportation.

If you have any questions about the voting process or the ballot, do not hesitate to reach out to my office. We will be happy to provide any assistance you may need. This really IS the most important election of our lifetime. Be sure you vote and be a part of a historic moment.



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October Kitchen Korner - by Cindy Abraham

Are you ready for some FOOTBALL?!



Football season is back and so are finger foods – pretty much anything that goes with beer. I found some interesting, easy to make snacks and tried them out on “Da Boys”, Boodro, Burkie and Melotti. We have a couple winners! Thanks to Joanne Melotti who helped serve since the guys couldn’t get their butts out of the comfy leather recliners.

Probably the most popular was a new take on Caesar salad as a finger food. This one is cool and fun to make. Get a bag of 3 Romaine Lettuce hearts and cut off the tops at the halfway mark. Save the top leaves in a bag for making traditional salad another time. If there is discoloration on the bottom of the remaining wedges, slice it off but be sure all the bottom leaves stay connected. Slice each one vertically into 4 pieces. You should have 12 total. Put them in the fridge to chill while you make the dressing and topping. Of course, you can always use store bought Caesar dressing, but homemade is so easy and really delicious.

CAESAR SALAD BITES

12 quartered Romaine heart bottoms (see above)

Dressing:

½ cup mayonnaise
 ½ can anchovies or 1 TBS anchovy paste
 1/8 cup Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese finely grated
 ¾ tsp red wine vinegar
 ½ TBS Dijon mustard
 1 small garlic clove
 Black pepper to taste
 Combine everything in a food processor and blend until smooth.

Topping:

1 TBS EVOO
 ½ cup Panko
 1/8 cup fresh chives
 1 tsp lemon zest



browned. Season with salt/pepper. Transfer to a plate and let cool for about 10 minutes. Stir in chives and lemon zest. Using a small spatula, spread dressing over cut sides of lettuce. Dredge in panko. Arrange on a platter and serve.

SHRIMP TOAST DIM SUM

The trick to these is to make sure the bread and topping are at room temperature so the shrimp mousse sticks to the bread while frying. You can make the shrimp mousse ahead of time and store in an airtight container but again, be sure it is at room temperature before spreading on bread slices. Also, when food processing, scrape the sides with a spatula as needed to help smooth the mixture. Tip: When I buy sesame seeds (or slivered almonds) I toast the whole container, so I have them when I need them.



Make the Dip first so the flavors have time to blend:

½ scallion, finely chopped (thinly slice the remaining green part on the diagonal for a pretty garnish)
 1 TBS soy sauce
 1 TBS rice vinegar
 1 TBS Hoisin sauce
 1 ½ tsp Sambal oelek (you can use a dash of hot sauce instead)
 1 tsp toasted sesame seeds
 Combine all ingredients in a small bowl (except for garnish) and let sit at room temperature while you make the toasts.

Shrimp Mousse:

8 oz. peeled, deveined raw shrimp
 1 large egg
 1 tsp kosher salt
 2 TBS cold unsalted butter cubed
 2 tsp toasted sesame seeds
 6 slices whole grain bread, crusts removed
 Canola oil for frying

Combine the shrimp, egg and salt in a food processor until smooth. Add butter and half the sesame seeds. Pulse until smooth with flecks of butter remaining, about 7 times. Spread equal amounts shrimp mousse on each bread slice.

Line a plate with paper towels. Heat 1/8 inch canola oil over medium heat in a large nonstick skillet until shimmering. Add three of the toasts, mousse side down and cook until lightly browned (about 2 minutes). Flip and cook until toast bottom is brown (about 1 minute). Make sure mousse is firm to the touch. Remove and place toasts on paper towels while you cook the remaining three toasts.

Heat olive oil in a medium skillet over medium heat until shimmering. Add panko and cook, stirring occasionally, until lightly

Cut the toasts diagonally into 4 bite size pieces and arrange

HILLCREST'S OWN: KELLER WILLIAMS A TEAM FLORIDA



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

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

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October State of the Market

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

With the sales of the new Parkview townhomes going for over 300K, our larger Hillcrest units have never looked so valuable. AND we don't have to deal with going up and down stairs! Yes, we are still constrained by appraisals (comparable sales), but things are looking up.

However, to get top dollar, you need a top Realtor. Condos priced right sell within 45 days. Condos priced too low often spark a bidding war and many times end up selling for higher than a reasonable list price. Condos overpriced sit idle, racking up maintenance fees until a Realtor wants to show it – only to contrast it for the buyer with a condo priced at market value with the caveat, "See what a great deal the OTHER ONE is?"

You want the best Realtor when you decide to sell.

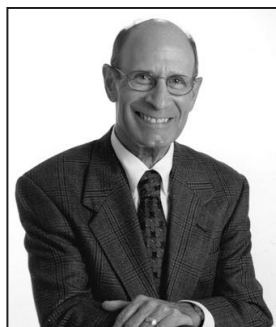
What makes us the best? Anyone can price right and get a contract on your condo if it is staged beautifully, marketed properly and personally shown by a professional agent who knows Hillcrest. And we cannot forget excellent negotiation skills ON YOUR BEHALF. However, getting it to the closing table is the challenge.

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COMMISSIONER DICK BLATTNER SPECIAL REPORT: GROWING UP



My military career was undistinguished. Upon graduating from college, we young men all awaited the draft; our future for the next two years was predetermined for most of us. Anticipating that, I joined the Army Reserves in my junior year and volunteered for active duty upon graduation. Training at Ft. Leonard Wood was followed by a two-week cruise that ended up in South Korea.

As was especially true (and proven by the Vietnam War), the draft was very unfair. If you were going to grad school, had a medical condition, knew someone on the Draft Board, or escaped to Canada, you never served. Subsequently, Congress established a volunteer military and, while I will need weigh in on the merits of that, I will suggest that some sort of national service would have great value to our country today. (By the way, isn't it exciting the number of Vets now running for Congress, etc.?)

I know, I know...it is kind of nostalgic, looking back to the worst days of the 1930's and early '40's, when the government created programs to get people working and earning money. They expanded and improved national parks, built roads and swimming pools, municipal buildings, auditoriums. Artists created plays, wrote books, joined symphonies, painted. People were working.

And while there were acronyms for the numerous agencies: CCC, WPA, PWA, etc. this was just...national service. And maybe we should consider doing this again, albeit for other than purely economic reasons.

Maybe we need a GAP year for all. Time to test our readiness, our maturity, to figure out what to do next without having to make a commitment to something that may turn out to have been a mistake.

Today, high school grads could be learning how to build houses and highways, clear forests of downed trees, fight forest fires, help

In an army headquarters, I was just a clerk, along with about 30 others who bunked in a Quonset hut, heated in cold winter with two oil stoves. And, while the US was still technically at war with North Korea (and still is), there was no fighting. I think the draft that brought us together was of great value.

We learned that wearing the same uniforms helped create a sort of democracy. Rank meant very little since none of us was making this a career, but we learned to respect rank and tradition. We learned to live together in harmony, to share, to minimize our religious and ethnic differences. We ate what they served, drilled together, went to the USO or movies together. Going off the base was very limited; not that there was much to see or do in Seoul in 1956 to 1958. The best holidays I ever spent were in The Hut, when our parents sent us food packages and we took a door off its hinges and laid it between foot lockers for a table. I took lots of pictures but never looked at them because I can still see it all in my mind.

Continued on Pg. 14

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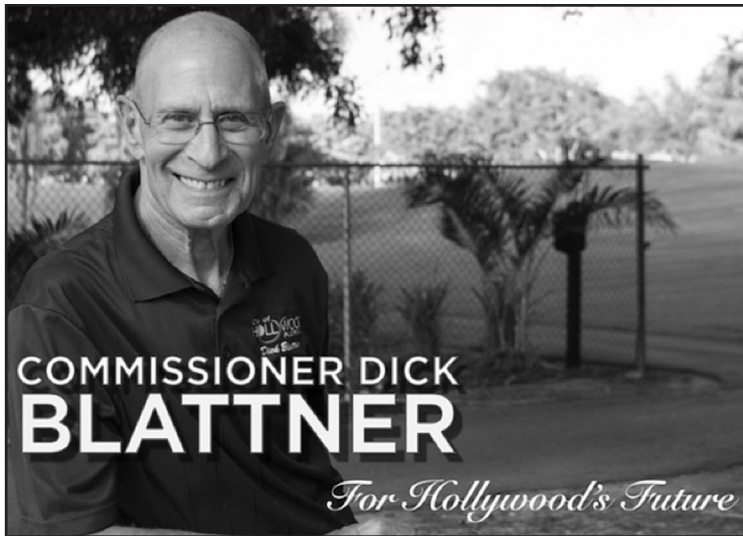
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OCTOBER 2018 COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

by Commissioner Dick Blattner



There is really good news to report this month. The City, the CRA and Broward County have signed a most unusual Agreement, in which the County agrees to return to Hollywood a significant amount of money annually which must be used for Affordable Housing. Some of this will go to assist first-time homebuyers, some for rental assistance and some for creating new affordable housing. There is a whole list of criteria.

When the CRAs reach the end of their legal life (2027 for the Beach and 2025 for Downtown), a total of \$32.5 million will be returned to the city. In the interim, the County will continue to return about \$3.5 million annually (again, to be used for affordable housing). This is in addition to the \$14 million of Tax Increment Funding the county contributes for each year the Beach CRA exists. The Downtown CRA receives a smaller amount.

The County has already signed the Agreement and we signed it on October 3. Special recognition to County Administrator Henry, County Mayor Furr (one of our own), Mayor Levy, City Manager Ishmael and CRA Executive Director Camejo, who have worked tirelessly on this for two years.

However, this Agreement also puts the City in the cross hairs to prove we can spend this money wisely and create a program that accomplishes the goals the Agreement envisions. This is the part of economic development that has the potential to change the face of our community.

PENNY SALES TAX: Yes, It's on the November ballot—again. Broward County is asking voters to approve increasing the sales tax from six to seven cents per dollar, using the added funds for transportation upgrades. Proposed Hollywood projects include streets, sidewalks, signalization improvements and more.

CHARTER AMENDMENTS. Also, on the November ballot are a series of amendments to the City Charter. These have been recommended by the City Charter Review Committee, which met over a six month period. NOTE: these issues will be towards the end of the ballot, as will the Sales Tax issue.

EARLY VOTING. Mail-in ballots will be going out in a few days. The ballot is very long with Charter Revisions from the State, County, and City, plus all those judges! I don't have to remind you how important this election is, but I will anyway. You will be choosing a new governor, legislators and THREE Hollywood Commissioners. If you need some guidance regarding the ballot, the League of Women Voters will be helpful as well as the Sun Sentinel recommendations.

BUDGET. After two public hearings, the Commission approved the budget for 2019. The total millage rate continues to be unchanged for the seventh year in a row. However, be aware that if the value of your property has increased, your taxes will increase. The city accounts for only about a third of the total tax.

COMMISSION ACTIONS

Applied for a \$100,000 grant for phase 1 of mooring fields on North and South Lakes. This would enable us to limit the number of boats that could anchor on these lakes. This is an important project given derelict boats that are abandoned on these lakes.

Approved a new Development Master Plan for a project on the southeast quadrant of Young Circle. This is a major project and there are many steps before approval. Keep your eyes on this game changer.

Approved an ordinance amending current ordinances relative to provisional parking lots on the beach. There are contentious operating issues that negatively impact the beach experience for visitors.

Accepted a \$900,000 grant from the MPO for construction of a mobility hub at 441 and Hollywood Blvd.

Approved extension, for six months, of all contracts related to sanitation while a market study is underway.

Approved design and funding for first aid stations and life guard stands for the Beach. There is a great new design, and it came in at way under estimate. First units should be up in 60 days.

Approved "parklets" to be installed in front of Topsy Boar (Harrison St.) and Mickey Byrnes (Hollywood Blvd) for up to six months. These are on street platforms to encourage visitors to relax and enjoy the atmosphere.

UPCOMING OCTOBER SCHEDULE

10/17: Solid Waste Workshop. 8:00 a.m., Room 215 City Hall. General Obligation Bond Workshop. 9:30 a.m., Room 215, City Hall. This meeting is interesting, complicated and important. Commission Meeting. 1:00 p.m., Citizen Comments follow at 5:00 p.m.

Like you, we eagerly await, with you, the arrival of cooler weather. Best to all. Oh yeah...Go Canes!



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Continued from Pg. 12

in public schools, learn a vocation, join the service, work in hospitals, etc.

Two years of national service would accelerate maturity, help establish goals and purposes, raise awareness, help us learn how to get along with others. And maybe the government would find a way not just to pay and subsidize the experience but compensate for the time with tuition aid and assistance or tax relief.

I can imagine some of you thinking “my kid doesn’t need this.” Good and lucky for you, but there are many who could benefit from the structure and opportunity. That’s who I am thinking about.

During a recent weekend with my grandson in DC, we talked about this philosophically. He thought it would be great if, during this GAP year of national service, the government would create a credit bank. For every month or year of service, you would earn a credit or redemption at a college or vocational school, to help reduce student debt.

What do you think?

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October 2018 IT Security Tips

Don't Download Anything You're Not Authorized to at Work, Unless You're Willing to...

If you download something at work without permission and something blows up...You're going to be the one stuck in the office with your IT guys when you should be home or out being social! Your IT guys aren't going to be very happy with you either...

Problem: You have a large file that you need to get over to your printer ASAP and you can't get it to "send" via email because the file is just too large.

Solution: What should you do? The right thing to do is contact your IT department so they can assist by installing a secure, commercial-grade file-sharing application.

What not to do: You shouldn't download a free copy of Dropbox or some other file-sharing software without letting your IT team know. Dropbox along with *thousands of other free apps come with a price:* "security"

These applications are known for security vulnerabilities and hacks. Plus, if we don't know about it, we can't manage it or secure it.

The key takeaway is to never download any software or application without checking with your IT department first!

FRAUD ALERT - This will SHOCK you about bank fraud on business accounts

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.

Protect Your Money by Setting Up Bank Alerts - The security tip I'm about to share with you just might save your bacon. By setting up withdrawal alerts on your bank accounts, you're essentially telling the banks to alert you, usually notifying you by a text or email. This means that you will receive an alert from the bank whenever money is withdrawn from your account, whether it be by check, debit card or transfer. The alerts will show the amount of money being withdrawn from the account, giving you the heads up should anything seem or look unfamiliar.

Setting up those alerts will allow you to spot and report fraudulent activity before the money has already been siphoned into the cyber criminal's hands. If detected in time, there's a much better chance of stopping the payment.

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

Sincerely,

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



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The Invisible Support System of Life Brahma Kumaris Soul Sustenance

- Submitted by BK Etta Stevens



The most important and primary influence on our relationships and making them full of love and happiness is of our own mental state. Very often, we talk very positively with people or act very sweetly with people, but our mind is full of emotions like jealousy, revenge, hatred and even doubt, suspicion and insecurity. This can harm our relationships immensely and make them internally weak. Sometimes the effects of these hidden emotions don't show up very soon, but they keep harming the relationships internally, without us realizing it. So, a mind which is always light and transmitting the energy of sweetness as a form of love, contentment as a form of joy and calmness as a form of peace, gets the same energy back in all its relationships. This makes relationships full of success and free of obstacles that arise primarily from different personalities and different view-points.

Lastly, all of us live our life in this world and we play different roles. One person will play different roles of father, son, husband, brother, engineer etc. in one's life and all these roles require different qualities and powers as well as skills and attitudes. The more the mind is calm and stable and an embodiment of the three primary virtues of peace, love and joy, the more it is focused and positive. As a result, it can not only choose the right qualities for every role but also implement them in action. Also,

the mind saves a lot of its energy and can remain powerful in every situation when it is charged with positive thoughts full of these three virtues. The more powerful the mind is, the more it can take right decisions and discriminate between right and wrong easily, which is the primary key to success. So, roles benefit immensely, under the influence of the mind.

The way to bring about a change is to have the desire to change.

Not only is your strength reduced by the way that you live the past and project onto the future, but also how you live in this moment. When, for example, you oppose the present and have resistance's, these consume your energy and cause you stress. If you accept the present, you can flow flexibly without wasting your energy. Accepting does not mean submitting yourself or feeling a victim of what is happening now. From acceptance, you confront and transform. If we learn to live the dimensions of time in a healthy way we will keep up our vitality, we will heal the past and we will feel at peace with it. Accepting the present and trusting in the future helps us to be well.

Accepting the present means stopping comparing yourself with others; you want what the other has, their money, their talents, their beauty, their personality, their achievements, their virtues, etc. So, instead of being grateful for what you have and accepting yourself as you are, you try to have and be like the other. In this way, you are never satisfied. The dissatisfaction causes you a constant unhappiness that reduces your vitality. When you feel happy and satisfied your energy flows more easily. The most important thing that you should do in this moment is to feel content. Next, what is the most important thing? To be content. Therefore, the priority, and what is essential, is that whatever happens in the moment, the most important thing is to be content. So, tell your mind - *Oh, mind, be quiet and don't think so much. Oh, mind, kindly trust that everything is and will be fine.* Give your mind the basic instructions and the key thoughts with which to be content. Don't let your own mind create the thoughts that trap you. It is we ourselves who create our emotional cages.

To be happy is to let go of negative thoughts that go through the mind and not just through words.

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EYE ON POLITICS

by Steve Schneider

Andrew Gillum’s running mate spoke at a Hollywood Chamber of Commerce lunch on Oct. 9. Chris King, the Central Florida builder of affordable housing, stood in for Gillum, who had planned to address the audience of local civic and business leaders.

But Gillum returned to Tallahassee, where he serves as mayor. He went home because forecasters warned Hurricane Michael might make landfall near Panama City and inch its way up towards the capital city.

The Chamber had also invited Ron DeSantis, the Republican running for governor. His campaign said he could not make the event, which was held at Margaritaville on Hollywood Beach.

Many people came to hear Gillum speak. But a longtime Hollywood official thought it worked out well that King filled in for Gillum.

Commissioner Dick Blattner, who represents District 4, listened to King speak for the first time. “I didn’t watch the primary debates,” he said, explaining why the Chamber lunch introduced him to King. Before King got the nod to run with Gillum, King had crisscrossed the state for

more than a year trying to wrest the Democratic nomination from Gillum and a few other Democrats.

Gillum won in an upset; King finished last. Blattner suggested it was telling that Gillum announced his selection of King almost immediately after winning the August primary.

The duo of 39-year-old candidates seemed to click, Blattner said, and perhaps even learned to respect each other.

For his part, King served up some anecdotes during the Chamber lunch to bolster the case that he is a good fit for the Gillum ticket.

Both men, King said, “married above them.” This salute to the power and wisdom of women was just the start of a point that culminated with the observation that King and Gillum married older women.

Older, but not that much older, it turns out. King said he met his future wife in high school. He asked her out when he was not old enough to drive, so she had to pick him up and drive for the first date.

King also told guests at the Chamber lunch about his experience creating a company that builds affordable housing. This message also impressed Blattner, who said he leaned over to speak to Hollywood Mayor Josh Levy. Blattner suggested the city invite King to meet with officials about how to make affordable housing work here. This is important, he said, because the city recently signed an agreement with Broward County. The deal means the county will provide the city with millions of dollars a year, starting in 2025, to support construction of affordable housing.

Florida is known as a low-wage state with high housing costs. According to Blattner, Gillum and King back affordable housing efforts in another way. Since 2003, the Sun Sentinel reports, Republicans in Tallahassee have raided more than \$2 billion from a trust fund established to build affordable housing. Democrats are more likely to protect the trust fund and not take money out of it to pay for other needs, according to Blattner.

The Democratic ticket also support Medicare for All, a \$15 an hour living wage and increased spending on public education. They want to pay for their proposals by increasing the tax Florida corporations pay. Gillum and King also favor legalizing marijuana and taxing it.

During the primary, the Orlando Sentinel reported, “King wants to use taxes on weapons and bullets to pay for gun violence intervention and prevention programs, school safety measures and studies of gun violence.”

Florida voters decide what to do on Nov. 6, election day.

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