Fall Mayor’s Message - HURRICANE IRMA

Happy fall to everyone - with the fall season, comes the annual government budget process, and then came … came HURRICANE IRMA!

Irma – while there are always lessons to be learned, and things we can always do a little better; I am very pleased with the El Portal team that was in place during Hurricane Irma. Although, at that time we had an Interim Village Manager and Acting Police Chief, both whom were in their roles for less than 30-days, we never skipped a beat. We have worked as a team non-stop since September 5th - our first Miami-Dade County Conference Call to address the wrath of Irma and we continue to do so.

Highlights of Irma:
• Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency in El Portal
• Hired FEMA consultant, Disaster Program & Recovery
• 99% Power restored to the Village by Tuesday, September 19th (10+ days without power for many residents)
• 99% Internet restored to the Village by Thursday, October 5th (26 days without Internet for some residents)
• El Portal Police were on Alpha Bravo (12 hour shifts) until Village was at 99% restored power
• Sand bags donated to EP by North Miami Beach Councilman Anthony Defillipo
• For the safety of the residents, an El Portal Curfew went into effect until 99% of Village power was restored
• Within 48 hours after Irma, every Senior Citizen on our list was visited by a police officer with ice, water and snacks
• Ice and Gatorade were donated to us by Commissioner Edmonson, School Board Member Dr. Mindingall, and State Representative Hardemon
• 4 ice distributions throughout the Village – thank you El Portal Police, Councilperson Mathis and COL Noel Pace for assisting in this.
• Water and Snacks were donated to us by Pat Riley of the Miami Heat – shout out to our very own resident, Fire Captain Iggy Carroll and Mrs. Carroll for that contact!
• Irma Recovery Resident Luncheon hosted by the Village

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Mayor (cont, from page 1)

- Zombie Ice Food Truck came to cool the Village children down -hosted by the Village
- FEMA Application Assistance-Town Hall hosted by the Office of US Senator Marco Rubio and County Commissioner Audrey Edmonson
- A thank you to the Mofsky -McCLean family & Calixto Navarro for the coffee to keep us going!
- Thank you to Councilperson Roman, for going door-to-door in the west side to identify isolated power issues.
- Thank you Seth Gadinsky and Sam Soriero, proprietors of the Church, for allowing us to use the parking lot church as the staging debris site—a FEMA requirement to identify a site and get permitted by the State to use.
- Thank you Officer Owen for representing El Portal at the EOC (Emergency Operation Center) before, during, and after Hurricane Irma.
- Thank you to the entire El Portal Police Force for your teamwork and hard work!
- Completed all preliminary and necessary paperwork, forms, and contracts to ensure the Village is FEMA compliant.
- Tree leaners, hangers, stump removals and Right of Entry’s are all completed.
- Hauling of all hurricane debris – to include: vegetation and category C/D; all properly disposed of at a FEMA compliant dump site.
- Damaged Village infrastructure (to include: sidewalks, streets, storm-water drainage, signs, tot-lot fence and a few other items) have been officially assessed and reported.
- Expenses incurred by Village Staff during the State of Emergency have been properly documented and submitted to FEMA Consultant as part of the submittal forms to be considered.
- El Portal Police Department earned a 2017 Irma Lapel Pin to wear on their uniforms – as a token of our great appreciation!

Our work with Irma is not over yet, there are still components that we are working on to see this entire process through, our FEMA consultant is still on-board with us to ensure our compliance and maximum reimbursement.

In Closing:

- Thank you to the Village Staff and Village Council for your support!
- Thank you to the many El Portal residents for your kind and appreciative words via text!
- My sincere apologies to any resident I (or we) could not assist fast enough.
- Lastly, to the Interim Manager and Acting Chief of Police—the Emergency Response Team with me—Great work and thank you!!

Before I wrap up my fall message - here are some more 2017 highlights:

- El Portal officially named Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.
- We celebrated our 3rd Annual ArtFair – this year a 2-day event to kick-off our 80th Anniversary.
- County-wide talent search to select a new and updated Village Official Seal.
- Public Safety Committee initiative for all El Portal Police Officers to be sworn-in at Council Meetings.
- Mayor’s Task Force brought you: Our first Farmers’ Market to support our local businesses.
- Village Council unanimously passed the Conversation Therapy Ban Ordinance – in support of equal rights.
- Operation Village-Wide Clean up with Horace Mann Middle School on Earth Day.
- Back in May 2016, the Council voted to commence El Portal’s Sewer Design Master Plan, the design was completed in April 2017 and reviewed by Council.
- From our lobbying efforts during the 2017 legislative session, our Village was awarded $550K from
Mayor (cont. from page 2)

- Tallahassee for our El Jardin Storm water project.
- Implemented Citizenship awards to the top-2 students at our neighboring schools: Phyllis Ruth Miller Elementary School and Horace Mann Middle School.
- Our Assessed Property Values are up 13% again for the 3rd year!
- Three years in the making - the Village Council passed the Form Based Code and the Village Comprehensive Plan (located on our website).
- El Portal awarded a 4 million dollar grant to commence the Septic to Sewer project.
- 2 Information Sessions on the future of El Portal’s Septic to Sewer were held.
- EP awarded tree grant and we planted over 50 new trees throughout the Village.
- Council voted on the purchase of 5 (very much needed) new and improved police vehicles.
- Recognized by the Miami Herald, Arctic, our “Community Policing” K9 was sworn in.
- Delivered 2017 State of the Village Address (PowerPoint can be found on our Village website).
- Code Compliance and Recycle Workshop was held in Nov. 2017.
- Honored to have been elected to the Executive Committee for the Florida League of Cities.
- Elected to represent El Portal on the Executive Board for the Miami Dade County League of Cities.
- Tree Board City Application Completed for the 2nd year.
- Collectively worked with Administration and Council to successfully pass the 2017-2018 Village Budget.
- Human Resource Assistant position added as core position to the administration.
- Expansion of our Nature trail is at the final approval stage with Continued on page 4.
Happy Holiday’s El Portal! I don’t know about you, but I am ready for the holiday celebrations after the Summer we have all had. I hope everyone has now recovered from the Irma aftermath.

I want to take this time to update you on what’s been happening with our Code Compliance. As our beautiful Village grows and moves forward into a sustainable future we are here to help ensure that our neighborhood and properties continue to shine. Our purpose is to assure compliance, through education, with zoning ordinances and other code sections that are related to private property usage and which address promoting health, safety, property preservation, and community enhancement. The standards set by our Code of Ordinances protect us all from substandard conditions.

Keeping our Village safe and in great condition is essential because when properties become deteriorated beyond a usable point this translates into additional costs for taxpayers, crime occurs more frequently, and our neighborhood becomes unattractive. Our mission is to work side by side with our neighbors to influence and enhance the quality of life in the Village of El Portal.

On Saturday, Nov 4th we held two very informative workshops on Code Compliance and Recycling. At the Code Compliance workshop we introduced Carlos Garcia our new Code Compliance Officer who went over some of our most recent passed Village Ordinance’s, some of the Miscellaneous Permit Fee’s that are often forgotten, and some of the most common violations. Juan Mullerat from Plusurbia our Planning & Zoning Contractor went over some of the new Village Code (which was approved April 2017), and Eileen Damaso from World Waste Recycling covered some very surprising Recycling Do’s and Don’ts and sponsored our yummy Continental Breakfast. Sadly not many of you made it therefore, we are looking to repeat the workshops sometime in January or February. Stay tuned for the dates. In the interim, following are some of the Miscellaneous Fee’s that were discussed:

- **Tent Fumigation:** $100.00
- **Attic Insulation:** $25.00
- **Alarm Registration:** $30.00
- **Painting Administration Fee:** $25.00 (Although a permit is no longer required, all colors must be approved.)
- **Open House, For Rent or For Sale Signs:** $60.00
- **Broker of Agent Fee:** $100.00 (refundable within 10 days of the sale of the property provided the Village receives the name and address of the buyer.)

As we move forward, I am excited to announce a new “Home of the Month” program that is being launched this December just in time for the holidays. This initiative has been in the works for a long time dating back to when I Chaired the Mayor’s Task Force and thanks to our fellow neighbor David Ward who first had the idea, and took time to design the program, we are finally moving forward with it.

**Objective:** Provide recognition to residents who have improved the exterior of the home and/or their front yards (curb appeal).
Selection: Each month the Home of the Month committee will walk the East and the West sides of the Village and choose a home on each side for recognition. A “Home of the Month” sign will be placed in the front yard and photos of the winning homes will be published in the quarterly Peacock Newsletter.

Home of the Month Committee: Any resident is welcome to join the committee. In addition, residents who are not members of the committee can nominate themselves or a neighbor for consideration for Home of the Month.

Two awards monthly: The intent is to select two homes in El Portal each month - one home on the East Side and another home from the West Side; however, the committee may deviate from this plan. The homes will be selected by the Committee and announced on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Holiday Homes: In addition, the committee will provide special recognition in December for the residents with the best holiday decorations. (Winners will win a Home Depot Gift Certificate - 1st prize $100, 2nd prize $50, 3rd prize $25). This starts this December and the winners will be announced on December 20, 2017.

At this time, we are in search of Committee Members. If you are interested in participating in the Committee, please send a private message to David Ward on NextDoor or call David @ 305-903-4927 to join the committee. We hope many of you will be excited to participate.

As a reminder, before you start planning to do any renovations or work in your homes please check our Village website at http://elportalvillage.com/ordinances/ to get familiar with what is acceptable and what requires permitting. Please note that the Codes are put in place to protect you and your home. Please look into the Codes to find out what permits you may need. You can quickly find the latest Resolutions on this page and further down the page you can also access the full Code of Ordinances for the Village of El Portal. You may also come into the Village Hall or call the Building Department with any questions.

Building Department: Hours of Operation: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:30 – 4:30 p.m., Wednesday: 8:30 – 6:00 p.m. 305-795-7880. Building Clerk: Elena Grek egrek@villageofelportal.org

2017 LAST BULK PICK-UP:
Zone 1: Tuesday, 12/26/2017
Zone 2: Wednesday, 12/27/2017
Zone 3: Thursday, 12/28/2017

Wishing you and your loved ones a very safe and happy holidays!

Cheers, Vimari

Resident Spotlight of the Quarter

A shout out to these Unsung Heroes: El Portal residents: Ken & Joan Hector, Courtney & Leigh Kirk, Mr. & Mrs. McCullom, and Tere Sánchez, since the inception they have come out in full force to support our Annual Halloween Party!! Thank you guys - you are very much appreciated!!

Ken and Joan Hector with Courtney and Leigh Kirk

Mr. and Mrs. Michael McCullom

Tere Sánchez

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Hallandale Beach
2017 State of the Village

El Portal’s State of the Village (PowerPoint version) is still located on our Village website: elportalvillage.com - If you haven’t yet, please take a moment to review it; it sets the vision of our great Village and highlights some achievements we had this year. 2017, marks our 80th Anniversary, so this year we added a special touch, by offering a delicious buffet by Chef Anthony – it was an opportunity to break bread and discuss the future of El Portal, while remembering our history too.

I thank each resident who attended, and I thank the Village Administration for assisting with this annual event. As a reminder, since 2015 The El Portal’s State of the Village Address has always been held on the 4th Tuesday in August at 7:00 PM. As such 2018’s State of the Village Address will be held on Tuesday August 28th, 2018 at 7:00 PM. Please mark your calendars.

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2018 Bulk Waste Schedule, Village of El Portal

- Service will be provided once each quarter, during the last week of the last quarter of each month. See schedule below for exact service days for your area this year.

- The Village will be divided into three zones, with each zone scheduled for a specific day of each quarter. Residents MUST have the bulk waste set out no later than 7:00 a.m. on their scheduled service day. It is strongly recommended that residents put the bulk waste out the evening before their scheduled service date.

- Zone 1 includes all homes west of North Miami Avenue. Zone 1 will be serviced on Tuesday of each quarterly service week for Q1, Q2, & Q3, and Wednesday for Q4.)

- Zone 2 includes all homes east of North Miami Avenue from NE 88th St. to NE 90th St. Zone 2 will be serviced on Wednesday of each quarterly service week for Q1, Q2, & Q3, and Thursday for Q4.)

- Zone 3 includes all homes east of North Miami Avenue from NE 87th St. south to the southern end of Village limits (Little River). Zone 3 will be serviced on Thursday of each quarterly service week for Q1, Q2, & Q3, and Friday for Q4.)

- (Note that the Q4 December 2018 dates fall on Wed-Thur-Fri due to the holiday.)

Service days for 2018 will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Zone 1 Day &amp; Date</th>
<th>Zone 2 Day &amp; Date</th>
<th>Zone 3 Day &amp; Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Quarter/ 2018</td>
<td>Tuesday 3/27/18</td>
<td>Wednesday 3/28/18</td>
<td>Thursday 3/29/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Quarter/2018</td>
<td>Tuesday 6/26/18</td>
<td>Wednesday 6/27/18</td>
<td>Thursday 6/28/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Quarter/2018</td>
<td>Tuesday 9/25/18</td>
<td>Wednesday 9/26/18</td>
<td>Thursday 9/27/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Quarter/2018</td>
<td>Wednesday 12/26/18</td>
<td>Thursday 12/27/18</td>
<td>Friday 12/28/18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The regular bulk collection schedule above is for approved bulky wastes that cannot fit within the carts. Acceptable bulky items include yard trash with pieces no larger than 6 feet, vegetative and wood matter that is part of normal yard maintenance, household furniture, and household trash. Please place appropriate bulk waste items away from trees, cars, and other objects in order to provide access by the crane trucks. Waste generated by contractors or subcontractors is NOT considered household trash, and should NOT be placed out for collection.

Residents requiring special bulk waste collections (at times other than the regular schedule) should contact Village Hall BEFORE placing bulk waste out. Additional fees will apply for special bulk collections. Please visit www.elportalvillage.com for up-to-date information.

Other options for special bulk collections are available at www.TheBagster.com.

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This summer we celebrated long-time resident, Ms. Merlin Brooks 80th Birthday - we wish you many more years of health, love and joy!

JULY AROUND TOWN

SENIOR CITIZENS FIRST - Hurricane Response Seminar

In July 2017, Mayor Cubillos and the El Portal Police in conjunction with Communities United hosted an Emergency Disaster & Hurricane Preparedness Response Seminar, where lunch was provided and deluxe Hurricane Kits were awarded to the attendees.
AUGUST AROUND TOWN

Mayor’s Backpack Giveaway on National Night Out

Thank you to the following Community Partners for being a part of this year’s Annual Mayor’s Backpack Giveaway: Waste Management, State Farm, North Miami Jaycee’s, and the El Portal Women’s Club!

A shout-out to our El Portal Police Department and Miami Dade Fire Rescue Station 30 for always making our National Night Out such a fantastic Community Policing event!

A morning “in-the-life” of our first responders - Mayor Cubillos with Miami Dade Fire Rescue Station 30.

In support of Tree City USA - we planted over 50 trees this summer!

Congrats Officer Benitez, our new Full time Police being sworn in.

Congrats on Officer Sharp’s promotion to Corporal Sharp. Officer Sharp has been with our department for over 15 years.

Miami Dade County League of Cities Executive Board BackPack Giveaway in Miami Gardens, FL.
ANNUAL HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY

El Portal’s Halloween Block Party took place on Halloween Night from 630-830 on NE 87 street, between 3rd and 4th Avenue. Thank you to the amazing volunteers that helped: Mr. and Mrs. Japa Volchok, State Farm Insurance, the LaTorre Family, and the El Portal Women’s Club. To the Village Administration, Police Officers, CP Roman, CP Mathis and my dear and most reliable husband, Noel Pace, I thank each of you too for working the event! Enjoy the pictures – there are much more and will be on website soon!
Family Food Truck Night

El Portal
Celebrating 80 Years

Santa will be there!
Annual Toy Drive
Bring an unwrapped toy!
Tree Lighting

3rd Fridays
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Coming Up:
Friday, December 15th

In front of the El Portal Village Hall
500 NE 87 Street • El Portal, FL 33138
brought to you by the Mayor's Task Force
For more information contact: mtfelportal@gmail.com