

VILLAGE COUNCIL UPDATE, September 2016—from Jeff Hmara's Point of View

SCHOOL OPENED ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO



...and, so far, we seem to be off to a great start in RPB...RPBHS has a state-of-the-art cafeteria (looks like a food court) with excellent food and an excited staff and student body...RPBHS begins its second year of IB program and will complete its IB Candidate School period with the IB team coming for its final visit, Oct. 10-11...and, on the horizon, is a Navy National Defense Cadet Corp...a version of the standard Naval JROTC Program, but with the same type and quality instruction and sponsorship...should start next school year...

HL Johnson Elementary School ...a new principal at HL Johnson Elementary School, Jennifer Makowski...she was an excellent Assistant Principal at RPBHS for several years...and, is expected to be a great asset to HL Johnson...

VRPB Education Advisory Board Meeting, September 12th, 6PM...first full meeting of the Board...Agenda includes presentation of the coming school year's activities at RPBHS by Principal Jesus Armas...District 6 School Board Member and Central Region Superintendent will provide information about this school year, as well...

Volunteering at our Schools...there's an excellent opinion piece in this Sunday's (Sept. 4, 2016) Palm Beach Post in the Editorial Section...it encourages volunteering to make our schools better...provides some

good examples of how simple things can make a difference...somethings worth doing, whether you have a student in school or not...our schools are the cornerstones of our community, now and in the future...

REVITALIZING OLDER COMMERCIAL SPACES IN RPB

During our last strategic planning session, we talked about what might be done to re-vitalize some of the older shopping centers, that have significant number of vacant store fronts in RPB...

About a month ago, I was asked about the possibility of opening a microbrewery and tasting room in one of our older shopping centers...our current code does not allow this type of commercial use... several other municipalities have modified their code to allow these and, the businesses and the communities seem to be pleased with the results...microbreweries with tasting rooms, sometimes called brewpubs, are popping up in PB Gardens, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach and elsewhere in PBC...currently there are none in the Western Communities...this can be one kind of innovative, novel commercial use of some of these older and empty spaces and/or a new “entertainment center” that has been discussed for RPB that will re-vitalize and keep pace with current demands/commercial trends...I’ve been told that the change in code would not be a major change...that we could probably use language from other city codes tailored to our interests...Council has directed staff to draft code change to permit the establishment and operation of microbreweries and/or brewpubs in RPB...

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The 90th FLC Annual Conference was held in Hollywood, FL, last week of August...over 700 municipal officials from cities throughout the state attended the 3 day event...a lot of shared ideas, issues and possible solutions...several good key note speakers, like Mark Halprin, managing editor of Bloomberg Politics...who also appears on MSNBC's Morning Joe...he talked about presidential campaign craziness, as did Ana Navarro, Republican strategist on CNN...both were candid, interesting and apparently frustrated with this campaign...

Most interesting speaker was Buddy Dyer, the Mayor of Orlando, who spoke about the horrific mass shooting at Pulse nightclub...he encouraged all officials to have thought through how they would handle this kind of extraordinarily difficult situation before the fact...to have walked through several scenarios; to have a well-thought-out plan that is walked through; to have first responders well-trained and equipped...to know how critical the city's elected officials' role is--to inform the public quickly and advise them wisely...he emphasized the importance of effective working relationships established before an event like this...preparation efforts are time and money well-spent...hopefully, we'll never have to apply that training!

VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH WEBSITE –A GREAT RESOURCE!

If you aren't familiar with the Village's Official Website, you should check it out...if you'd like to get information and notices on Canal Maintenance and Mosquito Spraying, or Council Meeting Agendas,

etc...you can sign-up for email/text message notifications...the Village Calendar is also provided with dates of meetings, events and activities...just go to royalpalmbeach.com... stay informed and get engaged with your community...if you have any suggestions for additional information, let me know or contact the Village through the website, under “Let Us Know”→”Ask a Question”

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THESE TOPICS OR ANYTHING ELSE GOING ON IN [RPB](http://royalpalmbeach.com)—
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