

The Plaza of Bal Harbour Monthly News



A Newsletter for the Residents of The Plaza of Bal Harbour Condominium

Volume 6 Issue 5

May 2012



Condominium Association, Inc.
10185 Collins Avenue
Bal Harbour, Florida 33154

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STAFF

Property Manager Orlando Vega
orlando@plazaofbalharbour.com
Chief Engineer Gustavo Aliminaque
Reception Samantha Portales
samantha@plazaofbalharbour.com
Bookkeeper Marta Colon
marta@plazaofbalharbour.com



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Hurricane Season is Fast Approaching. Are you prepared? *Hurricane Season is* *JUNE 1 to NOVEMBER 30*

Hurricane preparedness is a natural part of living in Miami-Dade County. Below are some key tips to include in your personal hurricane plan. Make sure everyone in your household knows what they are supposed to do.

Have disaster supplies on hand.

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Emergency food and water
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Cash and credit cards
- Sturdy shoes

Check your insurance coverage and be sure it includes replacement coverage, especially for renters.

Trim your trees and bushes in May so they will survive damaging winds. You can get tree-trimming tips from the Miami-Dade Cooperative Extension Office.

Evacuation Plans:

- Rehearse your evacuation plan

with your household and leave extra time for traffic.

- If you live in an evacuation zone, make plans to move inland to a friend or family member's home.
- If you are electrically dependent you should evacuate for any category of tropical storm or hurricane.
- **Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program.** Residents who may need assistance evacuating from disaster should register for the Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program by calling the Office of Emergency Management at (305) 513-7700 to receive an application. Applications

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Hurricane (cont. from page 1)

are available in Creole, English and Spanish and can be downloaded from the OEM website: <http://www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/oem>.

Communications:

- **Assign** someone in your home the job of a checking the weather everyday during Hurricane Season.
- **Develop an emergency communication plan.** In case family members are separated from one another during a disaster (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together.
- **Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact."** After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance.

Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

Pets:

- Evacuation Centers will only accept service animals for people with disabilities. Make plans to board your pets with friends or at an inland pet shelter.
- Make sure you store adequate food, water, medicines, and ID tags for your pets as well.

Water Is Life:

- The most important part of your hurricane kit is water. Have 1 gallon per person per day.
- Your water heater can store several gallons of fresh water to use if there is no water pressure,



especially in high-rise buildings.

Protect Your Windows:

- Permanent shutters are the best protection. A lower-cost approach is to put up plywood panels. Use 1/2-inch plywood--marine plywood is best--cut to fit each window. Remember to mark which board fits which window. Pre-drill holes every 18 inches for screws. Do this long before the storm.



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A Mother's Love - Quotations for Mother's Day

- Youth fades; love droops, the leaves of friendship fall; A mother's secret hope outlives them all.
- Oliver Wendell Holmes
- As a mother, even at the risk of her own life, loves and protects her child, so let a man cultivate love without measure toward the whole world. - Buddha
- My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her. - George Washington
- Whenever I'm with my mother, I feel as though I have to spend the whole time avoiding land mines. - Amy Tan
- The best way to keep children home is to make the home atmosphere pleasant - and let the air out of the tires.
- Dorothy Parker
- No matter how old a mother is, she watches her middle-aged children for signs of improvement.
- Florida Scott-Maxwell
- A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie. - Tenneva Jordan
- Mothers are the most instinctive philosophers.
- Harriet Beecher Stowe
- A man loves his sweetheart the most, his wife the best, but his mother the longest. - Irish proverb
- God couldn't be everywhere, so he created mothers
- Jewish Proverb
- Being a full-time mother is one of the highest salaried jobs... since the payment is pure love.
- Mildred B. Vermont
- A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother. - Unknown
- The lullaby is the spell whereby the mother attempts to transform herself back from an ogre to a saint.
- James Fenton

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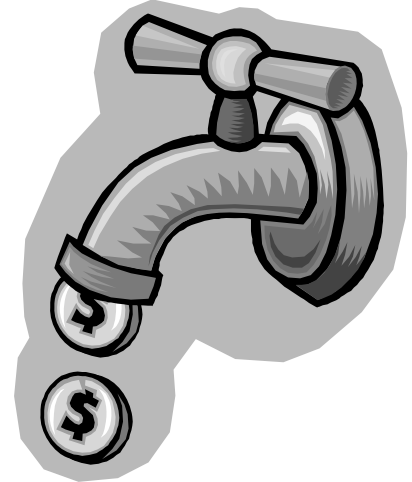


Detect-a-Leak Week

Detect-a-Leak Week is held annually every May. This is the perfect time to give your home a once over, checking for leaks that may be costing you money! Even a small leak can add up to hundreds of dollars a year, and could damage surrounding fixtures, cabinets, or floors.

One of the biggest culprits is the toilet. You often cannot tell if your toilet is leaking simply by examining it. Place a few drops of food coloring, just enough to slightly color the water, in the main tank. Let it sit for several hours, then check the toilet bowl. If you see the color in the bowl, you have a leaky toilet and it needs to be repaired. Check for dripping faucets, pipes, and connections by examining all plumbing in your home. Use a lightweight cloth to wipe around each connection. If your cloth becomes wet, you have leaky plumbing that needs to be repaired.

Don't forget to stop those leaks that you can control! Turn faucets off all the way. Don't let water run when you brush your teeth. And don't use your toilet as a wastebasket. Instead of throwing items such as tissues in the toilet and flushing, use a small wastebasket in your bathroom instead.



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Dates to Fly the American Flag

- New Years Day, January 1
- Inauguration Day, January 20
- Martin Luther King's Birthday, third Monday in January
- Lincoln's Birthday, February 12
- Washington's Birthday, February 22
- Presidents' Day, third Monday in February
- Easter Sunday, variable
- Patriot's Day, April 19
- National Day of Prayer, first Thursday in May
- Mother's Day, second Sunday in May
- Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May
- Memorial Day, last Monday in May (half staff until noon)
- Observed Memorial Day, last Monday in May
- Flag Day, June 14
- Father's Day, third Sunday in June
- Independence Day, July 4
- Labor Day, first Monday in September
- Constitution Day, September 17
- Columbus Day, October 12
- Discoverers' Day, second Monday in October
- Navy Day, October 27
- Marine Corps Birthday, November 10
- Veterans Day, November 11
- Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November
- Christmas Day, December 25
- Election Days

Display the flag from sunrise to sunset on the dates listed above in addition to state and local holidays, your State's Birthday, and any other dates proclaimed by the President of the United States.



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Have a Safe Memorial Day Weekend!


Memorial Day marks the beginning of the summer recreation season. It is also a time for accidents. Make sure that you and your family are safe this Memorial Day weekend by remembering these simple safety tips.

Drive Safely. More people will be on the road on Memorial Day weekend, making for congested roads and highways. Don't forget to always wear your seatbelt, and observe all posted traffic signs and speed limits. It is especially important for children to be in proper child safety seats in your car. And never drink and drive!

Play Safely. If you are going to be spending time near or on the water, don't forget to be safe. If you will be on a boat, wear a life jacket, follow all boating rules, and don't operate a boat while drinking. If you will be swimming, remember to swim with a buddy, swim only in safe water, and never dive into shallow water. All children should be supervised at all times around any type of water. If you will be spending any time in the sun, don't forget to use sunscreen and wear a hat.



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Preventing Clothes Dryer Fires

Any appliance that generates heat can be a potential fire hazard. There are over 24,000 clothes dryer fires each year in the United States, according to the Consumer Products Safety Commission. Most of these fires cause considerable property damage.

The good news is that these types of fires are in many cases preventable. Lack of maintenance is the leading cause of dryer fires. Lint is the material that is most often ignited in a dryer fire. The key is to provide for proper airflow, allowing the dryer to heat and dry efficiently, without causing excess lint buildup or reduced airflow.

There are some simple things you can do to help prevent a dryer fire. Never leave home or go to sleep when your dryer is running, or leave a running dryer unattended. The lint screen should be cleaned after every load. Synthetic material, like rubber, foam, or plastic, should never be put into a dryer. Also, any material that has been in contact with flammable liquids should not be placed in a dryer, even after washing.

Periodically, your dryer should be moved forward in order to vacuum up any lint that has collected behind and underneath. When replacing your dryer, be sure to allow for adequate space behind the dryer so as not to crush or kink the vent duct or fittings.



Dryer fires can also be caused by failure of the mechanical or electrical parts of your dryer. If you notice that clothes are taking a long time to dry, or are hotter than usual at the end of a cycle, you should get your dryer inspected.

In addition to being safer for you and your family, a properly working dryer can save you money. By retaining the ability to dry effectively at a lower temperature, your utility bills will be lower, your dryer will last longer, and your clothes will last longer and look better.

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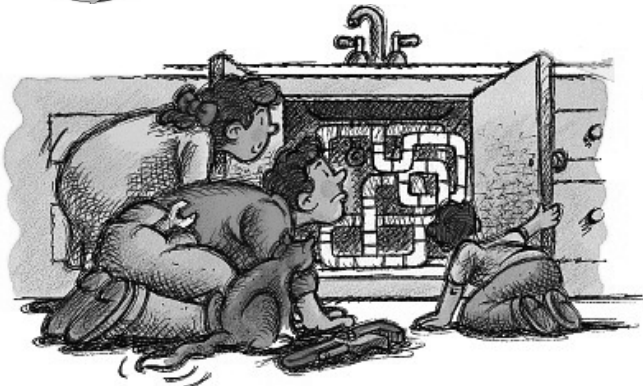
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