

Inside Hillcrest

– Connecting Neighbors to Neighbors –



JULY 2021

HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 7

JULY INSIDE HILLCREST

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Welcome to our semi-annual Whimsy issue where we print stories and jokes that have been sent in by you, our readers over the previous 6 months. I always preface these issues with that statement so you don't blame me if the jokes are not up to your standards. I think you all did a pretty good job this time. I knocked this issue out a week early so I could enjoy my daughter and granddaughter's visit July 8th through the 13th. They were here from Texas (we publish the 15th so I was "under the gun" as they say).

My daughter Jennifer turned out better than my baking and I enjoy her company. My granddaughter Zowey is just the nicest kid and has a great personality! She has me laughing most of the time which is my favorite thing to do. All she wanted to do while she was here was swim and cook which are my second and third most favorite things to do. We made both recipes in this month's Kitchen Korner. Remember that pasta sauce is way better the next day. As for the Lemon Buttercream Cake, grandma did not let it cool long enough and it came apart in pieces. Zowey glued it back together with the super-delicious frosting and dubbed it the "Lemon Lump Cake". It was ugly but delicious.

GREAT REPRESENTATION

Hillcrest is lucky to have great people looking out for us. See inside for a great article about what our own State Representative, **Marie Woodson**, has been up to. She is doing a great job for us in Tallahassee. That woman works hard! And she always keeps her Hillcrest constituents in mind. Our City Commissioner **Linda Sherwood** has an article about what is going on with Orangebrook Golf Club which is right up the street from us. And **Marty Kiar**, our Broward County Property Appraiser writes about Veteran benefits. In my opinion, we cannot do enough for our Veterans but I am glad we are trying.

Once again, our top notch **Hillcrest Compliance Committee** members had a meeting with the representatives from Pulte about some unfinished projects. Details inside. If you see any of these folks, give them a heartfelt THANK YOU. Without them we would have no one looking out for us.

ADVERTISERS

Our advertisers do a lot for Hillcrest. They take extra special care of us because they have been recommended by a reader and want to live up to their reputation of being great to work with. Plus, they know that their advertising dollars go back to Hillcresters after IH expenses are paid. The pandemic did affect some of our advertisers – especially in-home services. Now that things have calmed down and most of us are vaccinated, we welcome back our "Computer Guy" **Greg Gendusa**.

Don't forget our other advertisers who bring their services to you in the comfort of your own home: our jewelry guy **Dino Petropoulos** of **Justingems**, **Dr. Henkel**, our **podiatrist, Alex Altidor** of **Fred Services LLC** who can repair your computer and phone or install a Home Theater System for you. We also have **Brando Valenzuela** who owns **Florida Tubs** who can make your tub look brand new. Our **handymen Larry and Leonardo** (who speaks Spanish and Italian) repair sliding glass doors that are hard to open, and they installed my friend Catherine's laminate floors. They also do painting and install safety bars in bathrooms.

David Treece of **Treece Financial** comes to us when we have a seller who is in an ALF or nursing home and needs to protect their proceeds from the sale to last for as long as possible. He is the man I entrust my assets to as well as my granddaughters college fund. And, of course, **Palm Aluminum and Glass** (ask for Michele) for impact windows and doors. Ask for **Dario** from **Allure Shade Concepts** when you need window treatments.

INSURANCE JOKE

I know I have told this story before but it fits perfectly for our joke issue. In the seventies I knew a bookie we called "Billy the Book". He would sit at the bar at Tony Roma's and ply his trade. Every so often some guy would

start mouthing off about who was going to win the game that weekend. Billy would say, "Wanna bet on that?" One time the guy responded, "Oh no – I don't gamble". Billy said, "You don't gamble? Really? Do you have life insurance? Health Insurance? Auto Insurance? You know what that is? You're betting you're going to die – they're betting you're not. You're betting you're going to get sick – they're betting you're not. You're betting you're going to get in an accident – they're betting you're not. And you know something buddy? When you win...you LOSE!"

I never forgot that and to this day I think it is the best definition of insurance I ever heard. That being said, insurance is one of the most important investments we make in life. But like any other business, there are people out there who sell you just to sell you and you find out too late that the "product" ends up not being what you expected.

I strongly suggest that you call **Sharon King from State Farm** and have her review your homeowners and auto insurance policies. If you are a building board member, call **Brandon Levy of Legacy Insurance** to review your condo policy. As I have said before, I know for a fact that some of our buildings are grossly underinsured. Be sure you have the coverage you THINK you have or at least get educated about what you are missing. Insurance is not a joke after all.

CONTESTS

Want to win a \$25.00 Aldi's gift card or a special gift? The first person to call me with the answer to WHO IS THIS gets the gift card. Hint: She is a woman known around the world, one of only 57 women to win a Nobel Prize and in 2016 received an honor that few people in history achieve. Here is a picture of her when she was young.



The first person who emails me the answers to the quiz below wins a prize. The prize is the answer to #15.

"HISTORY" QUIZ FOR BABY BOOMERS AND OLDER

An Inside Hillcrest reader sent me this and I really had a good time with it. I got 12 right.



Building A Better Community

Continued on Pg. 3

PLANS CHANGE - *By Vice Mayor Linda Sherwood*



Let me begin this article by stating that I have been a Hollywood City Commissioner for 14 years and in that time not one project that came before us remained totally the same when completed. What does that mean?

Someone comes with an idea, a concept, or a dream for a project, but once we get into the technical phase which includes placement, storm drain management, height or even esthetics, the original plans change and adjustments have to be made. Let me also say here that I am not a designer, not an architect or contractor, nor am I a sustainability manager. I rely on our more than qualified and brilliant staff and we as a Commission go to some expense to hire outside experts to make decisions on every project that comes to Hollywood. My decisions are not only based on what benefits my district but also what will benefit our city as a whole. I believe each commissioner on our dais does the same.

Now to the subject of Orangebrook Golf Course and the new Police Headquarters. In a very proactive action, the Park East Civic Association came to us at least 4 years ago about the Orangebrook Golf Course and a dream of how they perceived a new golf course should look. In those discussions they even considered that the police headquarters could move to that location and possibly a hotel could be built. The Association worked diligently to help get the GOBOND passed so that the golf course and police headquarters could be built.

As the news of the golf course got out, an unsolicited Public Private Partnership proposal was sent in to us. This is known as a P3. These proposals can be invaluable to any city for a multitude of reasons which would take another entire article to explain. When receiving this type of proposal, solicited or not, the City is required to publicly offer other developers the opportunity to submit alternative proposals. This was done. However, it can take months to complete the review process. As a result, plans for the golf course, club house and nature preserve were put on the back burner, so to speak, until all proposals could be reviewed. Knowing we had enough bond money to build the Police Headquarters and get it done in time for the city's 100 year celebration we decided to move forward on that project. A team including staff and outside experts was approved by the commission to begin plans.

When sharing the plans to the community we explained that this team had determined the headquarters needed to be further south due to storm water management issues as a protection to the surrounding area. Any project being built must abide by the strict standards of the EPA. The new plan does that. However, when presented to the community the new sketch did not look like the original drawing brought in by Park East. In Park East's judgement, this new plan would take away from the golf course and nature preserve. Questions could not be answered about the golf course during that presentation because no plan for the golf course had yet been selected or approved. This was understandably frustrating to the community.

Unfortunately, the knee jerk reaction was that the city was not being transparent. Or that someone was pulling a bait and switch. I can assure everyone that this is not the case at all. The city would not go into any project that did not contribute to the betterment for the future of Hollywood. We know that in order to meet state, county, and city requirements, the best laid plans are subject to change. We can move buildings and make more space by building up. By doing this green space can be saved and the course and preserve remain magnificent. There are 245 acres in the golf course project and the community has been assured by our experts that the police headquarters moving more south will not in any way interfere with the 36 holes promised, or the approximate 23 acre nature preserve, clubhouse and possible

hotel. The original layout may have changed but once we are able to evaluate all the new proposals for the Golf Course the community WILL RECEIVE what they asked for.

On Hollywood Blvd. once the current police station and vast parking area are removed 3 to 4 acres facing the boulevard will be used to accommodate "mixed use" buildings. This means a mix of offices, retail, and apartments; all of which will bring tax dollars to the city. Currently that area is zoned for government use and of course generates no income to the city.

The residents on Entrada Drive are concerned the mixed use will bring traffic and noise. These residents will be protected by buffering with either dry or wet retention areas. We are also highly aware that the residents do not want a lot of traffic going down their small street. We are working to find a way to prevent that and keep the traffic flow on Hollywood Boulevard. As a Commission, we are doing everything possible to protect our community and make sure that the wants and needs of our residents are met to the best of our ability. At the same time, we continue to move Hollywood forward.

Please trust that we are all looking to make Hollywood the best city in Florida in which to live, work and play. Trust that we will not only have the most updated High End Police Headquarters but a World Class Championship Golf Course and Nature Preserve. Whether you play golf or simply want to take in the beauty of nature, we want you all to be proud and happy to a citizen of Hollywood Florida.

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

On a highway: Who hates speeding tickets? Raise your right foot!

On a Bookstore: Please note: The post-apocalyptic section has been moved to Current Events.

In a strip mall parking lot: Shop Local. Because Amazon won't sponsor your kid's baseball team.

On a Synagogue: Adam and Eve. First ones to ignore Apple terms and conditions.

On a classroom chalkboard: Dear Algebra, stop asking us to find your X. She isn't coming back and don't ask Y.

At a Zoo: Those who throw objects/stones at the crocodiles/snakes will be asked to retrieve them.

On Private Property: No Trespassing. We're tired of hiding the bodies.

On a front door: WELCOME SOLICITERS This household charges \$20 per minute to listen to sales pitches, religious messages, and any other speech you are offering today. These fees are payable in advance. You hereby acknowledge your agreement to the terms above by knocking on the door or ringing the doorbell.

On a Gentlemen's Club: Clothed until August 20th

Freshman State Representative Marie Woodson's Bills Signed into Law



TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – This week, **Governor Ron DeSantis** signed **HB 597** into law, a bill freshman State Representative Marie Woodson (D-Hollywood) introduced to simplify the renewal process for the additional homestead exemption available to qualifying seniors by requiring that they submit the statement of household income only the first time they are claiming the exemption.

“Thank you to **Representative Woodson** for her hard work making a difference for thousands of Florida seniors as **HB 597** will simplify and streamline the process for those who qualify to renew their Senior Exemption each year. Thousands of low-income seniors throughout the State of Florida struggling to make ends meet will now receive the benefit of this important exemption through automatic renewal,” said **Marty Kiar, Broward County Property Appraiser**.

Governor DeSantis also signed **SB 590** into law this week, which includes wording from **HB 489**, a bill sponsored by **Representative Woodson and Representative Dan Daley (D-Coral Springs)**. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, each school district in the state will be required to include the telephone numbers and text lines for national or state crisis and suicide hotlines on any school-issued student identification card for students in grades 6 through 12.

A few weeks ago, **Governor DeSantis** signed **SB 1532** into law as well, which includes wording from **HB 1075**, a bill sponsored by **Representative Woodson**. The new bill ensures divorcing parents of children with special needs and/or emotional concerns are educated about the specific needs of their children, as well as about the resources and community services available and how to access them.

“I am so happy that this bill was signed into law as amended. It is one more step toward empowering parents and children by offering resources and education for their specific needs,” said **Raquel Catalano**, the mother of **Ava**, a child with special needs child who was the inspiration for the language of **HB 1075**.

Representative Woodson stated, “I am grateful to the Governor for signing these bills into law which will go a long way in improving the lives of Floridians of all ages across the state. A special thank you as well to **Marty Kiar** for his tireless work on **HB 597** and to all my colleagues in the House and the Senate who helped move these bills across the finish line.”

Continued from Pg. 1

As for #2, I was actually in the audience and saw the show live in a hotel on Miami Beach.

Some of the answers will be on the tip of your tongue and for the life of you, you just can't remember. Feel free to sing the jingles. No cheating!

1. After the Lone Ranger saved the day and rode off into the sunset, the grateful citizens would ask, “Who was that masked man?” Invariably, someone would answer, “I don't know, but he left this behind”. What did he leave behind? _____

2. When the Beatles first came to the U.S. In early 1964, we all watched them on “The _____ Show.”

3. Get your kicks, _____.

4. The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed to _____.

5. In the jungle, the mighty jungle, _____.

6. After the Twist, The Mashed Potato, and the Watusi, we danced under a stick that was lowered as low as we could go in a dance called the _____.

7. Nestles makes the very best _____.

8. Satchmo was America's Ambassador of Goodwill. Our parents shared this great jazz trumpet player with us. His name was _____.

9. What takes a licking and keeps on ticking? _____

10. Red Skeleton's hobo character was named _____ and Red always ended his television show by saying, Good Night, and _____.

11. Some women who protested the Vietnam War did so by burning their _____.

12. The cute little car with the engine in the back and the trunk in the front was called the VW. What other names did it go by? _____ & _____.

13. In 1971, singer Don MacLean sang a song about, the day the music died. This was a tribute to _____.

14. We can remember the first satellite placed into orbit. The Russians did it. It was called _____.

15. One of the big fads of the late 50s and 60s was a large plastic ring that we twirled around our waist. It was called the _____.

16. Remember LS/MFT _____ / _____?

17. “Hey Kids! What time is it?” Its _____.

18. Who knows what secrets lie in the hearts of men? Only The _____ Knows!

19. There was a song that came out in the 60s that was “a grave-yard smash”. The name of the song was _____! And it was sung by _____.

20. Alka Seltzer used a “boy with a tablet on his head” as its Logo/Representative. What was the boy's name? _____.

PULTE UPDATE - by Steve Schneider

Representatives from Hillcrest, Parkview at Hillcrest, Pulte, and Castle Group met for possibly the last time before the developer hands over control of the 645 home community to its owners. The hand-off is expected to happen by the end of this year, or in January 2022. The meeting with the Hillcrest Compliance Committee was held on June 24, starting at 1:30 p.m., at the small clubhouse, 4500 Hillcrest Dr. Representing Pulte were Andrew Maxey, VP of Land Acquisition, David Kanarek, Director of Community Associations, Southeast Florida, and Daniel Lemus, Land Property Manager. Also in attendance were Michelle Deverson, Parkview at Hillcrest HOA, Licensed Community Manager Castle Group, and Robert De Torres, resident member of the Parkview HOA. Robert Ducker, president of the Low and Mid Rise President's Council also attended. Compliance Committee members Betty Merk (15), Dr. George Jacobson (Parkview homeowner), Steve Hurtig (25), Mark Roth (26), Cindy Abraham, Secretary of the Hillcrest Leadership Council and Editor of Inside Hillcrest as well as Steve Schneider, Inside Hillcrest reporter completed the group.

Betty Merk and Dr. George Jacobson, of the Hillcrest Compliance Committee, discussed unresolved construction-related issues for Pulte to address before the builder gives up responsibility for the development. Dr. Jacobson, who now owns a home at Parkview at Hillcrest, said it is important to get everything addressed now so homeowners and the association that will represent them won't be left to make repairs and pay for them.

Here are the unresolved issues, in the order in which they were discussed:

1- Gates with uncovered posts need caps to deal with water that collects, Dr. Jacobson said. He added that three gates do not lock and need to work. Pulte said a contractor will check out these issues and fix them as soon as possible.

2- All of the expensive palm trees have been replaced, according to Dr. Jacobson. But he said dead trees on the walkways have not been addressed.

3- The Hillcrest President's Council installed concrete pathways near some of the low-rise buildings, leading to the park Hillcrest residents share with Parkview at Hillcrest owners, said Robert Drucker, the Council president. The council did this because of a three-foot drop by the gate that separates Hillcrest from the park.

4-Pulte still plans to install a gazebo south of Building 7. But the developer is dealing with delays because a newly hired contractor is waiting for materials, which are harder to get during the Covid-19 pandemic. The gazebo should be in the park by the end of the year, or before Pulte leaves, Pulte said. The new property manager is Amarilis Rodriguez and her email is: amarilis.rodriguez@castlegroup.com

5-Electricians hired by Pulte need access to nearby Hillcrest buildings to connect wiring for lights at Hillcrest entrances on 50th, 48th and 46th avenues. Drucker said some nearby building electric room doors are now open but the one at Building 17 still needs to be opened. Also, new lanterns will be placed on top of the lights at the Hillcrest entrances.

6-The pond behind high-rise Building 23 was rebuilt this spring. But walkways to the pond need asphalt. This project will start by the beginning of July, according to Pulte. Dr. Jacobson, of the Hillcrest Compliance Committee, said he noticed a lot of deterioration on a stretch of the walkway to the east, near Park Rd and the warehouse. The deterioration runs from north to south.

The doctor also mentioned a concern with new pathways behind the hi-rise buildings, where the grading is two feet higher than the walkway. He said this may cause rainwater to flood the area. Pulte plans to put in a raised curb but Jacobson stressed Pulte must resolve this issue now so homeowners won't be left to deal with it when Pulte leaves.

7- Drucker and Dr. Jacobson also asked Pulte to replace dead grass on Parkview at Hillcrest property so homeowners won't be left with the bill. Pulte will look at the issue near the clubhouse but will not commit to action.

8- Pulte announced that irrigation work has started by Buildings 26 and 27, where Pulte constructed a new pond. The construction generated dirt that must be removed before the irrigation system works.

Pulte also is working on the irrigation system at the north pond. It is expected to last for up to two months.

9-Pulte said it uses rainwater for its irrigation system. But Drucker, from the Hillcrest President's Council, said the sprinklers on Parkview at Hillcrest property, near Hillcrest Buildings 1 to 7, are not working. This is causing the grass to die. Pulte will look into this matter.

10-Pulte has not set a turnover date but expects to complete its work by the end of this year or in January, at the latest. Before leaving, Pulte will conduct three or four transition seminars with Parkview at Hillcrest homeowners. Pulte will relinquish its power, the president of the Parkview at Hillcrest HOA will resign, and homeowners will conduct an election to select its leaders.

11-The homeowners and the leaders they pick will decide what vendors to hire. But Pulte suggested Parkview homeowners stick with the vendors already working at the new development.

12-Michelle Deverson, who manages Parkview for Castle Group, will be leaving her position to return to school sometime in July.

13-Pulte noted that state statute does not necessarily dictate how Pulte continues to deal with the Hillcrest Compliance Committee and the Hillcrest residents they represent. But Pulte will discuss with counsel whether Pulte must get a release from Hillcrest relating to the restrictive covenants and whether Pulte needs to execute a release stating that they have completed all of their obligations before the homeowners take charge.

Cindy Abraham, the president of the Hillcrest Leadership Council, thanked Pulte because "you guys have been really responsive" to the needs documented by the Hillcrest Compliance Committee.

14- Some fobs for the small clubhouse may need to be reprogrammed. A replacement fob costs \$25. The fob also grants Hillcrest residents access to the tennis courts.

15-Replacement televisions for the small clubhouse have been delivered. But they need to be installed, Deverson, from Castle Group, said. She plans to look into the question of providing WIFI for the small clubhouse. Merk said Hillcrest residents were told WIFI would be included at the small clubhouse, which Parkview at Hillcrest residents built as part of the deal that let the development be constructed on former golf courses owned by Hillcrest.

16-Castle Group has returned three tables to the area in the back of the small clubhouse, which was closed for repairs due to water damage and mold. But more furniture must still be returned to the open-air area in the back of the small clubhouse.

17-Dr. Jacobson said the back area lacks lighting but that any lighting installed should not disturb the Parkview homeowners on the other side of the pond. Pulte promised to look into this issue.

18-Yellow lines on Hillcrest Drive in front of Building 23 continue causing traffic issues. "It's weird to get into that building," Abraham said. Pulte will review the matter.

19-There is also a problem with lighting around the turnabout, Dr. Jacobson said. Six or seven lights on Hillcrest Drive don't work, although the ones in the middle, near Building 21, are functioning, the doctor reported.

Pulte said work there is not done because the company needed to get a permit reissued. Pulte also needed to hire another contractor. The work should happen soon.

20-Deverson is working on building a community website where Hillcrest residents can check on reservations for the BBQ area at the small clubhouse.

21. Mark Roth (#26) noted part of the hedge has died on the south side of #26 next to the pathway. Pulte agreed to replace it.

Dr. Jacobson asked whether there is enough parking outside of the large clubhouse and small clubhouse if both BBQ's are booked at the same time. The two BQQ's can book up to a combined population of 225 people.

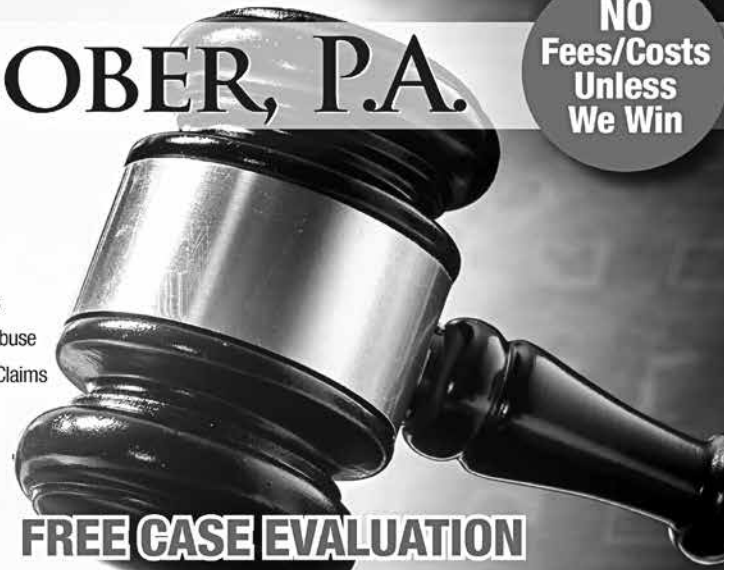
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July Kitchen Korner - by Cindy Abraham



In keeping with this being our joke/story issue, here are a couple of food related stories. In this Kitchen Korner is a recipe for homemade Italian sauce (the Italians call it "gravy" but I am not Italian. I told my friend Denise that I made homemade spaghetti sauce and that I thought it was GREAT! I was so proud because it is rare that I think anyone's sauce is better than some of the store-bought brands. (Boodro is an exception. He may be the Rajun' Cajun but he makes a killer sauce.) Of course, Denise's response was, "You wouldn't know good Italian gravy from a cannoli!" to which I replied - "Isn't that a white sauce?" I have always loved Italians. I even dated Jimmy Nine-and-a-half years ago (don't ask). I love their passion and energy. Italians are so funny when they get mad. I swear if you tied down their arms, they wouldn't be able to talk.

HOMEMADE PASTA SAUCE

- 1/2 cup chopped onion
 - 5 minced garlic cloves
 - 1/4 tsp red pepper flakes
 - 1/4 cup tomato paste (or more if you like thicker sauce)
 - 3/4 cup red wine
 - 1 (28-ounce) can crushed tomatoes
 - 1 tsp sugar
 - 2 cups beef broth
- IMPORTANT STEP:** Pan drippings - cook your meatballs/sausage first and use the drippings in the pan. Remove meat from pan to be added back in later.



Add onion to drippings and cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally until onion is softened and lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Stir in pepper flakes and garlic and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Stir in tomato paste and cook until slightly darkened, 3-4 minutes. Add wine and cook, scraping up any browned bits. Stir in sugar, tomatoes, and broth.

Return the meat to the sauce and simmer for at least an hour before serving over pasta or just serve the meat in the sauce with garlic bread. Either way, sauce is ALWAYS better the next day. After it has been in the refrigerator overnight, you can remove some of the hardened fat that rose to the top and congealed before you reheat it and serve.

From my friend Shayna in Hillcrest 23 about my garlic mashed potatoes tip in the last issue: "I saw your recipe for garlic mashed potatoes. I never made them until I saw Jacques Pepin prepare them. He threw peeled garlic cloves in the water with the potatoes so that they cooked together. After the potatoes are cooked, just mash them along with the garlic cloves. Easy and delish!" And it works! Thanks, Shayna!

I don't bake, yada yada yada... I promised you the recipe for the best Lemon Layer Cake I have ever had. This cake is delicious and fun to make. After I made it, then I realized why I don't do a lot of baking - too many bowls and utensils to clean but I guess it's like childbirth, you forget the pain and mess and end up doing it again. Bad analogy? Oh my, yes.

What started this one is that I had squeezed a bag of lemons for the juice (to freeze in ice cube trays for recipes) and I had plenty of zest

but I hated to throw away the peels, so I took a spoon to scoop out the remaining pulp and pith, sliced them up and made the candied lemon peels. In the heat of a lemon-headed moment I decided I wanted to put them to use in a cake recipe. Those lemon rinds mixed with the Lemon Buttercream Icing and used for topping put this recipe OVER THE TOP!

CANDIED LEMON PEELS

Cut lemons in half, juice them and scoop out pulp and pith with a spoon. (Call me if you don't know how to do this - or google it.) Then cut halves in half (so you have quarters). Slice the peels thin, place them in a sauce pan and cover with water. Bring to a boil for 30 seconds. Drain in a colander. Put the peels back into the sauce pan and cover with water again, bring to a boil for 30 seconds and drain again in a colander. Set peels aside. Put 4 cups of water and 3 cups of sugar (cane or turbinado) in the sauce pan and stir with a whisk while the water heats until sugar is completely dissolved. Add the peels back into the pan and simmer for 60-90 minutes stirring every 15 minutes. Drain the peels over a bowl and use the lemon syrup for other recipes (of course I make lemon drop cocktails). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper, spread the peels in a single layer and let them cool for about 15 minutes until sticky. I toss them with some sugar to keep them from sticking and make them a little sweeter but you don't have to. Let them cool and gel as is. Refrigerate overnight if you don't add more sugar or 2-3 hours if you do. They will last in a sealed jar for a few months. The sugar coated ones make a nice gift.



If you want to use them in the following recipe, mix them in with the frosting between the layers and then cover the cake with them. They look cool and taste great.

LEMON BUTTERCREAM CAKE OR LAYER CAKE (YOUR CHOICE)

- 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/3 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2/3 cup unsalted butter (room temperature)
- 1 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs (room temperature)
- 1 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
- 2/3 cup buttermilk (room temperature)
- 1 TBS lemon zest
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice



Lemon Buttercream Frosting

- 2/3 cup unsalted butter
- 5 1/5 oz softened cream cheese
- 3 cups powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 TBS fresh lemon juice
- 2/3 tsp lemon extract
- 1/8 tsp salt

Continued from Pg. 6

1. Preheat oven to 350 and grease two 9-inch cake pans or three 8 X 4 ½ inch loaf pans. Put parchment paper on the bottom.
2. Make the cake: Whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a medium bowl – set aside.
3. In a Large bowl, beat the butter and sugar on high speed until smooth and creamy, about 3 minutes, scraping down the sides with a rubber spatula as you go. Beat in the eggs and vanilla extract on high speed until combined, about 2 minutes, scraping down the sides.
4. With the mixer on low speed add the dry ingredients until combined. With the mixer still on low or switch to a handheld whisk, add the buttermilk, lemon zest, and lemon juice and mix until there are no more lumps. The batter will be thick.
5. Pour batter evenly into cake pans and bake for about 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick into the center of the cake comes out clean. Allow cakes to cool completely before frosting. The cakes should be fluffy but less than 2" high.

FROSTING

Beat the softened butter on medium speed in a large bowl until creamy. Add the softened cream cheese and beat until completely smooth. On low speed, add powdered sugar, lemon juice, and vanilla extract, a pinch of salt, and beat for 3 minutes.

ASSEMBLY

With a serrated knife, slice tops of cake to make them even if you are going to make a layer cake. Top each layer with 1 cup frosting and spread the remaining over the sides. Refrigerate at least 30-45 minutes before serving. Cover leftover cake and store in refrigerator for up to 5 days. Remember the Kitchen Tip in the last issue: If you are making a layer cake, use a sheet pan to slide the layers on top of each other.



Remember what the Valet who parked your car “looks like”, because WE DO NOT HAVE VALET PARKING!

How do you milk sheep? Bring out a new iPhone, and charge \$1000 for it!

Want to get rid of unwanted junk over the Holidays? Pack it in an Amazon box and leave it in your porch!

A married man’s honest confession: “I read my wife’s horoscope every morning to see what kind of day I’m going to have...”

I’m bored. I think I’ll go to the Mall, find a great parking spot and sit in my car with the reverse lights on.

If you’re sitting in public, and a stranger takes a seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say “Did you bring the money?”

When you ask me what I’m doing today, and I say “Nothing”, it doesn’t mean I’m free. It means I am doing NOTHING.

Interviewer: So, tell me about yourself. Me: I’d really rather not. I kinda want this job.

When someone asks me what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask: “Why?... What did you hear?”

Remember... When you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn’t fit any of your containers.

Sixty might be the new forty, but 9:00 is the new midnight.

When one door closes and another one opens...you are probably in prison!

If you get a LOAN at a bank, you’ll be paying it back for 30 years. If you ROB a bank, you’ll be out in 10 years. Follow me for more financial advice!

When I say, “the other day”, I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.

I don’t mean to interrupt people, I just randomly remember things, and get really excited!

I had my patience tested...I’m negative.

To me, “drink responsibility” means don’t spill it.

I hate when a couple argues in public, and I missed the beginning and don’t know whose side I’m on!

If you answer the phone with “Hello, you’re on the air!”, most telemarketers will quickly hang up...

That moment when you walk into a spider web and suddenly turn into a karate master.

When I ask for directions, please don’t use words like “East”.

The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

I remember the days when I was able to get up without making sound effects... GOOD TIMES!

When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can filled with celery? Asking for a friend.

My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb.

I run like the winded.

Don’t bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Try spending 30 seconds in my head. That’ll freak you right out!

Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life outta nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever... we call these people Cops.

Cop: “Please step out of the car.” Me: “I’m too drunk... You get in.”

Cop pulled me over & said: “You drinking?” I said: “You buying?” We laughed and laughed! I need bail money.

* * * * WIFE’S DIARY * * * *

Wife’s Diary: Tonight, I thought my husband was acting weird. We had made plans to meet at a nice restaurant for dinner. He had played golf during the day and I had been shopping with my friends all day long, so I thought he was upset at the fact that I was a bit late, but he made no comment on it. Conversation wasn’t flowing, so I suggested that we go somewhere quiet so we could talk. He agreed, but he didn’t say much. I asked him what was wrong; He said, “nothing.” I asked him if it was my fault that he was upset. He said he wasn’t upset, that it had nothing to do with me, and not to worry about it. On the way home, I told him that I loved him. He smiled slightly and kept driving. I can’t explain his behavior. I don’t know why he didn’t say, “I love you, too.”

When we got home, I felt as if I had lost him completely, as if he wanted nothing to do with me anymore. He just sat there quietly and watched TV. He continued to seem distant and absent.

Finally, with silence all around us, I decided to go to bed. About 15 minutes later, he came to bed. But I still felt that he was distracted, and his thoughts were somewhere else. He fell asleep; I cried. I am starting to wonder if his thoughts are with someone else. I don’t know what to do.

Husband’s Diary: A one-foot putt...who the hell misses a one-foot putt?

MARTY KIAR - BROWARD COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER



Veterans Receiving the Full Exemption for Service-Connected Total and Permanent Disability May Be Eligible for a Refund

A recent change in Florida law allows for certain disabled veterans to receive a property tax refund. While the refund requirements are very specific, some property owners receiving the Full Veteran's Exemption for Total and Permanent Service-Connected Disability may be eligible for a refund on their new homesteaded property's taxes.

Effective tax year 2021, homesteaded property owners receiving the Full Veteran's Exemption for Total and Permanent Service Connected Disability on a newly acquired Florida property - who also received the Full Exemption for Total and Permanent Service Connected Disability on another Florida property in the immediately preceding tax year - may be eligible to receive a partial refund of the ad valorem taxes paid for the newly acquired property in the year the property is acquired, prorated as of the date of transfer of ownership.

If you believe you are eligible to receive this prorated refund, please contact our office a 954-357-6035 or email us at CSEmgmt@bcpa.net
BCPA Outreach Returning to Governmental Center West

Our Mobile Exemption & Information Team has returned to the Governmental Center West located at 1 North University Drive in Plantation on Wednesdays from 12:00pm – 2:00pm. Our staff is available to assist residents with filing for any exemption and is available to answer any property questions you may have. To view all our upcoming events, please visit <https://web.bcpa.net/ExemptionsExpress/calendar>

To schedule a virtual visit from the safety of your home, please visit our website at <https://web.bcpa.net/virtualvisits>

The absolute deadline for applying for any 2021 exemption is September 20, 2021.

If my office can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 954.357.6904 or by email at martykiar@bcpa.net

Take Care,
 Marty Kiar, CFA
 Broward County Property Appraiser

HMMM

I wish my siblings would stop calling me "spoiled" just because I am the baby of the family. Fact is my parents just kept having children until they found one they liked. It is so not my problem.

Whenever my wife uses the phrase, "I've been thinking." I either have to move, build, paint, or buy something.

My wife is blaming me for ruining her birthday. That's ridiculous. I didn't even know it was her birthday.

I love waving at random people because you know the rest of the day, they're going to be trying to figure out where they know me from.



Barbara Buxton, J.D., LL.M. Attorney at Law

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A LIFE LESSON

A father said to his daughter "You have graduated with honors, here is a car I bought many years ago. It is pretty old now. But before I give it to you, take it to the used car lot downtown and tell them I want to sell it and see how much they offer you for it."

The daughter went to the used car lot, returned to her father, and said, "They offered me \$1,000 because the said it looks pretty worn out."

The father said, now "Take it to the pawn shop." The daughter went to the pawn shop, returned to her father, and said, "The pawn shop offered only \$100 because it is an old car."

The father asked his daughter to go to a car club now and show them the car. The daughter then took the car to the club, returned, and told her father, "Some people in the club offered \$100,000 for it because it's a Nissan Skyline R34, it's an iconic car and sought by many collectors."

The father replied, "The right place values you the right way."

If you are not valued, do not be angry, it means you are in the wrong place. Those who know your value are those who appreciate you..... Never stay in a place where no one sees your value. (Source unknown)

FUN FACTS:

- 1) You cannot see your ears without a mirror.
- 2) You cannot count your hairs.
- 3) You cannot breathe thru your nose with your tongue out.
- 4) You just tried #3.
- 6) When you tried #3, you realized it IS possible, but you looked like a dog.
- 7) You are smiling right now, because you were fooled!
- 8) You didn't notice there is no #5.
- 9) You just checked to see if there is a #5.
- 10) You share this with your friends so they can have a laugh, too!!



Why should your association call Legacy Insurance Associates? Ultimately, when capacity is low and demand is high the number one job of your insurance agent is to sell your risk to the insurance companies and show them why your risk should be provided a lower premium. This is not easy. You need an agent who has experience with the Hillcrest community and one who is willing to take the time and put in the effort to negotiate on your behalf. The current market is a tough one, and you need an agent with my expertise to get you the best possible program.

Over the past year, your agent should have been asking you questions about what updates you have done to your building and what risk management tools you are using to minimize claims activities. Does your insurance agent look at the major contracts you have with other vendors and review their certificates of insurance? Does your agent guide you in how do you educate your unit owners about their responsibilities? What type of proactive plan do you have in the event of a Hurricane?

As a preferred vendor in Hillcrest for the past 12 years, I am here to provide you with a second opinion for your current insurance. My job is to make sure you are getting what you pay for or at least know what may NOT be covered if your premiums seem lower than most. Your job is to protect your building and residents from possible disasters. I am an expert. when it comes to Hillcrest condo insurance. Please feel free to call me for a no strings attached appraisal of your building's current insurance coverage.

Please feel free to reach out to me any time to discuss additional questions you may have about this article as well as to set up a time for us to discuss your upcoming insurance renewal for your community.

Sincerely,

Brandon Levy, CIA - President

Legacy Insurance Associates Unlimited, Inc.

	Brandon Levy, CIA President blevy@legacyinsuranceassociates.com	
	Legacy Insurance Associates 2499 Glades Road Suite 313 Boca Raton, FL 33431 www.legacyinsuranceassociates.com	Phone (561) 877-1922 ext. 301 Cell (561) 945-3263 Fax (561) 513-6494

JEWISH WISDOM

Accept misfortune as a blessing. Do not wish for perfect health, or a life without problems. What would you talk about?

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single Oy. Zen is not easy.

It takes effort to attain nothingness. And then what do you have? Bupkis.

Breathe in, Breathe out. Forget this and attaining Enlightenment will be the least of your problems.

The Torah says, Love your neighbor as yourself. The Buddha says there is no self. So, maybe we're off the hook.

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ONE LINERS...OR MORE

The more I get to know people, the more I realize why Noah only let animals on the boat.

Sometimes the first step toward forgiveness is realizing the other person is a born idiot.

My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffered from mental illness. I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it."

Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say: "close enough."

I'm a multitasker. I can listen, ignore and forget all at the same time!

Retired: under new management. See spouse for details.

Sometimes it takes me all day to get nothing done.

Losing weight doesn't seem to be working for me, so from now I'm going to concentrate on getting taller.

Some people are like clouds, once they disappear it's a beautiful day.

Common sense is not a gift; it is a punishment because you have to deal with everyone who doesn't have it.

I came. I saw. I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps. Got lost on the way back. Now I have no idea what's going on.

I finally realized it. People are prisoners of their phones. That is why they are called cell phones.

I have not lost my mind. One half wandered off and the other half went looking for it.

Remember when we were young and couldn't wait to grow up so we could do whatever we wanted whenever we wanted to? How's that working out for you?

What's Happening In The Real Estate Market in Hillcrest and Hollywood?



Cindy Abraham



Brian Gaiefsky

The market for single-family homes has exploded. Right now, homes are at a premium and buyers are paying over list price; either all cash or coming up with the difference between the appraised price and the list price. Bidding wars are common.

What does this mean to us? Homes are becoming out of reach for many. The next best thing is a townhome or large condo. As we all know, Hillcrest condos are known for their size and views. And Keller Williams A Team Florida are known as the Hillcrest experts which is why agents shopping Hillcrest look for our listings.



Looking to buy or sell? Let's talk. Or send us an email or text:

Chat – 954-964-2559 - Email – Info@ATeamFlorida.com

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MAY 2021 STATE OF THE MARKET REPORT

– by Cindy Abraham, Keller Williams Realty Professionals A Team Florida

As of this writing there are 25 Hillcrest condos on the market of which seven are one-bedroom units. 19 went under contract during June (6 were one-bedrooms) and 17 closed including 5 one-bedrooms. This month I will print the closed sales so we have a dose of reality. Overpriced listings are back with a vengeance. And while in this market, it is not that insane to overprice a bit, be prepared to carry the monthly costs of waiting for the market to come up to your price...or not. Another sign of the current market is the number of listings that go under contract but then end up back on the market because the sale falls through. There are many reasons for that – rookie agents who miss timelines or do not vet the buyer properly and find out they are not qualified after all. And of course, appraisals continue to be a problem so we have a strategy to make up for the difference when an appraisal comes in lower than contract price. Because we know the pitfalls and how to avoid them, we are getting our contracts to the closing table more often than not.

There is no doubt the market is hot. My partner Brian Gaiefsky, who normally does all our showings played golf on a Saturday last month in the Diamonds in the Rough charity tournament. So, I was the one doing the showings. I broke my own record by doing 12 showings in a 4 hour period. Exhausting but one listing did sell that day for 10% over market value. Two offers were identical and we accepted the one that was complete with all the proper addendums attached as well as the buyer financials. Working with an agent who knows what they are doing made the difference in the buyer getting her offer accepted.

My favorite listing that I have been watching because it was on the market for 7 years and listed with 10 different realtors during that time, just showed up as cancelled. My new favorite listing is a low rise 2/2 that was listed for 145K and apparently didn't sell but was relisted with another agent for 205K. And even funnier, the square footage went down from 990 to 880! I would love to know the strategy behind that one.

I do not expect the tragic situation at Champlain and the current findings of infrastructure problems in other older condos to affect Hillcrest sales. Hillcrest is one of the best maintained and undervalued communities in Broward County in my opinion. However, the market

determines value, not the Realtor, and when you get an honest realtor to give you a CMA for fair market value, so when you list with the agent who tells you what you want to hear rather than the facts, do yourself a favor: put a clause in your listing agreement stating that if your unit doesn't sell for the inflated price, they MAY NOT ASK YOU TO LOWER. If they do, the listing is null and void. Now you are free to hire an agent with integrity. If you also want professionalism and experience, call us at **8-HILLCREST**. And here is an interesting tidbit – of the 25 listings we printed in the last issue of inside Hillcrest, only 8 still show up as Active listings which means that the others went under contract. The following are the closed sales for the month of June. Pay attention to list vs. sales price and Days on Market. Corner unit sales are designated by **C** and the rental building sales by **R**.

CLOSED SALES

Building	Unit #	B/B	SF	List Price	Sold	DOM
C-27	1101	2/2	1344	190,000	185,000	108
C-22	110	2/2	1312	185,000	180,000	6
C-27	501	2/2	1344	184,900	185,000	3
C-27	416	2/2	1344	179,999	168,000	74
C-23	419	2/2	1284	170,900	175,000	14
26	511	2/2	1132	168,000	160,000	135
R-20	406	2/2	1100	161,500	169,500	154
24	915	2/2	1132	161,500	150,000	129
C-24	319	2/2	1284	149,000	150,000	46
2	304	2/2	990	139,000	130,000	400
23	612	2/2	1132	130,000	125,000	18
22	615	2/2	1216	125,000	130,000	6
25	417	1/1/1	844	125,000	125,000	4
21	609	1/1/1	844	124,900	119,000	29
C-8	301	1/1/1	744	116,900	116,900	146
21	608	1/1/1	896	110,000	110,000	6
6	204	1/1/0	672	104,000	98,500	14

PARKVIEW AT HILLCREST

The name of the game is EQUITY. It is amazing how much equity has been built up for homeowners just in the past year. It looks like Parkview sellers are realizing close to a 20% profit from the time they bought the property until today. If you are thinking of selling your Parkview home or townhome, give us a call at **8-HILLCREST** or email us at **Info@ATeamFlorida.com** for a current market analysis. The properties below are designated S for single family homes and by the letter T for townhomes. All the listings below were in last month's market report also except for a single home on the water at 3943 Mahogany Lane.

ACTIVE LISTINGS

TOWNHOME	B/B	SF	List Price	PREV. SOLD FOR
S-1143 Large Leaf Lane	3/2/1	2220	891,638	N/A
S-1153 Large Leaf Lane	3/2/1	1961	736,070	N/A
T-925 Banyan Drive	3/2/1	1768	575,000	349,154
S-1001 Banyan Drive	3/2/1	1769	530,000	381,000
T-3976 Black Olive Ln	3/2/1	1421	445,000	315,900
T-4860 Eucalyptus #1	3/2/1	1561	439,000	340,000

JUNE PENDING SALES

TOWNHOME	B/B	SF	List Price	PREV. SOLD FOR
S-3943 Mahogany Lane	3/2/1	1881	629,999	492,999
T-4878 Greenway Dr	3/2/1	2029	550,000	415,000
S-945 Banyan Dr	3/2/1	2035	575,000	349,154
T-3040 Eucalyptus Dr.	3/2/1	1561	439,000	340,000

MAY CLOSED SALES

TOWNHOME	B/B	SF	List Price	PREV. SOLD FOR
S-1036 Banyan	3/2/1	2164	459,000 / 639,999	655,000
T-4774 Eucalyptus	3/2/1	2149	413,000 / 550,000	540,000
T-1070 Eucalyptus	3/2/1	1421	341,800 / 425,000	425,000
T-4000 Black Olive	3/2/1	1718	342,500 / 419,500	422,000

PARKVIEW AVAILABLE RENTALS

TOWNHOME	B/B	SF	RENT/MONTH	NOTES
S-1454 Myrtle Oak	3/2/1	1881	5000	2 car garage
T-1586 Myrtle Oak	3/2/1	1769	3950	2 car garage/Furn Neg
T-5100 Eucalyptus	3/2/1	1421	3500	2 car garage/Furnished
T-5087 Eucalyptus	3/2/1	1768	3450	2 car garage/waterfront
T-1070 Eucalyptus	3/2/0	1421	3200	1 car garage

PARKVIEW RENTED IN JUNE

TOWNHOME	B/B	SF	LIST/MONTH	NOTES
T-4014 Black Olive	3/2/1	1561	2900/2800	1 car garage/Unfurnished

Curious as to how much equity you have built up in your Parkview home? Call us at **8-HILLCREST** or email **INFO@ATeamFlorida.com**.

This is a wonderful piece by Michael Gartner, editor of newspapers large and small and president of NBC News. In 1997, he won the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing. It is well worth reading, and a few good chuckles are guaranteed. Here goes...

My father never drove a car. Well, that's not quite right. I should say I never saw him drive a car. He quit driving in 1927, when he was 25 years old, and the last car he drove was a 1926 Whippet.

"In those days," he told me when he was in his 90s, "to drive a car you had to do things with your hands, and do things with your feet, and look every which way, and I decided you could walk through life and enjoy it or drive through life and miss it."

At which point my mother, a sometimes salty Irishwoman, chimed in: she said. "He hit a horse."
"Well," my father said, "there was that, too."

So my brother and I grew up in a household without a car. The neighbors all had cars -- the Kollingses next door had a green 1941 Dodge, the VanLaninghams across the street a gray 1936 Plymouth, the Hopsons two doors down a black 1941 Ford -- but we had none.

My father, a newspaperman in Des Moines, would take the streetcar to work and, often as not, walk the 3 miles home. If he took the streetcar home, my mother and brother and I would walk the three blocks to the streetcar stop, meet him and walk home together.

My brother, David, was born in 1935, and I was born in 1938, and sometimes, at dinner, we'd ask how come all the neighbors had cars but we had none. "No one in the family drives," my mother would explain, and that was that. But, sometimes, my father would say, "But as soon as one of you boys turns 16, we'll get one." It was as if he wasn't sure which one of us would turn 16 first.

But, sure enough, my brother turned 16 before I did, so in 1951 my parents bought a used 1950 Chevrolet from a friend who ran the parts department at a Chevy dealership downtown. It was a four-door, white model, stick shift, fender skirts, loaded with everything, and, since my parents didn't drive, it more or less became my brother's car. Having a car but not being able to drive didn't bother my father, but it didn't make sense to my mother.

So in 1952, when she was 43 years old, she asked a friend to teach her to drive. She learned in a nearby cemetery, the place where I learned to drive the following year and where, a generation later, I took my two sons to practice driving. The cemetery probably was my father's idea. "Who can your mother hurt in the cemetery?" I remember him saying more than once.

For the next 45 years or so, until she was 90, my mother was the driver in the family. Neither she nor my father had any sense of direction, but he loaded up on maps -- though they seldom left the city limits -- and appointed himself navigator. It seemed to work.

Still, they both continued to walk a lot. My mother was a devout Catholic, and my father an equally devout agnostic, an arrangement that didn't seem to bother either of them through their 75 years of marriage. (Yes, 75 years, and they were deeply in love the entire time.)

He retired when he was 70, and nearly every morning for the next 20 years or so, he would walk with her the mile to St. Augustin's Church. She would walk down and sit in the front pew, and he would wait in the back until he saw which of the parish's two priests was on duty that morning. If it was the pastor, my father then would go out and take a 2-mile walk, meeting my mother at the end of the service and walking her home. If it was the assistant pastor, he'd take just a 1-mile walk

and then head back to the church. He called the priests "Father Fast" and "Father Slow."

After he retired, my father almost always accompanied my mother whenever she drove anywhere, even if he had no reason to go along. If she were going to the beauty parlor, he'd sit in the car and read, or go take a stroll or, if it was summer, have her keep the engine running so he could listen to the Cubs game on the radio. In the evening, then, when I'd stop by, he'd explain: "The Cubs lost again. The millionaire on second base made a bad throw to the millionaire on first base, so the multimillionaire on third base scored."

If she were going to the grocery store, he would go along to carry the bags out -- and to make sure she loaded up on ice cream. As I said, he was always the navigator, and once, when he was 95 and she was 88 and still driving, he said to me, "Do you want to know the secret of a long life?"

"I guess so," I said, knowing it probably would be something bizarre. "No left turns," he said.

"What?" I asked. "No left turns," he repeated. "Several years ago, your mother and I read an article that said most accidents that old people are in happen when they turn left in front of oncoming traffic. As you get older, your eyesight worsens, and you can lose your depth perception, it said. So your mother and I decided never again to make a left turn."

"What?" I said again. "No left turns," he said. "Think about it. Three rights are the same as a left, and that's a lot safer. So, we always make three rights." "You're kidding!" I said, and I turned to my mother for support. "No," she said, "your father is right. We make three rights. It works." But then she added: "Except when your father loses count." I was driving at the time, and I almost drove off the road as I started laughing.

"Loses count?" I asked. "Yes," my father admitted, "that sometimes happens. But it's not a problem. You just make seven rights, and you're okay again." I couldn't resist. "Do you ever go for 11?" I asked. "No," he said "If we miss it at seven, we just come home and call it a bad day. Besides, nothing in life is so important it can't be put off another day or another week."

My mother was never in an accident, but one evening she handed me her car keys and said she had decided to quit driving. That was in 1999, when she was 90. She lived four more years, until 2003. My father died the next year, at 102. They both died in the bungalow they had moved into in 1937 and bought a few years later for \$3,000. (Sixty years later, my brother and I paid \$8,000 to have a shower put in the tiny bathroom -- the house had never had one. My father would have died then and there if he knew the shower cost nearly three times what he paid for the house.)

He continued to walk daily -- he had me get him a treadmill when he was 101 because he was afraid he'd fall on the icy sidewalks but wanted to keep exercising -- and he was of sound mind and sound body until the moment he died.

One September afternoon in 2004, he and my son went with me when I had to give a talk in a neighboring town, and it was clear to all three of us that he was wearing out, though we had the usual wide-ranging conversation about politics and newspapers and things in the news.

Continued on Pg. 13

Continued from Pg. 12

A few weeks earlier, he had told my son, "You know, Mike, the first hundred years are a lot easier than the second hundred." At one point in our drive that Saturday, he said, "You know, I'm probably not going to live much longer."

"You're probably right," I said. "Why would you say that?" He countered, somewhat irritated.

"Because you're 102 years old," I said... "Yes," he said, "you're right." He stayed in bed all the next day. That night, I suggested to my son and daughter that we sit up with him through the night. e appreciated it, he said, though at one point, apparently seeing us look gloomy, he said: "I would like to make an announcement. No one in this room is dead yet"

An hour or so later, he spoke his last words: "I want you to know," he said, clearly and lucidly, "that I am in no pain. I am very comfortable. And I have had as happy a life as anyone on this earth could ever have." A short time later, he died.

I miss him a lot, and I think about him a lot. I have wondered now and then how it was that my family and I were so lucky that he lived so long. I can't figure out if it was because he walked through life, or because he quit taking left turns.

Life is too short to wake up with regrets. So, love the people who treat you right. Forget about the ones who don't. Believe everything happens for a reason. If you get a chance, take it and if it changes your life, let it. Nobody said life would be easy, they just promised it would most likely be worth it."



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A BIRTHDAY GIFT FOR MAMA

One evening, four brothers chatted together after dinner.

They discussed the 95th birthday gifts they were able to give their elderly mother.

The first said, "You know I had a big house built for Mama."

The second said, "And I had a large theater built in the house."

The third said, "And I had my Mercedes dealer deliver an SL600 to her."

The fourth said, "You know how Mama loved reading the Bible and you know she can't read anymore because she can't see very well. I bought her a parrot who could recite the entire Bible. It took ten preachers over 8 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$50,000 a year for five years to the church, but it was worth it. Mama only has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot will recite it."

The other brothers were impressed.

After the birthday celebration Mama sent out her "Thank You" notes.

She wrote:

"Milton, the house you built is so huge that I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks anyway."

"Marvin, I am too old to travel. I stay home; I have my groceries delivered, so I never use the Mercedes. The thought was good. Thanks anyway."


"Michael, you gave me an expensive theater that can hold 50 people, but all of my friends are dead, I've lost my hearing, and I'm nearly blind. I'll never use it. Thank you for the gesture just the same."


"Dearest Melvin, you were the only son to have the good sense to give a little thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious. Thank you so much." Love, Mama.


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MISSING WIFE

Husband: My wife is missing. She went shopping yesterday and has not come home !

OFFICER: Age?

Husband: I'm not sure. Somewhere between 50 and 60. We don't do birthdays .

OFFICER: Height

Husband: I'm not sure. A little over five-feet tall.

OFFICER: Weight?

Husband: Don't know. Not slim, not really fat.

OFFICER: Color of eyes?

Husband: Sort of brown I think Never really noticed.

OFFICER: Color of hair?

Husband: Changes a couple times a year. Maybe dark brown now. I can't remember.

OFFICER: What was she wearing?

Husband: Could have been pants, or maybe a skirt or shorts. I don't know exactly.

OFFICER: What kind of car did she go in?

Husband: She went in my truck.

OFFICER: What kind of truck was it?

Husband: A 2017, pearl white Ram Limited 4X4 manufactured September 16th, with 6.4l Hemi V8 engine ordered with the Ram Box bar and fridge option, led lighting, back up and front camera, Moose hide leather heated and cooled seats, climate controlled air conditioning. It has a custom matching white cover for the bed, Weather Tech floor

mats. Trailing package with gold hitch, sunroof, DVD with full GPS navigation, satellite radio, Cobra 75 WX ST 40-channel CB radio, six cup holders, 3 USB ports, and 4 power outlets. I added special alloy wheels and off-road Toyo tires. It has custom retracting running boards and under-glow wheel well lighting.

(At this point the husband started choking up.)

OFFICER: Take it easy sir. We'll find your truck.

MARRIAGE JOKES

Husband: I want you to have this bracelet. It belonged to my Grandmother.

Wife: Why? Does it say, "Do not Resuscitate"?

Since this is my second marriage, my wife finds it hilarious to refer to me as a "rescue".

I was with my married lover having a romantic evening when he leaned over to me and said, "Say something that will make my heart beat." I said, "Your wife is behind you."

Marriage is a relationship in which one is always right, and the other is the husband.

Husbands are the best people to share your secrets with. They never tell anyone because they're not even listening!

THE ESSENCE OF CHUTZPAH:

Chutzpah is a Yiddish word meaning gall, brazen nerve, effrontery, sheer guts plus arrogance; As Leo Rosten writes, "No other word and no other language can do it justice." This example is better than 1,000 words. Read the story and then you will understand:

A little old lady sold pretzels on a street corner for 25 cents each. Every day a young man would leave his office building at lunch time and as he passed the pretzel stand, he would leave her a quarter, but never take a pretzel.

This went on for more than 3 years. The two of them never spoke. One day, as the young man passed the old lady's stand and left his quarter as usual, the pretzel lady spoke to him. Without blinking an eye, she said:

"They're 35 cents now "

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TIME IS SAYING TO ME: LIVE AND MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY MOMENT.”

- THE LATE DADI JANKI, SUBMITTED BY ETTA STEVENS



Do we know how to appreciate the things that we have in our life? How much do we take for granted?

Once there was a man who went around saying: 'I am poor, I am poor.' There was also a stranger close by and he had been observing this man for some time. Then the stranger said to him: 'OK, fine. Why don't you give me one of your eyes? And I will give you... \$50,000 for it.' The man replied, 'No way!' 'OK, I will give you \$100,000 for both eyes.' The man replied again, 'NO way!' The stranger continued, 'Well, then give me your ear for \$25,000.' 'Absolutely not!' As the stranger began walking away he turned and retorted: 'So, that means that you are richer than you think...'

Just stop for a moment and ask yourself: How much is your body worth? How much are you worth as a person? What is the value of your time? Do you know how much your smile is worth? When you look at all these assets that you have and that sometimes you neglect to appreciate, you will then realize that you are not poor at all.

So, when we come to measure the value of things in our life, we are the ones that will put a price tag on them and not others. How much value we put on something depends on how important that thing is to us. And if we really value something, then we will be mindful of how we use that thing and we will take care it and not misuse it. The spiritual economy is not simply about saving pennies, but more about how we are putting to use all those pennies that we save. In other words, to put to good use all the assets that we have. Even a miser has several assets. A miser is not poor, but the difference between him and the economist, is that the economist makes his assets grow for himself and others, whilst the miser keeps them safe in a locker for himself. But the irony is that, often like Scrooge, he neither gets any pleasure from that money and those assets and neither does anyone else.

Economizing is not about hoarding for a rainy day. It is not about penny-pinching. It is not about false economies, saving a penny and spending a pound kind of a thing. Economizing is not avoidance. For example, not going to work in order to save gas! That is really not sensible! Economizing is about waste, having the mindset not to waste things, and having that respect for Mother Nature. There are so many things where we can make an effort to make savings. It is not just a matter of money. There are practical things such as water, food, and light, gas, and electricity. But then there are also our precious assets such as time, thoughts, the energy of our mind, our breath, and our physical energy expressed through actions, etc. Why do we need to use ten words, when we can use two? Why do we think too much when the decision can be made instantly?

The reason why we try and save our 'energies' is so that we can then do the things that we really want to do. So, if we save some time here, we can use it there, doing perhaps what we love to do. That is good budgeting and a good economy! But if after we save the time or money or anything else, and we do not use these in a worthwhile way, then we

are wasting those precious items. Imagine that life is like poker and we are given all the same amount of poker chips. If we do not bet them then how can we expect to win? If we simply say pass and pack all the time, then there can be no chance of us winning at all. Maybe this decision is made from fear, but then surely there would be no growth in life for us too.

“Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.” - Dalai Lama

Be careful also of managing your needs versus your wants. Very often we say we need something when we really want it. Here are we not giving birth to greed? And if we are then how much is enough? Can the desires from greed ever be satisfied? The nature of wanting is that one desire gives birth to another and another... desires are forever unlimited. We are given things in life so that we can create good karma with them. If we waste or misuse them then the karma comes back to us and we run into a loss every time. Our lovely planet provides enough for every one of us. But how much do we use wisely and well, and how much do we waste? When we learn to be respectful and economical with the resources that we have, it will mean that everyone could live happily and harmoniously together. As Oscar Wilde famously said, and we would do well not to forget his words and to take care not become someone who '...knows the price of everything and the value of nothing...'

It is Time... to use everything in a worthwhile way. Nothing is bad, nothing is wrong. Everything is as it should be. I am learning to drift with the 'all' and 'everything' of life. This life's drama is always accurate. Meditation fills us with these qualities and powers very easily. This is because meditation is a beautiful relationship and connection with the Supreme Source of spiritual energy and power – God. God is full of those qualities and powers and never loses them ever, unlike us, who need to fill ourselves when we lose them.

MEDITATION IS THE ONLY WAY TO BRING UP YOUR CONNECTION TO YOUR HIGHER POWER AND COMBINE YOUR ETERNAL GIFTS OF LOVE, PEACE, HAPPINESS, WISDOM, AND PURITY.

Our MEDITATION CLASSES ARE NOT OPERATIONAL IN PERSON AT THE CURRENT TIME DUE TO THE PANDEMIC. HOWEVER, I AM CONDUCTING A ZOOM class every Tuesday Morning at 10:30 am. click link below or type in ID & code <https://zoom.us/j/95066873465...> Meeting ID: 950 6687 3465 Passcode: abcd

I ALSO CONDUCT A FACEBOOK LIVE EVERY TUESDAY MORNING ON THE ETTA STEVENS FACEBOOK PAGE. I begin promptly at 10:30 EDT on the Etta Stevens Facebook page. Please join me. I meditate with students, play soothing music, and also talk to help souls get through their own situations.

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