



Peacock Express

A Quarterly Newsletter for the Residents of El Portal

Volume 2 Issue 8

Spring 2020

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

- Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos
mayorcubillos@villageofelportal.org
- Vice Mayor..... Omarr Nickerson
onickerson@villageofelportal.org
- Councilperson Seat 2..... Vimari Roman
Vroman@villageofelportal.org
- Councilperson Seat 1..... Anders Urbom
aurbom@villageofelportal.org
- Councilperson Seat 4..... Luis Pirela
CouncilpersonPirela@villageofelportal.org

ADMINISTRATION

- Village ManagerChristia E. Alou
villagemanager@villageofelportal.org
- Village ClerkYenise Jacobi
yjacobi@villageofelportal.org
- Village Permit Clerk..... Miriam Herrera
buildingclerk@villageofelportal.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Village Hall305-795-7880
- Police305-795-7870
- Fax305-795-7884

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
www.ElPortalVillage.com

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear El Portal:

Since mid-March we have been in the midst of a global paradigm shift, as the impact and status of coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve. As our nation still faces uncertainty, fear and anxiety, while gradually trying to ‘Move to a New Normal,’ we remain steadfast committed to the longterm health and safety of our community members, and employees while still serving our community.



On April 29th we witnessed the first shift of ‘Moving to a New Normal.’ In this ‘New Normal’ practicing social distancing and facial coverings will be enforced county-wide, until health experts advise it is no longer necessary. Next, around mid-May “Moving to a New Normal” continues with the gradual re-opening of ‘some’ local businesses in Miami-Dade County, with new guidelines in place.

As the State of Florida and Miami-Dade County continue to guide us through each phase of reopening businesses, I along with the Emergency Management team will remain vigilant in monitoring the situation in real time, in order to respond and inform the public.

Right now friends and families are struggling with the loss of a job, a family member, or a friend, and with uncertainty about their future. So now more than ever, the responsibility of all community leaders is to inform, is to collaborate, is to share resources, and be the beacon of hope in our communities.

In closing, during the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen the human capacity for good, for love, and for sacrifice from our healthcare workers, first-responders, military, grocery store employees, teachers, cashiers, neighbors, and all essential-business employees. I continue to hope that these unwavering human capacities resonate within each of us in the hopes for a renewed spirit of community and kindness in El Portal - in Miami-Dade County!

Yours in service,
Mayor Cubillos (305) 778-4199
<http://elportalvillage.com/officials/mayor/>

COUNCILPERSON VIMARI ROMAN, PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHAIR

“Moments of adversity are our greatest opportunities for growth and teach us to embrace what we have and make the best of it.” VRD

Hello El Portal,

I hope that you and your families find yourselves healthy and in good spirits. These last two months have felt like a bad dream that I cannot seem to wake up from and I can only imagine that you must feel the same way. I pray that as we move forward with our new normal, we can all remain healthy by respecting the advice from the CDC and the restrictions put in place by Miami-Dade.

Before I go into an update and my report, I would like to offer my gratitude and thank you to the Village’s Emergency Management Team which includes the Village Manager, Chief of Police, and Mayor. They have done an excellent job keeping our community safe and informed. In addition, I would like to recognize how fortunate we are to have had Mayor Cubillos as the President of the Miami League of Cities. The 2019-2020 appointment as the President of the Miami League

of Cities gave her the opportunity to participate in many COVID-19 discussions and to be a part of Miami-Dade County COVID-19 Committees. This exposure gave the Village of El Portal a seat at the table during this global pandemic, and that to me is something that we should all be aware of and proud of. Thank you Mayor Cubillos.

Community Involvement:

On May 4, 2020, for first time in the history of the Miami-Dade League of Cities, the Board of Directors and our new President had our 66th Annual Installation via Zoom. I feel honored to represent the Village of El Portal on the 2020 Board and to serve besides our resilient leader and MDCLC immediate Past President, Mayor Claudia Cubillos. Congratulations to City of Miami Commissioner Keon Hardemon as he leads the Board as the 2020 President and congratulations to the rest of the Board and Executive Board.

Committee Assignments:

In the last newsletter, I included the committee assignments with the vacancy of Council Seat # 3 which has since been filled by our newest Councilper-



son, Luis Pirela. With only having one qualifying candidate move forward upon the qualifying deadline, the Village did not have to hold an election in March 2020 and the seat was filled by the appointment of Councilperson Pirela who was sworn in on March 31, 2020. Congratulations to the Councilperson, I look forward to serving with him.

As a result, of this appointment, Councilperson Pirela has now been placed in the committee assignments previously held by the former Councilperson as follows:

**1st TUESDAY
(EVERY OTHER MONTH):
Public Safety (6:30pm)**

- Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos, Chair
- Vice Mayor Omarr Nickerson, Vice Chair
- Councilperson Vimari Roman, Member

Code Enforcement (7:00pm)

- Councilperson Anders Urbom, Chair
- Councilperson Luis Pirela, Vice Chair
- Vice Mayor Omarr Nickerson, Member

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Realtor - Associate
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 gigikrop@gmail.com
 www.gigiwithaheart.com

Public Affairs (cont. from page 2)

Public Works (7:30pm)

Councilperson Luis Pirela, Chair
Councilperson Vimari Roman, Vice Chair

Councilperson Anders Urbom, Member

3rd TUESDAY

**(EVERY OTHER MONTH):
Administration & Finance
(6:30pm)**

Vice Mayor Omarr Nickerson, Chair
Councilperson Anders Urbom, Vice Chair

Councilperson Vimari Roman, Member

Public Affairs (7:00pm)

Councilperson Vimari Roman, Chair
Vice Mayor Omarr Nickerson, Vice Chair

Mayor Claudia V. Cubillos, Member

As a reminder, the committee meetings are very important as this is where most of the business discussions take place. As a resident if you would like to have input, bring your concerns and ideas to the Council then these are the appropriate meetings to do so. These meetings will be taking place virtually via Zoom until further notice. Please refer to the Village Clerk’s announcement for the meeting ID and password. Your attendance is welcomed and appreciated.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Passive Parks:

As part of the “New Normal Re-Opening of Miami-Dade County” Phase 1 includes Open Spaces per the Executive Order by Mayor Gimenez. The order states that face coverings and social distance of 6ft minimum must be adhered to and groups must be kept to under 10 people. For the Village of El Portal this means that our passive parks re-opened on April 29, 2020 and will remain open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM as follows:

- Tequesta Indian Mound

- El Portal Nature Trail (will have direction arrows to enter and exit)
- Sherwood Forest Park
- River Estate Park

The El Portal Tot Lot will remain closed until further notice. Our open spaces will be monitored for compliance.

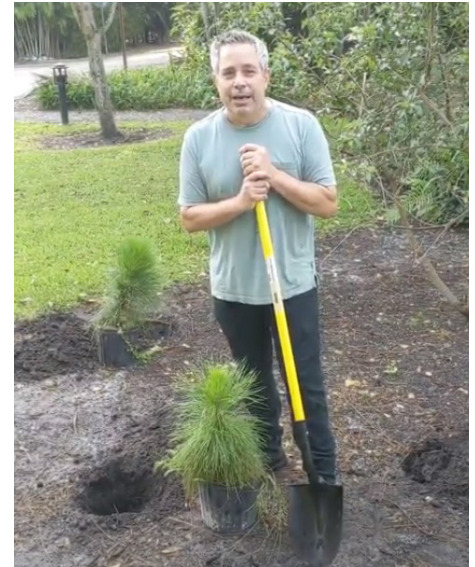
Public Benefits Trust: This was scheduled to happen at our March 2020 Council meeting, but it was delayed per the motion that was made and passed to table the agenda items to April. On Tue, April 28, 2020 the Council approved the Ordinance to establish the Public Benefits Trust Fund, an Ordinance to approve the amending of Article VIII, Public Benefits Program, Section 24-B.21 to provide for trust fund contributions to the Public Benefits Trust Fund, and an Ordinance was also approved to authorize the Mayor and Village Manager to execute and enter into a development agreement with the owners of what is known as the Kavista project. As part of this development agreement the Village of El Portal’s Public Benefits Trust Fund will receive a contribution of \$1,100,000.00 for the acquisition of land for parks and open space, reinvestment in capital improvements to existing parks and open space, tree planting, and capital expenditures for landscaping within the Village boundaries. The payments will be made in installments with the first \$366,666.67 paid upon approval and execution of the development agreement which was passed yesterday.

ARBOR DAY 2020

In lieu of our annual event, we celebrated this special day by planting five (5) Dade-County Pines at the Sherwood Forest Park. The five native pines were picked up by our Grants Consultant, Robert Ruano who planted them the morning of Arbor Day, April 24, 2020, together with our Public Works staff Angel Hernandez.

We appreciate and thank South Miami,

Commissioner Bob Welsh, for the donation of the trees and Robert Ruano for his enthusiasm to making this happen for us, and of course our Village Manager and staff. We look forward to seeing the beauty these additional trees will bring to our Sherwood Forest Park!



Public Affairs (cont. from page 3)

Septic to Sewer Project is still in the works. The Village Council passed the easement agreement with Miami-Dade School Board at the October 22, 2019 Council Meeting. The Village is attempting to finalize the negotiations with Pennoni Engineers so that we can move forward with completing the remaining 8% of the project. Since our last newsletter update, the Village continues to be in communications with Pennoni Engineers who have now asked for additional payment due to the delay and negotiations are still taking place.

Nature Trail Expansion: This project has been put on hold as a result to the Septic to Sewer pump station that was being negotiated in the area of Horace Mann. Now that the easement agreement has been signed it is still on hold pending the Pennoni negotiations. We hope to have an update in the coming months. Stay tuned as this should come up for discussion at the next Public Works committee meeting.

CDGB grant funding request was made of Miami-Dade County for road construction related to the stormwater improvement project. The Village received \$157,000 and the Village Manager and our Project Consultant, Robert Ruano are meeting with Miami-Dade County Public Housing & Community Development staff to review the requirements and finalize an agreement. The Village is in good standing on the process of this project and as of the end of April there are no new updates from our Manager as to how we are moving forward.

El Jardin stormwater outfall project alternate designs passed at the January 7, 2020 Village Council Meeting. The new design has been approved by FDEP. The Village is in good standing on this process of this project and as of the end of April there are no new updates from our Manager as to how we are moving forward.

FPL Street Lighting Pilot Program: The Village Manager is in communications with FPL regarding this program and updated that at this time this has come to a standstill due to the Corona Virus pandemic and should resume in the next coming months.

Neat Streets Matching Tree Grant: The Village of El Portal, through our grant's consultant, Robert Ruano received a matching tree grant from Neat Streets Miami. This cycle will provide for 37 trees to be planted in various location in the Horace Mann Middle School and West side of the Village that will create a "Green Route to the School". This project should be able to move forward in the next few months now that the Public Benefits Fund was established, and the Village should be receiving funds.

New Village Signage:

The Village ordered and installed new Welcome to El Portal, Bird Sanctuary and Home of the Month signage. Some of the signs are not installed yet but will come when the pandemic is over. To date, there are new signs at NE 5th Avenue and NW 90 Street, and at NE 5th Avenue and NE 87 Street.

HOME OF THE MONTH:



Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and not having a Chair this took a back burner. We do have a new sign and hope that the program can continue in May or June.

Volunteer Needed – The Home of the Month Committee is in search of a Committee Chair. If you are a resident that is passionate about landscaping and architecture or just someone that wants to volunteer in their community then this is for you. If interested, please email Councilperson Vimari Roman at vroman@villageofelportal.org.

Home of the Month Objective: Provide recognition to residents who have improved the exterior of the home and/or their front yards (curb appeal).

Nominations: All residents who are not members of the committee can nominate themselves or a neighbor for consideration for Home of the Month. If you have a home you'd like to nominate please send the committee an email with the address and pictures if possible to ElPortalHomeoftheMonth@gmail.com. Nominations are accepted up to the 5th of every month.

Home of the Month program information and pictures of all the previous winners can be found on the Village website: <http://elportalvillage.com/archives/home-of-the-month/>

UPCOMING VILLAGE OF EL PORTAL EVENTS:

We were sad to have to cancel the first quarter events of 2020. For now, we have rescheduled the annual 5k making it a Colors of Cancer Walk/Run in October. At this time, it is

Continued on page 5

Public Affairs (cont. from page 4)

hard to tell what our new normal will be and we will adjust if need be as time gets closer.

October:

Colors of Cancer 5K RUN/WALK

Date: Saturday, Oct 24, 2020, race begins at 7:00 am. Location: Village Hall, 500 NE 87th St. Registration: is opened

Artist Call: We are looking for a Village Resident Artist who is interested in an In-Kind donation to design the 2020 T-Shirt. Please email Councilperson Roman if interested: Vroman@villageofelportal.org

Sponsors Needed: Please email Councilperson Roman if interested in Sponsoring this event at Vroman@villageofelportal.org

DID YOU KNOW?

VILLAGE OF EL PORTAL HISTORY:

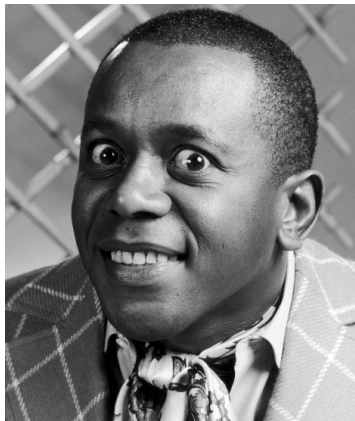
“The Threads of History Enrich All Our Lives.”

In our last newsletter I wrote about the Sanctuary and it’s history. That’s not the only interesting history of our Village. Here I share a little more...

Trailblazers in El Portal

The Village of El Portal has been known to attract Trailblazers and some of those have been quite legendary individuals. Here I share a few of which I am aware of:

Clerow “Flip” Wilson was a well-known comedian and actor. Mr. Wilson became famous while serving in the United States Air Force. He was asked to tour military bases to cheer up other servicemen. His barrack mates gave him the nickname “Flip” stating that he was always “flipped out”.



Garth Reeves was the owner of the newspaper The Miami Times. His home was always known for its beautiful landscaping.



Betty Wright is a soul and R&B singer. Her mother: Rose, her sister Jeanette and brother Phillip are longtime residents of El Portal. The part of Ms. Betty Wright’s song that mentions her mom saying, “I know that you’re not going to sing that song” (“Tonight is the Night”) occurred while Ms. Betty Wright was at home in El Portal.



Iggy Pop has a little place he uses for work and hanging out. James Newell Osterberg Jr., better known as Iggy Pop, is an American singer, songwriter, musician, record producer, and actor. Designated the “Godfather of Punk”, he was the vocalist of influential proto-punk band the Stooges, who were formed in 1967 and have disbanded and reunited multiple times since. Pictured here with the late Anthony Bourdain where they hung out in El Portal at the punk icon’s bohemian wood-paneled home during an interview that came out in the GQ Magazine. You can read the interview at this link: <https://www.gq-magazine.co.uk/article/iggy-pop-anthony-bourdain-interview>



Among these celebrities we have many other DJ’s, Writers, Artist and Entrepreneurs who are all noteworthy for their contributions, but I do not have permission to name them. I am sure there are many others that I don’t know, and I am not aware of. If you are someone that would like to be recognized please email me at vroman@villageofelportal.org.

I hope you have enjoyed the updates and learning about our village. As always, I am available via phone or email should you wish to speak, have any questions, concerns or ideas. Be safe and healthy,
Vimari

Councilperson Roman
Seat #2 – Elected 2016
305-395-2536 | vroman@villageofelportal.org

HOW TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE CHILD CARE APPLICATION & AUTHORIZATION FORM:

The Florida Department of Education's Office of Early Learning along with local early learning coalitions throughout the state are prioritizing child care for first responders and health care workers. Child care services for these personnel will be provided regardless of income. The eligibility requirements include: the child is a U.S. citizen or lawful resident, the family resides in Florida, and one or both parents is employed as a first responder or health care worker. Please contact your local early learning coalition or human resources department for more information.

CHECKLIST

- Obtain the Child Care Application and Authorization Form from your employer's Human Resource Department.
- Create a Family Portal Account and complete the online application for the School Readiness Program and upload the Child Care Application and Authorization Form (referral) OR contact your local early learning coalition for assistance. (link below)
- Once the application is submitted, the local early learning coalition will review the application.
- Once the application has been approved, submit documentation requested by the coalition. If eligible, the coalition will approve services within 3 business days.
- Continue to check email, including your junk folder, for the approval of services.
- Select a child care provider through the Family Portal.
- The initial child care authorization period will be 3 months or less.
- If you need help finding a Child Care Provider, contact your local early learning coalition's Child Care Resource and Referral unit. (link below)



Florida's Child Care Resource and Referral Services can help your family by providing:



A customized list of local child care options from trained child care resource and referral specialists.



Information about quality child care and early learning programs.



Financial assistance strategies and opportunities.



Referrals to other community resources and programs.



[Click here to locate your Early Learning Coalition](#)

For more information please contact your local early learning coalition.

Greetings from the Village of El Portal Code Enforcement Department

As some of you may already know, Miami-Dade County has year round permanent watering restrictions. I wanted to provide information regarding additional restrictions that have been implemented by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). It is important that citizens are aware of this change.

Based on the new restrictions, no watering is permitted between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Properties that have odd numbered addresses are allowed to water on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and those with even numbered addresses may water on Thursdays and Sundays. This also applies to private irrigation wells.

April is Water Conservation month – traditionally one of the driest months of the year. It is important to conserve water, and protect this important vital resource. South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has issued a news release regarding the restrictions, posted on their social media and shared on NextDoor.

Please refer to www.Miamidade.gov for further information.

Sincerely,
 Emir King
 Code Enforcement Officer
 Village of El Portal
 500 NE 87th Street EL Portal, FL
 33138 305-786-7880
 Codeenforcement@
 Villageofelportal.org

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HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Hurricane WATCH: Hurricane conditions are a threat within 48 hours. Review your hurricane plans, keep informed and be ready to act if a warning is issued.

Hurricane WARNING: Hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. Complete your storm preparations and leave the area if directed to do so by the local authorities.

Neighbors:

With the near transition from spring to almost summer comes the onset of hurricane season. If you have not done so yet: determine your personal hurricane risk, find out if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone, and review/update insurance policies. Also make a list of items to replenish hurricane emergency supplies and start thinking about how you will prepare your home for the coming hurricane season. If you live in hurricane-prone areas, you are encouraged to complete these simple preparations before hurricane season begins on June 1st.

El Portal Officials are working together to be best prepared as we face an active Hurricane season. As Mayor and Public Safety Chair, I have instructed the Village Manager to research into the Miami-Dade County (MDC) Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, so that El Portal may best utilize MDC resources, guide and emergency plan as we prepare for the 2020 Hurricane Season.

Also, keep in mind, you may need to adjust any preparedness actions based on the latest health and safety guidelines from the CDC and your local officials. Here are some important things to remember as we all prepare.

‘Plans are of little importance, but planning is everything!’

INSURANCE:

Because standard homeowners insurance doesn’t cover flooding, it’s important to have protection from the floods associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and

other conditions that impact the U.S. For more information on flood insurance, please visit the National Flood Insurance Program Web site at: www.FloodSmart.gov.

LET YOUR FAMILY KNOW YOU’RE SAFE:

If your community has experienced a hurricane register on the American Red Cross Safe and Well Web site available through <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/disaster-relief-and-recovery-services/contact-and-locate-loved-ones.html> to let your family and friends know about your welfare. If you don’t have Internet access, call 1-866-GET-INFO to register yourself and your family.


SEC. 8-16. – SPECIAL HURRICANE INSPECTIONS:

The Florida Building Code requires that the owner, occupant or user of a property take precautions for the securing of buildings and equipment. We encourage you to look at the information provided below, or if you have additional questions or concerns, call our department at 305 795-7880.

- a. During such periods of time as the National Weather Service has issued a severe weather advisory that is in effect for Miami-Dade County, best efforts must be used so that all furniture, display racks, material and similar loose objects in exposed outdoor locations, including loose material of projects under construction are secured or otherwise appropriately braced to rigid construction or stored in buildings to the extent practicable given the conditions. Orders shall be oral or written and shall be given to any person on the premises most logically responsible for maintenance and such orders shall be carried out before winds of tropical storm velocity are anticipated.
- b. After winds of the velocity associated with a severe weather event are experienced and have subsided, the Building Official shall investigate to determine if damage has occurred to buildings or other structures.
- c. No building or other structure or assembly or part

Continued on page 8

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Hurricane Prep (cont. from page 7)

thereof, which was damaged or collapsed or out of plumb or line shall be repaired or altered or otherwise returned to its original position without inspection and approval by the Building Official.

- d. For the purposes of this section, "severe weather advisory" shall be defined as any one of the following: a tropical storm warning, a hurricane watch, or a hurricane warning and the term "severe weather event" shall be defined as a tropical storm or hurricane.

(Ord. No. 01-112, § 1, 7-10-01; Ord. No. 06-7, § 1, 1-24-06)

CHECK YOUR HURRICANE SUPPLIES:

- **Vehicle fuel tanks filled**
- **Water:** at least 1 gallon daily per person for 5 to 7 days
- **Food:** at least enough for 5- 7 days
 - o non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
 - o foods for infants or the elderly
 - o snack foods
 - o non-electric can opener
 - o cooking tools / fuel
 - o paper plates / plastic utensils
- Extra set of car and house keys
- **Medicines / Prescription Drugs:** (7-day supply) and medical items (hearing aids with extra batteries, glasses, contact lenses, syringes, cane)
- **Important documents:** (in a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag) insurance policy, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- **Baby supplies:** (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers)
- **Multipurpose Tool:** keep a set with you during the storm
- Camera for photos of damage Insect repellent and sunscreen First Aid Kit
- **Blankets / Pillows**
- **Clothing:** (seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes) **Special Items:** for babies and the elderly **Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes Flashlights/ Batteries:** (extra batteries)

- **Radio:** Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- **Telephones:** Fully charge cell phone with extra battery
- **Cash:** (with some small bills). **Credit Cards:** Banks and ATMs may not be available
- **Pets:** Proper identification / immunization records / medications/ample supply of food/ water, a carrier/cage, muzzle and leash.
- **Toys, Books and Games**

In closing, if you know of an elderly senior in your block or throughout our Village, who may need some assistance, please email me at: mayorcubillos@villageofelportal.org! I hope these reminders help you continue to get you and your families ready for the 2020 hurricane season. As always for up-to-date information, please visit our website at: <http://elportalvillage.com/>

Sincerely,

Mayor Cubillos, Public Safety Committee, Chairperson
<http://elportalvillage.com/officials/mayor/>

**HURRICANE
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TO PROMOTE
COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE**

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WM
WASTE MANAGEMENT

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

During the month of April, online platforms such as: Google Meet and Zoom became the ‘new way’ of doing business and keeping us in visual contact with our loved ones, while we were all ‘safer at home’ and ‘social distancing!’ These on-line platforms have enabled for continuity in many businesses, including local government. As such, I took the opportunity to work with our Village website webmaster and Plusurbia on better leveraging our Village website. Simply stated, my goal is to have Village Planning & Zoning (P&Z) assessable to the community all in one place, in order to reduce the need for the Village Clerk to email a 100+ page agenda packet to everyone before a meeting, and to ensure projects move forward in a timely manner with all viable options having been extended to all stakeholders.



These efforts have resulted in the Village of El Portal’s P&Z webpage to be revamped with a sub-site page now included. Now, our ongoing Village economic development applications, which require a public hearing as well as other key projects such as the *Comprehensive Plan* and our first *Architectural Pattern Book*, are all now just a “click” away, with even an opportunity for you to provide feedback “real-time” feedback regarding these items. I encourage you to check it out with this link: <http://elportalvillage.com/departments/planning-zoning/>

Kavista: 471 NE 83rd Street El Portal, FL 33138

April 28, 2020: The Council unanimously passed the 2nd reading of three ordinances to: 1) Establish Public Trust Fund, 2) Provide Trust Fund Contribution and to 3) Execute a Development Agreement. They also passed (5-0) the Special Exception Resolution for the Kavista, a primarily residential building in Zone 5 (Urban Center).



ICYMI:

- Fall of 2014: This area was annexed by El Portal from Miami-Dade County.
- Spring of 2016: The Village Council adopted the Form-Base Code to include annexed area. 2015-2019: Developer worked with Plusurbia for design compliance and staff recommendation.
- November 19, 2019 - Special Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Committee: the BH 495 NE 83rd St, LLC (the Kavista) presented to the committee a Development Agreement between the Village of El Portal and BH 495 NE 83rd St for 1.1 million to be paid to the Village in 3
- installments. The Development Agreement (3 ordinances), with edits, passed the committee, but it must now be heard at 2 Council Meetings/Public Hearings.
- December 17, 2019 - Regular Council Meeting: The First Reading of (3) ordinances on the Development Agreement was heard and the Village Council passed the (3) ordinances: Ordinance 2019-06, 2019-07, and 2019-08. In brief, these ordinances are: to establish a public benefits trust fund; to provide for trust fund contributions Public Benefits Trust Fund and then authorizing the Mayor and Village Manager to execute a development agreement between El Portal and BH 495 NE 83rd Street, LLC.
- Tuesday, March 10, 2020 - P&Z Committee Meeting: The Kavista project, a Special Exception for a Multi Family Housing at 471 NE 83rd Street, was formally presented - it passed 4-0

SkateBird Park: 533 NE 83rd Street El Portal, FL 33138

- 2019: The Deck Miami, LLC worked with Plusurbia for design compliance and staff recommendation.
- Tuesday, March 10, 2020 - P&Z Committee Meeting: The Deck Miami, LLC presented their Site-Plan and Special Exception for Civic Use of a Recreational Facility and passed (4-0)!
- Tuesday, April 28, 2020 - Regular Council Meeting: The Deck Miami, LLC presented their Site-Plan Special Exception and unanimously passed 5-0!

Planning & Zoning
(cont. from page 9)

205 NE 87 Street El Portal, FL 33138

- Fall of 2019: Cristo Rey Miami High School working with Plusurbia
- Tuesday, January 21, 2020 - P&Z Committee Mtg: Cristo Rey Miami High School presented to community and committee (informal).
- Tuesday, February 11, 2020 - P&Z Committee Mtg: Formal presentation to P&Z Committee
- Wednesday, February 26th - Cristo Rey Miami High School Community Town Hall
- Tuesday, March 10, 2020 - P&Z Committee Mtg: Cristo Rey Miami High School presented its official site plan with edits/updates from the community. The Special Exception-Site Plan passed 4-0.

COMING UP:

- 1) Cristo Rey Development Agreement (CRDA) at the next P&Z Meeting - May 12th
- 2) If the CRDA passes the Planning and Zoning Committee, it goes before the Council for 2 public readings - May 26th and June 23rd Regular Council Meetings.
- 3) If the CRDA passes the 1st reading at the May 26th Council Meeting; then the Resolution of the Cristo Rey Site Plan Special Exception will be heard at the June 23rd Regular Council Meeting.

This concludes my Planning and Zoning Committee Report. As always, for up-to-date information, please visit us at: <http://elportalvillage.com/departments/planning-zoning/>

Yours in service,

Mayor Cubillos
Planning and Zoning Committee Chair
<http://elportalvillage.com/officials/mayor/>

‘The Threads of History Enrich All Our Lives!’
#throwback #iheartelportal



2015 Horace Mann Student of the Year



2015 first Village Networking Social



2015 Meeting with Chief Patterson



2015 First Adopt-a-Plant



2015 First Mayor’s Holiday Social



2016: Little River Clean Up

Throwback (cont. from page 10)



2015 first Tri-Village Kickball Tournament - El Portal won!



2008: Thanksgiving Senior Luncheon.



First Arbor Day Celebration



2016: Women's Club Meeting at Mayor Cubillos' home



2008: Councilperson Cubillos with Albertha Patterson, former Village Clerk.



2008: First Senior Thanksgiving luncheon sponsored by the children from Ms. Claudia's Village Academy.

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Throwback (cont. from page 11)



2016: 1st Tree City USA sign up!



2011: El Portal Armed Forces 5K.



2016: First Mother's Day Brunch - the late Ms. Dolores.



2012: Resident Luncheon



2013 Charette



2015 Supporting and Empowering our Youth!



2016: rededication to our Indian Mound

Throwback (cont. from page 12)



2010: Councilperson Cubillos with the late Libby Bowen, the Matriarch of El Portal.



2012: Resident luncheon.



2007: El Portal's 70th Anniversary!

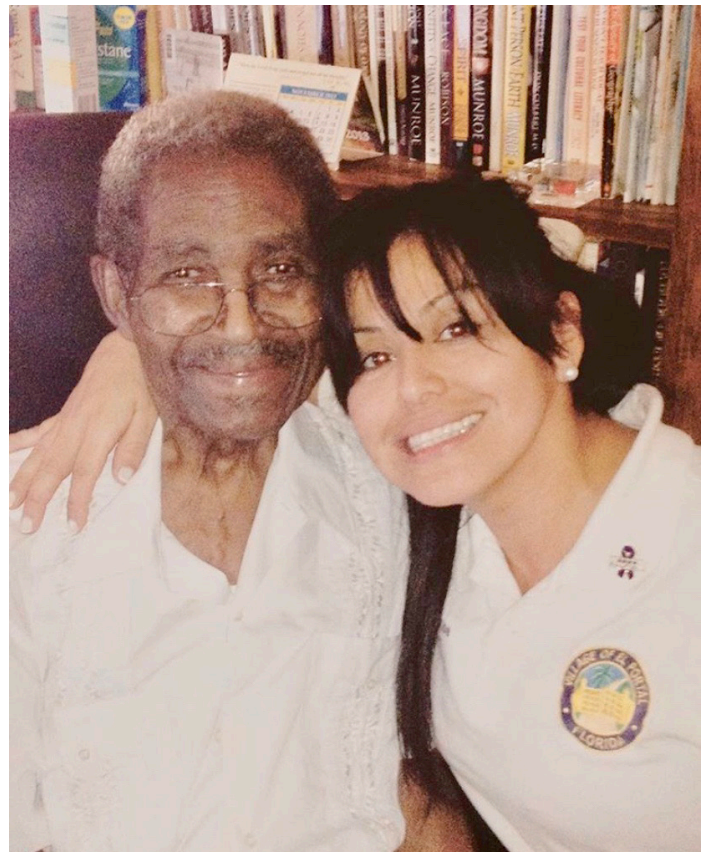
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2010: Councilperson Cubillos with the late James Long.

The Most Pressing Issue in Our Time

I chose to write an article for this quarter that could resonate with everyone regardless where they may hail from. Being a historian, I wanted to give it a perspective from past events. As a police chief I also wanted to include some law enforcement perspective from the past and now in the present.

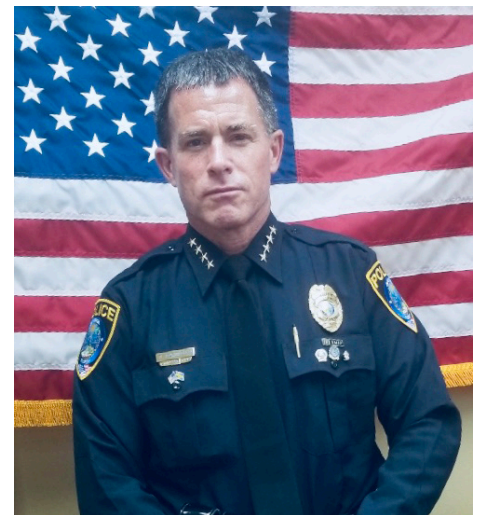
Historically speaking, we, this nation, is on par with October or November 1941. We knew all about the aggression Japan posed. We knew all about their saber rattling and their threats of war. We were giving warning of Japan's intentions by the Peruvian Consulate in February 1941. We lost track of their fleet off the coast of Japan at the end of November 1941. And still we were taken by complete surprise on the morning of 7 December 1941. Why didn't we take the threats more seriously? The same could be said for 9-11 as well. We were monitoring Bin-Laden, just not closely enough it seems to have taken actions needed that may have very well averted that tragic morning in New York City, almost 19 years ago.

Flash forward to today. Why haven't we taken the COVID-19 threat more seriously? Originally people were heck bent on minimizing this pandemic? We are given warnings, and still there was an air of nonchalance to it. When

steps were put in place, when "Safer at Home" became the rallying cry, when people took the "six feet distancing" more seriously things started to come into focus. The local leadership has been phenomenal. And quite frankly, so have all the residents who made it easier for that local leadership to lead.

Moving down the road certain limitations may be eased a bit progressively. We all need to be on the same page so that we can all progress, without a hitch, towards normalcy. We will get there, but it is far easier to do so when no setbacks make for that proverbial minefield.

Just as 7 December 1941 changed everything, surely through 1945, and 9-11 since, so will COVID-19 here and now. And it is here where I transition over to law enforcement at the time when we were suddenly and deliberately attacked by the Empire of Japan in 1941. Unbeknownst to many, the Honolulu Police Department was deputized into a military force the day after the sneak attack. Furthermore, the players of a college football team from California, who had just played a game in Honolulu on 6 December 1941 stayed in Hawaii for the remainder of war, serving in a police capacity enforcing some island rules and protecting certain infrastructure. It was



law enforcement in some shape or form that brought a sense of normalcy and calm back to the island chain following those events of December 1941 on an American property (not yet officially a state until 1959) that had more to fear than perhaps any other portion of the Continental United States at that time.

The well-worn proverbial "it takes a village" surely applied then and it will now. Law enforcement will need the assistance of the communities they serve in order to gain compliance from the very few who will fail to abide by steps put in play by the local leaders and governor. Peer pressure from residents carries a lot of weight when bringing other neighbors back in line (e.g. not keeping six-foot distancing, not wearing a mask, walking in an opposite direction, on a trail for instance, etc.)

Though not so much a Village problem as it has been on the open highways, speeding will remain a focus of ours as well as quickly addressing any future upticks in certain crimes. But now, more than ever, great neighborhood communication is the key in safeguarding the streets and avenues from you hail from. The El Portal Police Department is committed to keeping the Village of El Portal safe during these most unprecedented times. We are there for you and will continue to provide the high level of service you are accustomed to. Together, we must embrace, as one, this most pressing issue of our time (and I am guessing, an issue that will rank as one of the most telling times in our nation's history).



LUIS PIRELA

My name is Luis Pirela and I am a seven-year resident of El Portal who is very passionate about the beautiful small community we live in. I became a council person In March 2020. My goal is to work with the residents to make our village the best it can be. I will be leading the code enforcement and public works committee, and look forward to meeting all of you in the coming months.

Thanks, Luis Pirela



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