

COUNCIL UPDATE APRIL 2016

...from Jeff Hmara's Point of View

MARCH 2016 ELECTION RESULTS GAVE US NEW VILLAGE COUNCIL...NEW LEADERSHIP AND TWO NEW DECISION-MAKERS

Mr. Fred Pinto is our new Mayor, Ms. Selena Smith was elected to Seat 3 and I was re-elected to Seat 1...this left us with a vacant seat, since our new mayor had to resign from his seat to run for mayor... since our Charter does not currently provide for a special election, our immediate choices were to appoint or leave the seat vacant...leaving the seat vacant had the potential for tied votes and stalemates on important (contentious) village matters...so, Council decided on a process to fill that vacancy through announcement of vacancy, review of applications, and interviews...similar to one you might use to hire someone for your organization...it is important to consider that this is a temporary hire, that is, this seat will come up for election, next year, March 2017...appointment is a way to fill a gap and maintain stability and forward movement in the Village...a very important collective decision, requiring at least 3 of 4 votes of Council.

Here's what I was looking for: someone who has relevant experience, knowledge of the Village, and has demonstrated a commitment to our community, recently...also, I attempted to determine who would be most likely to work collaboratively and effectively as a member of the Council, soonest...someone who has the capacity to make sound, well-informed decisions for our Village over the next 11 months...until the next municipal election in March 2017.

We were extremely fortunate to have had so many exceptionally qualified RPB citizens offer their time, effort and talents...Council duty is no small undertaking...someone once said, being effective on Council is a "full-time, part-time job."

Selection process: in February, Council voted unanimously to adopt a 3 step selection process...this was the process that was used to select the newest member of the council...Ms. Jan Rodusky.

So, now we have a new Council with a new profile of diversity, bringing a lot of new perspectives and opportunities...I believe our first responsibility is to come together effectively as a team of decision-makers, to ensure that the Village continues to move forward.

PB SCHOOL DISTRICT NEW STRATEGIC PLAN:

Recently, the School District rolled out its new Strategic Plan...it is a 5 year plan (3016-2021) with four long term outcomes including:

- 1. Increase reading on grade level by 3rd grade (a tipping point)**
- 2. Ensure High School readiness**
- 3. Increase the High School graduation rate (currently 84%)**
- 4. Foster post-graduate success (industry certifications, college and other)**

Key to successful strategic planning is the implementation...School District staff estimates a three year period for many of the implementation initiatives to have their full affect...they will start with changes at the central office level, defining the details before putting them into effect in classrooms.

For a more complete description of the School District's Strategic Plan, see their website at palmbeachschools.org.

This 5-year plan was developed over many months and included input from an estimated 25,000 PBC residents ...the School Board has adopted this plan to raise the quality of education in PBC to that of a world class education environment...a good thing to do, for many reasons.

CENTRAL PBC CHAMBER'S FIRST YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR ACADEMY INVESTORS PANEL

Last week, the Chamber conducted it's Young Entrepreneur Academy investor panel (something like TV's Shark Tank) where PBC Students present their business case for a new venture, seeking funds for start-up from a panel of investors...15 students/teams presented their business plans in "elevator speech" format...all of them received some amount of funding to go forward

with their ideas...one YEA Team was selected to go forward to the regional YEA competition...the team was called, “Snap’d In”... they proposed a business that would enable customers to customize their own cell phone case (of course, online), delivered for a competitive price...patent pending...YEA is a great way to inspire students to be innovative while learning how to prepare and present effective business plans...excellent connection between business and education...*CONGRATULATIONS* to all of the YEA Teams and to the Central PBC Chamber...let’s see what next year’s YEA teams come up with.

FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY UPDATE MEETING

On Tuesday, FEMA team from Atlanta presented their latest version of the FEMA flood maps which, as you may remember will become the basis for determining which properties in PBC are in the Special Flood Hazard Zone and, eventually, what flood insurance will cost property owners...the RPB maps that we saw incorporated the updated elevation and other information the Village provided, showing very few RPB properties in the SFHZ...this is a significant improvement over the initial draft FEMA Flood Maps from about a year ago...the majority of this improvement was due to the Village Staff’s submission of more up-to-date, accurate data to FEMA and the County’s continuous engagement with FEMA ...an updated set of digital map data will be provided not later than June 16, 2016 which will allow an even more accurate view of RPB properties...final flood maps will become effective in March 2017...insurance premiums will probably reflect these maps within a year thereafter...the Village staff is continuing its work to get fully enrolled in FEMA’s Community Rating System Program to improve RPB properties going forward.