VILLAGE OFFICIALS
Mayor ................. Claudia V. Cubillos
mayorcubillos@villageofelportal.org
Vice Mayor.......... Omarr Nickerson
onickerson@villageofelportal.org
Councilperson. Harold E Mathis, Jr.
hmathis@villageofelportal.org
Councilperson........ Werner Dreher
wdreher@villageofelportal.org
Councilperson......... Vimari Roman
vroman@villageofelportal.org
Village Manager...... Christia E. Alou
villagemanager@villageofelportal.org
Village Clerk........... Yenise Jacobi
yjacobi@villageofelportal.org
Village Permit Clerk ... Daisy Hycert
dhycert@villageofelportal.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS
Village Hall ............ 305-795-7880
Police .................. 305-795-7870
Fax ........................... 305-795-7884

OFFICE HOURS
Mon. - Fri ........ 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Wednesday ...... 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

500 NE 87th Street
El Portal, Florida 33138

THE TOP 10 WAYS TO STAY INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED IN EL PORTAL:
1) Committee Meetings meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every other month (starting every January) There are 6 Village committees, most projects, variances, special exceptions and many other Village issues must come before the appropriate committee and pass with a vote of 2 out of 3 members before the item goes before the full Village Council.
2) Regular Village Council Meeting is on the 4th Tuesday of each month (except August).
3) The videos of our Council and Committee Meetings are located on our website at: www.elportalvillage.com
4) If you have a concern/question contact the village manager at: villagemanager@villageofelportal.org.
5) You can always call or email any of the 5 members of the council – their cell phone and emails are located on our village website.
6) Since 2015, there's an Annual Mayor’s State of Village on the 4th Tuesday in August.
7) The Quarterly Peacock Express Newsletter is delivered to your home and can also be found on the Village website.
8) Submit your e-mail address on our website homepage, to get notified of meetings, events and points of interest in El Portal.
9) Attend one of our many Village Community Events.
10) Become a Crime Watch Block Captain and/or attend Citizen’s Crime Watch Meetings.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN 2018?
1) In anticipation of all that we had going on in El Portal, I announced in the 2017 Fall Newsletter that there will be a 2018 Mayor’s Monthly Town Hall Series – each town hall will be topic focused on a wide variety of issues that are both important to the future and sustainability of our Village
2) Six (6) Town Hall’s held from January – June, if you missed, they are on the website.
3) 2018 Annual State of the Village was held on the 4th Tuesday in August, the power point can be found on the Village website.
4) Interim Manager Christia became permanent in March 2018.
Mayor (cont. from page 1)

5) Interim Village Attorney Norman Powell was appointed in March 2018.

6) The Sanctuary “formerly known as Radar Church” submitted a Special Exception and Site Plan Application at the July Council Meeting and passed.

7) Ordinance 2018-04, Alcoholic Beverages; amending chapter 3: Sec. 3-1 Hours of sales, passed the 1st reading in July.

8) The Village sought a million dollar line of credit (Bridge Loan) to assist us in paying off the last Hurricane Irma debris bill.

9) All Hurricane Irma Village Expenses were completely submitted to FEMA via their portal.

10) The Council held a June Townhall and 2 budget workshops to review the 2017-2018 budget, as well as, discuss the 2018-2019 proposed budget.

11) Two full time Officers were hired in 2018. Officer Rajkumar in February, replacing Officer Santos, and Officer Riveron in May, replacing Officer Blackwood.

12) El Jardin Stormwater Project, funded by the $550K State Grant awarded to us during the 2017 legislative session, will be shovel ready in the late fall of 2018.

13) Septic to Sewer Design 1 phase: in March, both the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Planning Loan Agreement and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Design Loan Agreement were signed and submitted to Tallahassee.

14) Regional River Compact Initiative to address our C7 Canal/Little River.

15) El Portal recognized as Tree City USA again, now 3 years in a row.

16) El Portal recognized by the City of Miami Fire Rescue and the Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce for our Exemplary work to our residents during Hurricane Irma.

17) Home of the Month initiated by Councilperson Roman.

18) Citizens Crime Watch reinvigorated by Officer Battaglia and David Ward, resident of the year!

19) Mr. D, retired from the Village Public Works Maintenance Department, in March.

Coming Up This Fall:

October Council Meeting
1) 2nd reading for Ordinance 2018-04, Alcoholic Beverages; amending chapter 3: Sec. 3-1 Hours of sales.
2) Proposed Site Plan Approval-New Construction at 8671 NE Miami Court.
3) El Portal Citizen of the Year announced & recognized!

Tuesday, November 6th is Election Day and the Village Hall is our voting precinct. All El Portal registered voters can vote there on Election Day from 7am-7pm.

Thursday, November 8th at 7pm is the 2018-2020 Village Council swearing-in ceremony.

December 26 – 28, 2018 is the last 2018 Bulk Waste Pick Up.

Yours in service,
Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos
305 778-4199
FB, IG and Twitter
@mayorcubillos

Upcoming Village Events:
Halloween
Turkey Give-away
Toy Drive

Dates and times will be on our Village website
Visit: elportalvillage.com
for more info on these events!
CONTINUED PRIORITY IN 2019

- Reimbursement from FEMA - Pay Back Bridge Loan
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Horace Mann Middle School (complete Education Compact Initiative)
- Phase 1 Commencing of Septic to Sewer Project
- Little River Compact
- Sanctuary Refurbishment Commencing
- Nature Trail Expansion project in conjunction with MDCPS

CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Dear Villagers,

We are all truly blessed to live in the greatest nation in the world. Democracy only thrives through Citizens exercising a basic fundamental right. The right to VOTE!! Please remember to vote on November 6, 2018. The Villages’ one and only precinct is Precinct 159 located at the Village Hall, 500 E. El Portal Boulevard (NE 87th Street), El Portal, Florida. Polls are open from 7 am to 7 pm. Every VOTE counts.

Villager are called to cast their vote for Seat 2 on the Village Council. Currently this Seat is held by incumbent, Councilman Werner Dreher who has been challenged by Villager Ibis Garcia. We wish them the best and positive campaigning. A hearty congratulations to Mayor Claudia Cubillos, Vice Mayor Omarr Nickerson, Councilman Harold E. Mathis, Jr. and Councilwoman Vimari Roman, all were re-elected unopposed.

FACTOID: The three senior members of your Village Council have over 30 years combined service to public service and dedication to this Village. Mathis (12 years) Cubillos (10 years) Nickerson (8years).

Get out and VOTE! Your vote is you legacy.

Happy Voting,
Harold E. Mathis, Jr., Chairman of Public Affairs
Councilman, 12 years of service

Police Office of the Quarter

Officer Battaglia joined El Portal in June 2016 has a part timer officer, and became a Full time Officer in January 2018. He’s always ready, eager and available to help out his peers and residents. He spearheaded the reinvigoration of the 2018 Citizen’s Crime Watch and initiated the El Portal Social Media campaign to keep the residents informed! We wish him continued success and thank you for all you do for El Portal!!

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Love Where You Live
Some friendly reminders: we must be careful with contamination; therefore, if any liquid or food goes into your blue recycle container, that will automatically make everything else in the container not recycle, because the manufacturer will reject it if it’s not clean. If your container is dirty then most likely you are not recycling correctly. Please note that the recycling system is automated and any plastic or anything that should not be in the recycling container will get stuck in the machines. Therefore if they see it they will discard it before putting it through the machine. Currently contamination is running in the 60% in South Florida. The recommendation was that when in doubt, throw it out. Following are some of the other takeaways:

**DON’T:**
- No Plastic Bags (this includes Publix bags and garbage bags)
- No aluminum foil (dry cans only)
- No Styrofoam
- No Starbucks cups
- No food or waste (rinse all your cans no food particles)
- No Air Filters
- No toys (not all plastic is recyclable)
- Clothes hangers are not recyclable
- No pizza cardboard (only the top if it’s not dirty)

**DO:**
- Rinse all your cans and cartons (milk cartons have drip – make sure they are empty)
- Think cans, bottles and paper
- All cardboard must be flat and clean
- Printed Paper and Junk Mail okay

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**REMINDERS**

**Recycling & Bulk Pick Up**

Some additional things to note:
- Put your containers out the night prior (Tuesday night)
- Containers should be 2ft away from garbage cans, cars or any object
- Do not overload the containers or put anything on top or on the side
- Container wheels should face the house not the street for the truck to pick it up
- Call 311 to upgrade to a 96 gallon container if you feel the one you have is too small

The messaging is simple: recycle only cans, bottles, and paper, but NO PLASTIC BAGS. For additional educational outreach visit the Waste Management website: [www.RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com](http://www.RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com)

**Bulk waste and regular waste takeaways:**

**Bulk Waste:**
- Needs at least 10 feet to clear the crane. Keep away from trees and other objects.
- Items must be less than 6ft long.
- Trees and furniture okay.
- All must be homeowner generated. No contractor debris.
- No liquids
- No tires
- No batteries
- No paint
- No medical supplies
- No food
- Regular Waste: if you need another cart you can call Waste Management the cost is $75 one time fee.

Alternative option for additional bulk: Bagster – can be purchased at Home Depot. To schedule a pick up or for additional information go online to [www.thebagster.com](http://www.thebagster.com). Home owners expense.

With that, I’ll end my report. As always, I am available and happy to discuss any questions, suggestions or concerns. Please contact me at 305-395-2536 phone/text or via email at vroman@villageofelportal.org.

Cheers, Vimari
Mayor Cubillos with Horace Mann Middle School top students at their 8th grade graduation, valedictorian and Student Government President

Thank you to the Administration for assisting us in putting together our Annual Independence Day BBQ

YOUR CHOICE!

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2018 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT AND 2018 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT FWD, WITH APPROVED CREDIT. PRICE INCLUDES ALL AVAILABLE INCENTIVES. PRICE PLUS TAX, TITLE, DEALER FEE, AND FIRST MONTHS PAYMENT. $0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. 36 MONTH LEASE. 10,000 MILES A YEAR. $2,719 DUE AT SIGNING FOR MALIBU AND $2,819 DUE AT SIGNING FOR EQUINOX. TAX, TITLE, FEES NOT INCLUDED. OFFER MAY EXPIRE AT ANYTIME. PAYMENTS MAY BE HIGHER IN SOME STATES. PRICING SUBJECT TO MANUFACTURER REBATES WHICH COULD EXPIRE AT ANY TIME.

2018 CHEVROLET COLORADO LT CREW CAB 2WD AND 2018 CHEVROLET SILVERADO DBL 2WD 1LT ALL STAR, WITH APPROVED CREDIT. PRICE INCLUDES ALL AVAILABLE INCENTIVES. PRICE PLUS TAX, TITLE, DEALER FEE, AND FIRST MONTHS PAYMENT. $0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. 24 MONTH LEASE. 10,000 MILES A YEAR. $2,300 DUE AT SIGNING FOR COLORADO. $3,409 DUE AT SIGNING FOR SILVERADO. TAX, TITLE, FEES NOT INCLUDED. OFFER MAY EXPIRE AT ANYTIME. PAYMENTS MAY BE HIGHER IN SOME STATES. PRICING SUBJECT TO MANUFACTURER REBATES WHICH COULD EXPIRE AT ANY TIME.
Officer Riveron, full time officer, sworn in at our May Council Meeting.


Councilperson Mathis, Councilperson Roman, Vice Mayor Nickerson, and Mayor Cubillos with this year’s winners - thank you Councilperson Mathis for organizing and to the police officers for keeping us safe throughout the route.

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JORGE CARABELLI
Revealing the Grace and Beauty in Every Body

It can be said that art is about sharing the way we experience the world. If this rings true, then artist Jorge Carabelli shares his experiences of life through the eyes of a counselor, dancer, investor and sculptor.

Jorge’s first career was that of a counselor to drug-involved teenagers. His passion for nurturing others, combined with his creativity in dealing with youth, made the work immensely satisfying. He reluctantly left the field of psychology and unknowingly started his journey as an artisan.

Always good with his hands, he worked as a housepainter and carpenter to pay the bills. Though it was intended as a stop-gap measure while he sought future counseling jobs, he found himself drawn to the idea of buying run-down-houses, renovating and selling them.

While flipping houses paid the bills, Jorge enjoyed a brief but thrilling career as a classical ballet dancer with Ballet Concorso, South Florida’s pre-eminent company. He had the privilege of dancing onstage with luminaries such as Alexander Gudunov, Fernando Bujones, Stephanie Saland, Yanis Pikieres, and Marielena Mencia. By the time he reached his 40’s his dancing career was over, and his creativity needed a new outlet.

Inspiration came at the Coconut Grove Art Festival. Jorge sought out and studied with several woodturners, began turning bowls, closed vessels, and abstract forms, then finally human figures. His work showed grace and fluidity – implied movement – a quality not usually associated with woodwork. At a showing of his sculptures, one patron was overheard saying “He takes wood and turns it into dance.”

After joining the Miami Art League where he began working with models and honing his skills, he was drawn to a new art form, body cast sculpture. This new form of expression required him to use all his past life experiences as a counselor, a dancer, and a hand crafter to achieve the results he desired.

While recruiting volunteers to pose for his casts, many said that posing was “freeing” and “empowering.” Very quickly Jorge discovered that there was much more going on than just casting a human form. There was an intimacy involved that moved people. The reaction he received from all his models was enthusiastic and passionate.

He begins his sittings with a counseling session where he learns a little about his model while observing how they move and hold themselves. Then, together the artist and model experiment with poses that express the of the model’s personality and passion. His experience in dance influences the poses they choose, always with an eye towards a graceful line. His work has been described as being within the “gothic romance” genre.

E-mail: Carabelli8@yahoo.com
Instagram: jcbodycastmiami

Don’t make a move before you talk to Robbie Bell, South Florida’s Urban Lifestyle Specialist.

“I know real estate. I know how to get your house sold or find you the right property to purchase. If you are relocating, as a Broker Associate with EWM (a full-service real estate company), I have access to nationwide and global networks through my EWM/Christie’s Affiliates.”

If you are looking to sell your home or buy a new one, you should, without a doubt,

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