



Hometown News

Volunteers — Good (for the) Souls!

The William F. Dickinson Community Center offers a variety of programs, is a premium event location for weddings, quinces, and the like, as well as housing numerous meetings for the City and other government factions, with minimal staff. First of all, we have an amazing Parks & Recreation Department and Quick Response Team! In addition, we have a large group of volunteers with various skill levels who enjoy sharing their knowledge with others and care deeply for Homestead and their Community Center that they not only want to see it succeed, but want to be A REASON it does! Both City officials and staff are grateful for their time and dedication they contribute and we tell them; but also every summer, we recognize them with a luncheon for

having the desire and drive to give back to our community. On June 20, 2014, Ms. Jacki Pilkington, Ginny Velarde, and Larisa Salerno organized a lovely lunch and presentation at their home away from home, the Community Center.

We enjoyed several courses which were generously donated by Pollo Tropical, Olive Garden, Celebrity Rehab & Medical Center, Care Plus, Dr. Perez, and Chef Santi Gabino. Following lunch, Mayor Porter and I not only said thank you for their work but also took questions of which many shared similar concerns. This was such a great opportunity to connect and to represent our fellow colleagues and city staff in a personable and positive light.

As municipality, state, and federal legislatures encounter, address, and

overcome many adversities throughout their parliamentary careers, it is always enjoyable to have this time with the people of their home community to set records straight, provide reasoning for decisions, and show gratitude in a friendly setting.

Next time you visit the William F. Dickinson Community Center, be sure to thank those who are there to ensure your visit is a pleasant one—Annie and Garry McKeehen, Beverly Whitehurst, Carol Fisher, Carol Silver, Clinton Solomon, Daniel Grusauskas, Dodie Reck, Jan Gillebaard, Lillian Dickinson, Lorraine Cutrer, Marge Ramirez, Mary Lou Scherer, Pat Prewett, Paul Muao, Reada Reilly, Richard Rowe, Tanya Eversole, Victor Fritz, and Wanda Haas.

I am so proud of my 13 years on City Council watching my community develop and change, while preserving its history and hometown feel. It is an honor to serve as Chairwoman to Parks & Recreation as I love our City parks and the people servicing them. I am grateful to our volunteers for helping not only those visiting our center, but also for the assistance they provide to our staff as well.



“Volunteers, a precious resource we can not afford to lose.”

-Denise Penn

CITY OF HOMESTEAD—News and Events!

From Summer to School!

It is hard to believe that summer break is coming to a close this month! I hope family fun was high on the list whether traveling to a destination or hanging at home; new friendships developed at summer camps along with continued learning and skill development; or entertaining the mind with finishing a good book! As we prepare the kids, and teachers alike, to return to school routines, here are a few suggestions to keep in mind..

1. Shop Local: Purchase the book bags and school supplies right here in our City.
2. Opportunity to Give: When shopping, (if possible) pick up an extra book bag, or notebook, or pack of pencils, etc. Donate the extras to a family in need. Our very own SOS (Start Off Smart) with Homestead Police Department is collecting book bags and school supplies for their clients in need. As a reminder, this non-profit organization provides services for victims of violence. They volunteer for every event I hold and for Police Department events as well. I will be donating to them with backpacks and school supplies.

The feeling generated from giving back is like none other!



Councilwoman Judy Waldman

"The difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson." - Tom Bodett.

New school year—new school: As a graduate of South Dade High School and a government official, I am well aware of the excellent education and facilities our Homestead schools, from public to charter, offer. But space is limited and we are a growing community. What does that mean? We have a new face on an old school and another brand new school. **First, Campbell Drive Middle School will open its doors this fall as Cambridge Academy** and will be the training site for Cambridge academics training in North America, bringing in educators from all over the country, Canada, and other countries to train teachers, and professors. Cambridge schools offer a high level academics program by Cambridge University. This will allow students to receive a Cambridge diploma along with their Dade County School diploma when they graduate. In addition, a number of credits are applied to their college courses. It is a dual enrollment program. This year 150 9th graders will enter the Cambridge program, then 150 students will be added each year until 600 students are enrolled. **Miami Arts Charter School (MAC), a School of the Performing Arts**, will open this August on 3000 SE 9th Street, Homestead. Learn more or apply online at www.miamiartscharter.net. This Charter School offers free tuition along with college prep curriculum in a state-of-the-art facility. Here is a good mix of excellent education, with a high-performing "A" school, SACS accreditation, and college dual enrollment options, combined with a model Arts program, with creative writing, dance, music, theatre and visual arts & photography. Wonderful opportunities for our future leaders!

Youth Sports Leagues: Program registrations now open for baseball, football, and soccer. Call Parks & Recreation for more information, 305-224-4570.

EVENTS

Vision 2015 "Leading the Way" - Chamber of Commerce Planning Conference at HARB

Aug 25
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Primary Elections—Countywide—**EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT... VOTE;** www.miamidade.gov/elections

Aug 26

CONGRATS

It's a Boy! CONGRATULATIONS to my colleague and dear friend, Vice Mayor Stephen R. Shelley and his beautiful wife, Jenn. They welcomed their first child, **Jackson Tucker Shelley**, on Friday, July 11, 2014 at 10:22 a.m. Handsome baby Jackson weighed in at 7 lbs. 7 oz. and is 19.5" tall!



Mike Dill: As Editor of the South Dade News Leader, Mike Dill has become a household name. Mike recently took a position as Content Marketing Specialist at Ryder and is no longer at our local paper. The City of Homestead is fortunate and honored to have had his service to our community for the past 8.5 years. With his compassionate discretion, the most accurate, current and informative news was delivered to our citizens. Friendships developed and will remain. I wish Mike all the best in his new career and congratulate him on his growing family. He and his wife are expecting their second child and first daughter! Nothing better than good news!

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