VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Mayor .................. Claudia V. Cubillos
ccubillos@villageofelportal.org
Vice Mayor.............. Omarr Nickerson
onickerson@villageofelportal.org
Councilperson. Harold E Mathis, Jr.
hmathis@villageofelportal.org
Councilperson....... Roxanne Isaacs
risaacs@villageofelportal.org
Councilperson....... Aubrey Brunson
abrunson@villageofelportal.org

Village Manager.. David A. Rosemond
drosemond@villageofelportal.org
Village Clerk.......... Yenise Jacobi
yjacobi@villageofelportal.org
Building Clerk........ Kioka Boyce
kboyce@villageofelportal.org
Permit Clerk......... Michael Knowles
permitclerk@villageofelportal.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

OFFICE HOURS
Mon. - Fri........... 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Remembering the
Honorable DAISY BLACK
June 3, 1948 – June 29, 2016

On Wednesday, June 29th a candle went out, it went out on the life of a pioneer, a legend and a strong woman that inspired countless people in our community and in the Greater Miami-Dade County!

Honorable Daisy Black was an incredible leader with a strong sense of faith and was fixture in Miami Dade County -- she was a fighter and she loved El Portal!! She loved her friends, she loved her family, she loved her constituents and she loved life! She made El Portal a better place to live by her mere presence, sincerity and passion for social justice.

In the six years I had on the council with her, I learned -- I learned that you don’t waiver from what is right and from what the people want. You don’t loose sight of who you are and how you got there, because with that and with Faith good things will continue to come your way. Although hard to accept and comprehend such an abrupt loss of a life --I know she’s in a better place, because of her strong sense in Faith.

Mayor Black will be missed by me and by those who were blessed to have known her.

Mayor Cubillos
Hope everyone is enjoying their summer!

**ANNUAL EL PORTAL ART FAIR**

On Saturday, April 23rd we hosted the 2nd Annual El Portal Art Fair at the Radar Church and it was yet another wonderful event. The purpose of this fantastic free event is to bring our community together, promote visual arts, and showcase the beautiful Village of El Portal. This year, we did just that as we welcomed more than 600 visitors. The residents and visitors enjoyed five hours of fabulous live music by LiVE! Modern School of Music, live painting with Artist Serge Toussaint, free Yoga thanks to Inhale Miami, free children’s face painting and balloon making with Anthony the Balloon Guy, and not to forget the wonderful works of twenty-one featured artists and our delicious food trucks. It was an event enjoyed by all. We want to give a special thank you to our Sponsors. This event would not come to live if it wasn’t for their support.

**In Kind Sponsors:** Be Productive Meetings & Events, LiVE! Modern School of Music, Commissioner Edmonson. **Advocate of the Arts – Platinum:** Gadinsky Real Estate LLC & Group 10. **Supporter of the Arts – Gold:** Waste Management. **Enthusiast of the Arts – Silver:** Southern Strategy Group. Ironside Pizza. **Patron of the Arts – Bronze:** Amani-ac.com, Orange Theory Fitness, Blue Dragon Taekwon-Do, Inhale Miami, Renegade Fitness

We look forward to seeing many more faces next year!

For information on becoming a participating Artist or Sponsorship Opportunities please email me, Vimari Roman, Mayor’s Task Force Chair at elportalartfair@gmail.com.

**FAMILY FOOD TRUCK NIGHT**

We are also happy to report that the inaugural of our monthly Family Food Truck Night came to life on Friday, May 20th. So far we have hosted May and June and each time welcomed over 150 residents who have enjoyed different cuisines from Morgan’s Food Truck, Latin Burger & Taco, Zombie Ice, Che Grill, Cheeseburger Baby and Dolci Peccati Gelato. Until the event grows we will be featuring three diverse food trucks. This is another event where our purpose is to bring our community together to network during an enjoyable, casual and relaxed atmosphere for all. Please join us the 3rd Friday of each month at the Village Hall next to the Tot Lot.

**4TH OF JULY AMERICAN FLAGS**

Lastly, the Mayor’s Task Force was happy to co-sponsor the American Flags (all made in the USA) that were placed throughout the Village decorating our streets for the 4th of July celebration. Thank you to fellow resident and Mayor’s Task Force member David Ward for ordering the flags and coordinating this initiative. We hope everyone loved seeing them as much as we did!

**FUTURE INITIATIVES**

There are many other initiatives brewing and we would love for more residents to get involved and volunteer. The Mayor’s Task Force is taking a little break from meetings over the summer and we will keep you updated as to when our next meeting will be held.

Wishing you a wonderful and safe rest of the summer!

Sincerely,

Vimari Roman
Chair, Mayor’s Task Force
mtfelportal@gmail.com
From My Perspective
By David A. Rosemond
Village Manager

I do not know the last
time I felt this level of
excitement about coming
to work every day. The
closest I can remember
was my first professional
job as a caseworker in the
newly created Domestic
Intervention Program of
the Dade County State Attorney Office back in 1978.
Our offices were in the 9th floor of the Justice Building
in the Civic Center, an unused open space with old
dusty desks and unmatched shaky chairs that became
home to one of the most dedicated group of people
with whom I have ever worked. There we helped
thousands of abused women and their families. People
from all walks of life and every ethnic group strug-
gling through the hard work needed to regain their
self-respect and refuel their desire to live peacefully in
a loving, respectful and accepting community.

Almost 40 years later I get the opportunity to help in
a totally different way an equally ethnically diverse
group of people forge their dream to live in a peaceful,
loving, respectful, accepting and beautiful community
– El Portal. What a wonderful ride of public service
this has been and with your help, the most rewarding
destination yet!

I truly thank you for your warm recep-
tion. I am certain that with your contin-
ued support, I will not disappoint you.

Our Little Free Library #1257
As a reminder we can always use books at our Little Free
Library located in front of the Village Hall!! Thank you so
much to the countless neighbors who’ve donated some great
books - the children and adults love it! Books can be dropped
off between the hours of 9am-5pm Monday - Friday, to the
attention of Mayor Cubillos!!

El Portal Officers
Our Police Officers are all one of a kind! While each of them have
their unique and special quality they are ALL cut from the same
cloth – they are here to SERVE and PROTECT you, and they
do just that!! As we move forward in 2016 and beyond we’ll be
introducing New Community Policing ideas!!

Thank you Chief Morales and El Portal Officers!
Mayor Cubillos

Here we are with some of our Finest after a little grub during
National Police Week in May!

Welcoming our new Village
Manager, David A. Rosemond!

MELISSA EDELMAN
Realtor Associate & Island Pointe Resident Specialist since 2004
786-269-6590 ● Melissa@miamihousekeys.com

SANDY EDELMAN
Broker Associate
305-785-6055 ● Sandy@miamihousekeys.com
www.miamihousekeys.com

WE KNOW YOU HAVE A WORLD FULL OF CHOICES, WE HAVE PROVEN RESULTS!
Please call to discuss the possible sale or lease of your property! Inventory is needed!

ISLAND POINTE! 10350 W Bay Harbor Dr. Unit 5L 1/1, Offered at $1,850/month. JUST LISTED!
TROPICANA! 15645 Collins Ave Unit 806 2/2, Furn. min 6 month lease, $3,300/month. JUST LISTED!
BISCAYNE POINT! 7975 Biscayne Point Cir. 3/2 Furn. Pool home on canal, $6,450/month. REDUCED!
BISCAYNE POINT! 1301 S Biscayne Point Rd. 3/2 min 6 month lease, $3,500/month. REDUCED!
VILASOL LOFTS! 7744 Collins Unit 19 Miami Beach 2/2, 2-story loft REDUCED at $554,000
Bal Harbour 101: 10155 Collins Ave #1007 2/3, over 2500sf, Offered at $1,395,000 Estate Sale! ESTATE SALE!

Island Pointe! 10350 W Bay Harbor Dr. Unit 6K 1/1 Inc. storage, Offered at $269,500 SOLD!
1230 Cleveland Rd, Miami Beach over 3200sf, Canal. Offered at $1,299,000 SOLD!
Island Pointe! 10350 W Bay Harbor Dr. Unit 10V 1/1/1+Den, closed at $330K JUST SOLD!
8935 Froude Ave, Surfside Offered at $3,000/month JUST RENTED AGAIN!

Call us for a pressure free market analysis of your property or if you are ready to find your new home.
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The Mayor’s Citizen Spotlight of the Quarter

VIMARI ROMAN

Goes to El Portal Resident, Vimari Roman! She joined the Mayor’s Task Force in 2015, and from day one she has been an advocate and champion of it’s vision -- “that together we CAN and WILL deliver a prosperous Village - where everyone matters!” Her natural take charge demeanor and strong sense of just “getting it” and “getting it done” I immediately knew she would be an excellent Chair! With Vimari at the helm of The Mayor’s Task Force, the El Portal Art Fair and Family Food Truck Night are now some of the most amazing community events in El Portal!

Be on the lookout for many other great things to come from her - a star is born with this young lady!

Mayor Cubillos joined by Community Hoops Inspiration went out to support Delante, at this year’s Best Buddies Friendship Walk in April. A shout out to Delante for doing a great job for us at the Village Hall!!!
Citizen’s Crime Watch in Action

Neighbors,

Citizen’s Crime Watch is an excellent program that helps the police department build relationships with citizens and create safer neighborhoods, because preventing and solving a crime is also a community effort! And the best way to prevent crime is to know your neighbors - know your surroundings - know your Village!! The safety of our community depends on both law enforcement and the citizen’s they serve!

I’m an advocate of these block meetings and every Village event, because I wholeheartedly believe it triumphs over a culture that isolates us from each other and allows us to rediscover our community - our Village - ourselves!

A shout out to Officer Gutierrez, El Portal Resident David Ward and every Block Captain for coordinating these Block Crime Watch Meetings!

Get informed - Get involved, because there is strength in numbers!

“Together we can and will deliver a beautiful and safe Village - where everyone matters!”

Mayor Cubillos

Out and about in the community representing El Portal at Gay Pride 2016 and always so great to run into our El Portal neighbors!!

Standing in Unity with Miami Shores, North Bay Village and Miami Dade County -- We are Orlando Strong!
Arbor Day Celebration

It's been an initiative to make our Village of El Portal the next Tree City USA municipality; therefore, at the March Council Meeting, I appointed the following El Portal Residents to represent us and serve on our New Tree Board, Barbara Fuechsl, Hugh Gladwin and Adam Old, and the Council unanimously approved. These board members will collaborate and present to Council so that we can and will not only become Tree City USA compliant, but to ensure that we have in place the necessary and proper Tree Plan! As a result, and for the first time, the Village of El Portal celebrated its First Arbor Day on April 29th, bringing us one step, in a 4 step process, closer to become a Tree City USA Village!! It was a fantastic event led by El Portal appointed Tree Board Chair Barbara Fuechsl and with the assistance of so many residents: Janis Koch, Donna Stavel just to name a few and a shout out to Franco Balzano, for the Prosecco touch! THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!!!

Mayor Cubillos
Little River Cleanup
This year’s Little River Clean up was made possible by the following generous sponsors: Oakland Grove Neighborhood Association, City of Miami Beach, Sierra Club, La Fortuna Singers, iPaddleMiami and the Village Of El Portal -- Thank you! We had well over 40 residents join us and way over 30 lbs of garbage collected.

Thank you: Kristen, Adam and Hugh for your generous time in coordinating such an important event!!

We hope more of you will join us next year!!
Mother’s Day Brunch
Our Mother’s Day Brunch was held on Saturday, May 7th. We enjoyed a beautiful morning with so many amazing El Portal Mom’s!! Thank you to our Village Clerk Yenise Jacobi and our Police Officers for assisting in making this and every event special and successful!
Armed Forces Annual 5K

In its 8th year our Annual Armed Forces 5K was sponsored by: Waste Management, Orange Theory and the Village of El Portal Public Affairs Committee. Always a motivating event to come out support our men and women in uniform, while kick-starting your day with a brisk walk or run with your fellow neighbors! Thank you all for coming out!! This event is always the 3rd Saturday in May - so, SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 20, 2017.

With Mayor Burch of Miami Shores

Salute to our Veterans: Steven Valinsky and Colonel Noel C. Pace

Thank you Officer Gutierrez and Miami Dade County Honor Guard!

Mayor Cubillos with El Portal Community Hoop Boys!

Salute to our El Portal resident and veteran Giovanni Ortiz!

This year’s sponsor: Orange Theory.

With our El Portal Police Officers who kept us safe throughout the route - thank you!!
Village History

Betty Gore and her family have lived in El Portal since the 1940’s - and had many many happy years here. Her mother Beatrice Gore was even awarded a Pioneer award some years back. She has since passed away and in going through her things they came across a copy of the original brochure of Sherwood Forest that a friend had made for her. There are two pieces 28” Tall x 20” Wide that she always wanted to donate them to El Portal but never got around to it. Betty had them framed and presented them to the Council in our June Meeting - Thank you so much Betty!! It’s a very interesting part of the Village’s history and a unique example of the areas origins.

May and June 2016
Family Food Truck Nights

Code Corner

Responsible property ownership and maintenance is at the heart of neighborhood stability. While property ownership confers important rights, it also confers equally important responsibilities on the owner. While most owners meet their obligations – maintaining their properties and complying with codes so they do not cause harm to their occupants, their neighbors and their communities – many do not. In those cases, El Portal Code Enforcement Unit has the task of encouraging negligent owners to carry out their responsibilities, and if they do not, take action to minimize the harm to the community. This is the role of code enforcement.

Code enforcement, defined broadly to include all of the elements involved in obtaining compliance from private owners of problem properties, is a critical element in fighting neighborhood decline, preserving sound neighborhoods and restoring distressed areas. Your elected officials fully appreciate or understand the role that code enforcement plays as the first responders to vacant and foreclosed homes and the policy value that code enforcement can offer in protecting neighborhoods and stabilizing property conditions. When used proactively, code enforcement can halt and reverse the negative impact of vacant, abandoned and problem properties.

The first step in understanding code enforcement is looking beyond the enforcement officer with the clipboard. Code enforcement officers are indispensable, but are just one of the critical pieces of an integrated and complex puzzle. A code enforcement department is only as good as the regulatory tools it employs to achieve policy driven solutions, and the systems it has in place to use those tools as productively as possible. This is particularly important in today’s environment.

The Code Enforcement Committee will be holding a Code Enforcement Workshop on October 15, 2016. I hope you will attend. The topic is based on What Code Enforcement means to the community as well as review Code Enforcement Committee’s Strategy. Some examples are listed below.

- What are the (Village Govt/Villagers) community’s goals and priorities?
- What are the problems that need solving in order to achieve the goals?
- What are the tools that are available to the city?
- What are the resources and capacity that is available to the Village?
Jazzin it Up in El Portal

In its first year, Jazzin’ it Up in El Portal, spearheaded by Councilperson Brunson was a great event! Thank you to the El Portal Police Department, Village Administration, and Councilperson Brunson for bringing us this event!

Mayor Cubillos

![Image of people enjoying music and event]

Tuesday, August 2, 2016

National Night Out

7:30 PM - Mayor’s Annual Kids Backpack Giveaway
8:00 PM - Flashlight Walk—short walk for kids & adults
(Meet at El Portal Village Hall)

Watermelon & Lemonade to be served along the route.

Free Walking Safety Strobe Lights for all attendees!
Bring your own flashlights for even better safety!

Siren Parade (approx. 6:45 PM): When you hear the police sirens throughout the Village, that is a reminder to come to Village Hall and/or turn on your porch lights! LIGHTS ON FOR SAFETY!

Hosted by:
El Portal Citizens Crime Watch
Village of El Portal
Village of El Portal Police

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live.

YOU ARE INVITED

2016 has been a very exciting time for the Village of El Portal as many positive changes and events took place; together we have worked to move the community forward. Therefore, we request your presence as Mayor Cubillos delivers the 2016 “State of the Village Address” on Tuesday, August 23, 2016.

Village of El Portal
500 NE 87 Street
El Portal, FL 33138
7:00 PM

RSVP to yacobi@villageofelportal.org

Kind refreshments will be served.

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