



Peacock Express

A Quarterly Newsletter for the Residents of El Portal

Volume 2 Issue 3

Winter 2019

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 Seat 1** Open
- Councilperson** Vimari Roman
Vroman@villageofelportal.org

ADMINISTRATION

- Village Manager** Christia E. Alou
villagemanager@villageofelportal.org
- Village Clerk** Yenise Jacobi
yjacobi@villageofelportal.org
- Village Permit Clerk** Blair Bubley
bbubley@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
www.ElPortalVillage.com

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring - hope 2019, so far has been kind to each of you!!

2019 Legislative Session

In February I was in Tallahassee and met with 6 House Rep & 5 State Senators to discuss El Portal's top 2 Priorities this year:

1. Stormwater Project -El Jardin
2. Septic -Sewer conversion on NE 2nd Avenue,

There is so much value in representing our community in person. It gives me the opportunity to let them know what these projects means to us. We are a community of 3,000 and when you compare our population to that of other communities across Miami Dade County and the state - we are small. BUT, these projects are a part of our future. It's not just about the development along one road, on one piece of a 3 — for us it's so much more and they need to know that.

Tallahassee needs to know it's where We CAN create a space to build businesses, where our kids can safely cross the road, enjoy the sidewalks and build a more resilient community.

El Portal's Senator Pizzo and Representative Joseph are wholeheartedly advocating for us and they are our champions in the Senate and House, respectively!

Planning & Zoning:

In an effort to promote energy and as part of a statewide initiative the Village of El Portal is now engaged with SolSmart! Our Village staff has been trained with SolSmart - in the application of the Villages permitting and planning processes. See Press Release below:



Also, we held a **Fence Regulation Townhall** on Saturday, February 23rd. The presentation and survey of this town hall can be found at: elportalvillage.com/departments/planning-zoning/ There will be more town halls coming up – always, visit our Village website elportalvillage.com to stay up-to-date on: town halls, meetings, events and more!

Economic Development Update:

Sanctuary: As of February 2019, their initial septic design was rejected by the county, as such they had to re-submit their septic design to Miami Dade County for approval – those plans were submitted on Monday, February 11, 2019.

Little Farm: The Manager and I met with their project managers on Fri-

Continued on page 2

Mayor (cont. from page 1)

day, February 22nd. They are in the last phase of designating Brownsfield, they are interviewing local architects and will continue to be in touch with us. They continue to envision this 15 acre property to be multi-use, carrying out the vision of our 2013 Charrette, as well as, keeping the future of our Village in mind – more to come on this!

Annexed Area: Juan, our Planner, and I met with the proprietors to review their preliminary design for the 3 acre Annexed area (83rd and 84th streets). If all moves accordingly there will be an upcoming townhall and they may be going before the Planning and Zoning Committee in May.

Public Safety:

Corporal Bernard Sharpe has been appointed Acting Chief by the Village Manager, while the Village Manager actively interviews for a New El Por-

tal Chief of Police. Village Manager and Acting Chief Corporal Sharpe are working together to resolve the most pressing priorities raised from the McGrath Consulting Assessment.

Also, the police shift schedules have been adjusted to reflect equitable and overlapping coverage in the afternoon and evenings to mitigate police officers working alone! Thank you - this is a request that the Public Safety Committee asked for in September 2018.

Part time Officers: **Mark Tynes** and **Alexander Martinez**, have been made full time El Portal Police Officers, and will be sworn-in at our March Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 26th at 7pm.

Lastly, I've been working with the Mayor of Miami Shores about the possibilities of El Portal Police Department sharing the Miami Shores Police Dispatcher so that we can be on the



same frequency - more to come on this.

As a reminder always visit our website: elportalvillage.com for regular updates, and do not hesitate to reach out to me at 305 778-4199 or mayorcubillos@villageofelportal.org.

Yours in service,
 Claudia V. Cubillos, Mayor
 Public Safety Chair
 Planning and Zoning Chair
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IT'S ALL ABOUT COMPLIANCE

The Village Council has established codes and ordinances to ensure that Village is kept beautiful and inviting. Village codes protect the health, safety and quality of life for El Portal residents, visitors and business people. Nuisance and right of way code enforcement process falls under the purview of the El Portal Police Department and are enforced by a duly appointed Code Enforcement Officer (CEO).



If residents feel any of the municipal codes are being violated they should contact the Police Department to advise of a possible code violation. Examples of the violations are overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles, accumulation of junk, violations of the noise ordinances, and any other violations that make the Village look shoddy or unkempt. Enforcing Village Codes keep property values up and come bring business activity to the area as well as tourism.

Most code enforcement cases are initiated by El Portal residents and not law enforcement. This is exactly how code enforcement is supposed to work. If you suspect any code violation on your block or anywhere throughout the Village, please report it to the El Portal Police Department or Code Enforcement Officer Carlos Garcia 305.759.7880.

Once reported, the matter will be investigated. If it is found to be a valid violation, the CEO will begin the process of getting the violation corrected. The amount of time it takes for a violation to be corrected varies with each situation. Code Enforcement is not designed to be punitive, but correction and compliance is the goal.

Harold E. Mathis, Jr., Chair of Code Enforcement

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FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Organic Landscaping Practices Town Hall
Sat, Mar 16, 2019
10:00 am - 11:30 am
El Portal Village Hall
Hosted by: Councilperson Roman

APRIL Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Bring your own basket!
Ages 2-10
Sat, April 20, 2019
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
El Portal Tot Lot

Earth Day Operation Village Wide Clean Up
Sat, April 27, 2019
7:00 am
Horace Mann Middle School
(8950 NW 2nd Ave)

MAY 11th Annual Armed Forces Day 5k Run/Walk
Sat, May 18, 2019
6:00 - 6:30
Same Day Registration
7:00 Event Starts
El Portal Village Hall



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

“Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.” – Oprah Winfrey

I trust that everyone is getting off to a great start of the year.

This year I’ve been appointed the Chair of the Public Affairs Committee. In this role, I plan to communicate with you as much as possible to ensure that you are updated and most importantly, well informed. In addition to communication, I will Chair the community events of the upcoming year. Although we cancelled the Art Fair this year and some of our other events, we did roll over some of our most popular annual events and I believe you will find that there is something for everyone to be a part of. I hope to see many of you around the village. I remain open to your feedback and helping hand in making the Village of El Portal a place that we can all be proud off to call our home, where we feel safe and joyful because as Helen Keller once said **“Alone We Can Do So Little. Together We Can Do So Much”**.

Committee Meetings:

The Committee Meetings take place every other month on the **first and third** Tuesday of the month starting at 6:30 pm as follows:

1st Tuesday: Public Safety, Code Enforcement and Public Works

3rd Tuesday: Admin & Finance, Planning & Zoning and Public Affairs

Chairs as of January 2019 -(please note that these are subject to change after the election of Councilperson Seat #1):

Public Safety: Mayor Cubillos

Code Enforcement: Councilperson Matthis

Public Works: Councilperson Matthis

Admin & Finance: Omarr Nickerson

Planning & Zoning: Mayor Cubillos

Public Affairs: Councilperson Roman

Recap from January 2019 Committee Meetings. Please visit the Village website elportalvillage.com/meetings for the actual minutes.

Code Enforcement: Councilperson Mathis is getting updated on all the violations and will be coming together with Code Enforcement Carlos Garcia for the 2019 plan of action in order to satisfy as many violations. Home of the Month program has been extended for a second year.

Public Works: The Village and the new Chair of Public Works, Councilperson Mathis as still working with the

County as well as Senator Jason Pizzo to gain a land use agreement from Miami-Dade School Board for the land needed to construct the pump/lift station needed for the septic to sewer conversion project at Horace Mann Middle School. There is a concerning outstanding balance of work with Pennoni which needs to come in front of the Village Council.



Admin & Finance: The Village Manager will be sending out an RFP for a CPA, waste management company, emergency recovery and debris removal companies. The Village Manager has completed an Employee Manual that will be reviewed and come in front of the Council for adoption via resolution. The committee has to finalize the Village Clerk’s job description and per the Sept 2018 meeting, consider bringing the position Full-time. The Village terminated the lobbying contract with Southern Strategies Group and is in the process of extending the contract with Akerman to work on the Village’s Legislative Priorities for 2019.

Public Affairs: The Village is looking to get quotes to update the Village existing website to ensure that it’s user friendly and ADA compliant. The calendar of events for 2019 has been finalized. During quarter one, the committee hosted our Annual Black History Luncheon on Wednesday, Feb 27th and the 4th Annual Arbor Day - Celebration of being a Tree City USA on Saturday, Mar 9th

Special Election: Councilperson Werner Dreher, Seat #1 resigned in January 2019. There will be a Special Election

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Public Affaris (cont. from page 4)

taking place on April 2, 2019. Public Notice has been sent and additional details have been posted by the Village Clerk on the Village website.

Home of the Month

Congratulations to our Home of the Month winners for December’s Holiday Contest!



First Place Winner: 40 NE 86th St - ALEX J ADRIANZA



Second Place Winner: 450 NW 91 St - SHERA HANS-PAL & MANVIR DHANJAL



Third Place Winners: 199 NW 90th Street - SCOTT RUSSELL & RODOLFO ALFONSO

Honorable mention list - thank you so much for participating!

485 NW 87th St - Last Year’s Winners did an amazing job this year and we thank you!

295 NE 88th St

229 NW 86th St

52 NE 89th St

Thank you to all of our winners and everyone that participated for taking such pride in their homes, and bringing the holiday spirit to our Village of El Portal.

HOME OF THE MONTH 2019 DETAILS:

We are excited to extend the Home of the Month program for 2019. We’ve made a few changes this year in order to make it easier to nominate homes and acknowledge the different sections of the village. Following are the details of the 2019 program.



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

Program Sponsored by: Councilperson Roman

2019 Committee of Residents: Chair: Andrew Naylor, Vice-Chair: David Ward, Member: Scott Russell & Councilperson Vimari Roman

The Committee is responsible for voting for the properties, placing the Home of the Month Signs on the properties and communication. Any resident is welcome to join the committee. If you would like to join the Committee please email elportalhomeofthemonth@gmail.com or contact Andrew Naylor @ 312-622-0855.

2019 Selection: The 2019 Home of the Month committee has divided the village into 10 districts and each month the Home of the Month committee will select a district and homes from the district selected will have the opportunity to be nominated. Please reference the district map below. Nominations are due to the Committee the 5th of every month. The Committee will vote on the nominations and a “Home of the Month” will be selected by the 15th of each month. A sign will be placed in the front yard and photos of the winning homes will be published in the quarterly Peacock Newsletter.

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Public Affairs (cont. from page 5)

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. District Map below.

Monthly Awards: The intent is to select one home in El Portal each month – the committee may deviate from this plan. The homes will be selected by the Committee and announced via Nextdoor and the Village Website. District Map attached. The homes selected will receive the Home of the Month yard sign until the next homes are selected.

Halloween and Christmas Holidays:

Ready to decorate for the holidays? The committee will award three homes throughout the Village that have the best outdoor decorations and each of the winners will receive a Home Depot Gift card as follows:

- 1st place winner: \$150
- 2nd place winner: \$100
- 3rd place winner: \$50

Please visit the Village of El Portal website to view past winners: <http://elportalvillage.com/archives/home-of-the-month/>

On behalf of the committee, we hope that you are as excited as we are to be on the second year of this program, and we look forward to recognizing all of your exterior improvements in the months to come.



The Woman's Club hosted their annual "I Love My Village" Photo Contest! Winners and runner-ups will have the opportunity to be featured in the 2020 Calendar, which will be for sale later in the year. Winners will also be featured at the Annual BBQ. Check out: ElPortalWomansClub.org.

With that, I'll conclude my report. As always, I am available via phone or email should you wish to speak, have any questions, concerns or ideas. I look forward to seeing you around the village or at the upcoming events.

Cheers, Vimari
 Councilperson Roman Seat #2
 305-395-2536 | vroman@villageofelportal.org

St. Patty's Day Riddles

Q: What is out on the lawn all summer and is Irish? **A:** Paddy O'Furniture

Q: What do you call a fake stone in Ireland? **A:** A sham rock

Q: Why does a leprechaun wear green suspenders? **A:** To hold his pants up!

Q: How late do leprechaun kids get to stay up? **A:** Until the wee hours.

Q: How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time? **A:** He's Dublin over with laughter!

Has the thought of selling your home crossed your mind?

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What is the difference between an ordinance and a resolution?

The Florida Constitution gives the power or discretion to create municipalities to the legislature. The legislature may also establish or abolish a municipality by general or special law. The Florida Constitution also confers upon municipalities “governmental, corporate and proprietary powers to enable them to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services, and may exercise any power for municipal purposes except as otherwise provided by law.” Fla. Const. art. VIII, §2(b).

The municipal or village governing body must conduct business by ordinance or resolution and a frequent dilemma for new and even veteran councilmembers, is deciding when it is appropriate to use a resolution versus an ordinance. Generally, an ordinance is a law made by a municipality or local authority. Florida law defines ordinance to mean an official legislative action of a governing body, which action is a regulation and permanent nature and enforceable as a local law. Sec. 166.041(1)(a), Florida Statutes. However, an ordinance is not restricted to adopting laws. Ordinances may also be used to adopt a rule or policy with broad applicability, significant impact and an extended duration.

On the other hand, a resolution is a formal expression of opinion, will or intent of the council. Municipal resolutions are generally adopted in written form to doc-

ument the opinion, will or intent of the council. Florida law defines resolution as an expression of a governing body concerning matters of administration, an expression of temporary character, or a provision for the disposition of a particular item of the administrative business of the governing body. Sec. 166.041(1)(b), Florida Statutes. Therefore, the council policy or position expressed in a resolution is generally considered to have a limited duration because it can be changed at any time by a single vote of the council.

Florida law requires that ordinances and resolutions must be in writing and must only embrace one subject and matters properly connected. Procedurally, the law also requires that the governing body hold two advertised public hearings on a proposed ordinance; and at least one hearing, must be held after 5 p.m. on a weekday. The statute



also requires certain advertising requirements to include limiting the width, columns, and location in a newspaper where legal notices and classified advertisements appear. Finally, Florida requires that any cause of action or lawsuit challenging the validity of an ordinance or resolution based on the failure to comply with the statutory requirements must be filed five years after its adoption.



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Village of El Portal Joins National Program to Reduce Solar Energy Costs February 11, 2019

The Village of El Portal has recently teamed up with the South Florida Regional Planning Council and joined a cohort of cities and counties participating in SolSmart, a national technical assistance and designation program that guides communities in lowering the costs and barriers for community members to go solar and encourages solar energy development. South Florida Regional Planning Council was selected together in a competitive process nationwide to be granted no-cost technical assistance from a SolSmart Advisor. The Advisor has been working full-time since November with the Village of El Portal to provide expertise and dedicated support to encourage solar energy growth locally and to help achieve SolSmart designation.

Mayor's Citizen of the Quarter

Zamira Diaz, is the 2nd VP and Membership Committee Chair of the El Portal Woman's Club; and for the last 2 years she has spearheaded the coordination of the Arbor Day Top Chefs!



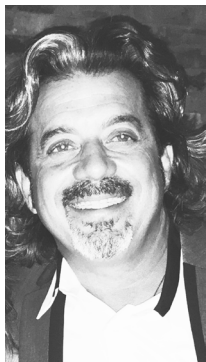
Her commitment, passion, and infectious smile is always present in all she does for our community and the organization.

Thank you Zamira for caring about our Village, thank you for taking the time to give back as selflessly as you do, and thank you for being a fantastic El Portal resident!



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2019 BULK WASTE SCHEDULE, VILLAGE OF EL PORTAL

- Service is provided once each quarter, usually during the **last week of the last quarter of each month, except December, which is scheduled in the third week of that month.** See schedule below for exact service days for your area this year.
- The Village will be divided into three zones, with each zone scheduled for a specific day of each quarter. **Residents MUST have the bulk waste set out no later than 7:00 a.m. on their scheduled service day.** It is strongly recommended that residents put the bulk waste out the evening before their scheduled service date.
- Zone 1 includes all homes west of North Miami Avenue. Zone 1 will be serviced on Tuesday of each quarterly service week.
- Zone 2 includes all homes east of North Miami Avenue from NE 88th St. to NE 90th St. Zone 2 will be serviced on Wednesday of each quarterly service week.
- Zone 3 includes all homes east of North Miami Avenue from NE 87th St. south to the southern end of Village limits (Little River). Zone 3 will be serviced on Thursday of each quarterly service week.
- *Note that the 4th quarter bulk date is one week earlier than usual (changed to the third week of the month of December rather than the last week) due to the Christmas holiday.*

Service days for 2019 will be as follows:

Quarter	Zone 1 Day & Date	Zone 2 Day & Date	Zone 3 Day & Date
1 st Quarter/ 2019	Tuesday 3/26/19	Wednesday 3/27/19	Thursday 3/28/19
2 nd Quarter/2019	Tuesday 6/25/19	Wednesday 6/26/19	Thursday 6/27/19
3 rd Quarter/2019	Tuesday 9/24/19	Wednesday 9/25/19	Thursday 9/26/19
4 th Quarter/2019	Tuesday 12/17/19	Wednesday 12/18/19	Thursday 12/19/19

The regular bulk collection schedule above is for approved bulky wastes that cannot fit within the carts. Acceptable bulky items include yard trash with pieces no larger than 6 feet, vegetative and wood matter that is part of normal yard maintenance, household furniture, and household trash. **Please place appropriate bulk waste items away from trees, cars, and other objects in order to provide access by the crane trucks.** Waste generated by contractors or subcontractors is NOT considered household trash, and should NOT be placed out for collection.

Residents requiring special bulk waste collections (at times other than the regular schedule) should contact Village Hall **BEFORE** placing bulk waste out. Additional fees will apply for special bulk collections. Please visit www.elportalvillage.com for up-to-date information.

Other options for special bulk collections are available at www.TheBagster.com.


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CELEBRATING WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Claudia V. Cubillos, Mayor of El Portal, is the first Hispanic woman to have been elected in the Village of El Portal. In 2008 she was first elected as Councilperson Seat 2, and in 2014 she was elected Mayor. She has been re-elected in 2016 and 2018, unopposed. Before becoming an Entrepreneur in the summer of 2007, she was an International Corporate Executive at a Fortune 500 company for many years. As a military wife, education entrepreneur, and public servant, she dedicates her time to our veterans, children and senior’s . Lastly, as the last of 9 children, she enjoys spending time with her family, husband and her 3 rescue dogs!



Councilperson Vimari Roman was first elected in November of 2016 to El Portal Village Council Seat 1 - she was inspired to run and represent our Village after having been an active and involved resident! Before becoming an entrepreneur in 2013, she was a hospitality professional for over 20 year! She was re-elected in November of 2018, unopposed, to serve in her 2nd term! Her favorite quote and motto is: “alone we can do so little; together we can do so much more!”



Yenise Jacobi, Village Clerk of El Portal, joined us on November 17, 2015. A mother to 3 beautiful children, she came to us in 2015 after having worked at Hialeah Housing Authority, and as a legal assistant for many years. Her children are her world, and she can also be seen running around helping out at our community events.



Blair Buble, Building Department Clerk of El Portal joined our team on December 3, 2018. Prior to joining us she worked for the Town of Southwest Ranches, where as she puts it was the “chief of first impressions.” Blair enjoys working in small municipalities, and believes in making a difference. She enjoys volunteering, yoga, and spending time with her family.



Marjorie Tapia, Finance and Human Resources Coordinator of El Portal joined our team a year ago. Prior to joining us, she worked for the City of Coral Gables, first as an Intern for the Public Safety Director, and thereafter in their Human Resources Department. She enjoys spending quality time with her family - especially with her dogs.



Christia E. Alou, Village Manager of El Portal joined us on August 5, 2017 as the Interim Village Manager. She is an attorney, a mother to a beautiful daughter, a Board member on several Miami Dade Advisory Boards and Village Manager since April of 2018. A class act with unwavering professionalism.

