From the Mayor’s Desk

Happy fall to everyone!

With the fall season comes the annual government budget process, and I would like to thank the El Portal Village Manager and Chief Financial Officer for preparing the Village Council well. On September 22, 2015, the El Portal Village Council passed the 2015-16 budget, which seeks to optimize funding for Public Safety and Public Works. A copy of the Council-approved budget can be found on the recently refreshed Village of El Portal’s website at: elportalvillage.com.

Additionally, on October 9th, I have the pleasure of hosting a panel of experts at the Miami-Dade County League of Cities Best Practices Conference on “What are the Best Practices that can help make our Municipalities “Age Friendly” Communities? More information about the conference can be found at: http://www.mdclc.org

Also with the fall season also comes Halloween and on Saturday, October 31, 2015 El Portal will be closing 87th Street from NE 3rd Avenue up to the Village Hall for our “ever-growing” Halloween Block Party—if you’d like to help us with the logistics leading up to and/or volunteer at the Block Party, please email me at ccubillos@villageofelportal.org

Here are some leadership highlights from the 3rd Quarter of the Year:

• **Our Nature Trail Expansion project is a 2015 Miami Foundation Open Space Challenge Winner!** We were one of only 20 winners out of over 300+ projects submitted.

• Village-wide many of the side-walks have been repaired.

• El Portal hosted our First Three-Village Social in conjunction with the Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce.

• El Portal hosted its Farm Share Food Distribution for people in need.

• We handed out over 100 back packs with school supplies at the Mayor’s Back-to-School Back-pack Giveaway.

• The State of the Village Address was delivered with over 120 residents in attendance.

• I was honored to be elected to the Board of Directors for the Florida League of Cities.

• The Council and Administration worked as a team to successfully....
Mayor (cont. from page 1)

- pass the 2015-16 Village Budget.
- I sponsored the Humanitarian Emergency Ordinance, a small fund to primarily (and temporarily) assist the elderly and families with special needs children from The Little Farm.

Coming later this Fall:
- Second reading for the Anti-Tethering Ordinance
- First Reading for No-leash Ordinance
- First Reading to update Swale Ordinance
- New Water Fountain at Tot-Lot
- New trash can with a recycle-option installed at Village Hall.

Upcoming El Portal Community events for the 4th Quarter:
- Saturday, October 31st Annual Halloween Block Party from 600pm-800pm
- Thanksgiving Holiday Turkey Give-Away TBA
- Wednesday, November 25th 11:30-1:30, Pre-Thanksgiving Resident Luncheon
- Mayor’s Holiday Social will be held on Thursday, December 17th 630pm-830pm at the Village Hall.

Lastly, please sign up for the Next Door APP on nextdoor.com or in the APP Store—it’s free! There are some great topics, community information, and service referrals.

As always, a shout out to our amazing residents, the Village Administration and all our elected officials for their participation and dedication in making the Village of El Portal the gem that it is!

Happy Holidays to you and your families –be safe, get involved and together lets make 2016 even better!

Sincerely,

Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos

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Questions??
Maribel Fruitstone, Pres. 305-815-0735 text or maribelfruitstone@gmail.com

Of El Portal Invites all interested “Community” minded ladies
Thurs. Nov. 12, 2015
6:30 pm social
7 pm Call to order

Child care IS offered... $5 per child.
The meeting is generally no more than 1 hour.

Topics of discussion:
- Nature Trail expansion fundraising project
- Annual Holiday Caroling event
- Holiday Events

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Public Safety Chair Report

Realtors always say, Location, location, location. What they don’t tell is that the desirable location comes with a side effect..... a false sense of security. This is where simple additions to our routine makes all the difference in the end. The Villagers Awareness Program gives you an easy “GO TO” to make you are doing all the necessary steps in protecting your family, your home and your Village:

VILLAGERS AWARENESS PROGRAM (VAP)!!

Neighborhood Crime Watch
A neighborhood crime watch group typically covers one city block, both side of the street. Each group has a block captain and an alternate. Members should meet periodically and work with police to reduce crime by watching each other’s homes learning ways to increase personal safety and security of property reporting suspicious persons and activities to police.

Business Crime Watch
By developing a strong, open line of communication with your neighboring businesses and patrol officers, great strides can be made in reducing, and possibly eliminating, crime at your business.

Citizens on Patrol
Citizens on Patrol acts as additional "eyes and ears" for the police department, within neighborhoods. Citizens volunteer time to actively patrol their neighborhoods to watch for and report suspicious and/or criminal activity.

Residential Security Surveys
No home is burglar proof, but most burglars are opportunists looking for an easy target. The more "secure" a home is, the less attractive it is to a burglar. A police representative will come to your home and make recommendations on how to make your home more secure.

Business Security Surveys - The same concept is used during this survey as when conducting a residential security survey. "Harden the target" makes your business less likely to be the target of a burglar.

A police department representative will come to your business and make recommendations to accomplish this.

Harold E. Mathis, Jr.,
Councilperson, Seat 4
Chairperson of Public Safety

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Memo from the Mayor’s Task Force Chair

Get Involved... This is Your Community!

Dear Neighbors,

We hope everyone has had a great summer and gearing up for the holiday season, which is quickly approaching. The Mayor’s Task Force met last month and I am happy to announce some great 2016 initiatives that will be taking place and we would love the participation of additional residents.

• Citizens Crime Watch - this will be our focus for 2016 and we will be scheduling a meeting soon to get this initiative up and running. We are actively recruiting volunteers please email The Mayor’s Task Force at mtfelportal@gmail.com with your name and address if you are interested in joining the Citizens Crime Watch.

• Bi-monthly Food Truck Night aka “Village Happy Hour” - this has been approved and will take place at the Horace Mann field. More information will be posted soon on Nextdoor and flyers will be handed out when the first date is confirmed.

• Annual El Portal Art Fair - hard to believe it’s been six months already. We are looking at moving the Art Fair to the first quarter of 2016 with late January or early February as possible months and look forward to another fabulous event.

Our next meeting will take place on Friday, November 6th from 5:30pm - 6:30pm at the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

Warm regards,

Vimari Roman, Resident Chair - Mayor’s Task Force, Village of El Portal
The Mayor’s Citizen Spotlight of the Quarter

Goes to El Portal residents: Maribel Fruitstone and Tai Fruitstone!!

This mother and daughter team have embraced our Village and are always ready to lend a hand, come up with great ideas and then volunteer to be the President of our local chapter! In December 2014 Tai, then 6 years old, called me with an idea she had—she wanted to Christmas Carol throughout the Village. Within 2 weeks we gathered 15 other El Portal children and off we were Caroling throughout the Village and it was an absolute HIT; we will be doing it again this year!

Maribel, aside from volunteering at just about every event, has now agreed to take on the role as President of El Portal’s Woman Club!

El Portal Fall Event and Meeting Calendar

Saturday, October 31st from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM “Annual Halloween Block Party “on NE 87 Street (between NE 3rd – NE 5th Avenue)

*Friday, November 6th 5:30pm-6:30pm “Mayor’s Task Force Meeting”

*Thursday, November 12th 6:30 pm “El Portal Women’s Club Meeting”

*Tuesday, November 17th 7:00 PM “Regular Council Meeting”

*Wednesday, November 25th 1130am-130pm “Pre-Thanksgiving Luncheon”

*Thursday, December 17th 6:30pm – 8:30pm “Mayor’s Holiday Social”

*Tuesday, December 15th 7:00pm “Regular Council Meeting”

Sunday, December 20th “Village Holiday Caroling - West side”

Wednesday, December 23rd “Village Holiday Caroling –East side”

COMING IN 2016: Saturday, January 9th 830am-1100am “Three Village Family Bike Ride” we’ll meet at Miami Shores Community Center and bike through the Villages-more information will soon follow!

With Bal Harbour Mayor Jordan Leonard, Manager Ron Wasson, Chief Sean Hemingway, Bal Harbor Police Department and Fire Department at the 911 Remembrance Ceremony where Colonel Noel Pace was the Keynote Speaker

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ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY BBQ
Three Village Social
July 2015

Farm Share Food Distribution July 2015

PUBLIC SPACE WINNER August 2015

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Bal Harbour 1011 10155 Collins Ave. #1007 2/3, over 2500sf, Offered at $1,395,000 Estate Sale! JUST LISTED!
8935 Froude Ave. Surfside Offered at $3,000/month JUST RENTED!
CANYON RANCH North Tower Unit 1903, Miami Beach $7500/month, Rented!
1301 S. Biscayne Point Rd, Miami Beach Offered at $667,700, Sold!
1339 N Biscayne Point Rd, Miami Beach Offered at $4,900,000, Sold!

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Three Village Social Chamber of Commerce
Greater Miami Shores Chamber of Commerce
Three Villages Committee
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Back to School BOOKBAG GIVE-AWAY August 2015
Shout out to Officer Santos, Gutierrez, Sharp and Rego, Detective Adlet, Chief Morales, Mr. D, Carolina (Building Clerk) and Jason for helping me make it a successful event!

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MENTION THIS AD FOR A FREE 2 WEEK PASS!
It was great to see you at our State of the Village in August and I wholeheartedly thank you for your continued support. If you were unable to make it, you can find the text version of this speech on the Village website under Mayor’s page! And again, thank you!!
HALLOWEEN THROWBACK

2012

Join us this year Saturday,
October 31st 6pm-8pm!
And a HUGE shout out to
ALL residents that make this
event so successful--you guys
are AWESOME! Thank you!

2013

2014

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