

COUNCIL UPDATE—OCTOBER 2106...

**from Jeff Hmara's Point of
View_____**

1. HURRICANE MATTHEW...WE'RE DEFINITELY READY NOW!



We couldn't get a better opportunity to prepare for Emergency Management Operations than a "near miss"...at noon, on October 6th, 2016, the VRPB Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was formally activated, putting the recently revised Village Emergency Management Plan in action...no doubt, we "dodged a bullet" (a Category 4 Hurricane) this time, but we also benefited because of the actual experience of EOC activation and operations...my experience says that no matter how many exercises you conduct, even in the military, there's nothing like activating in a real situation to clarify roles and responsibilities and improve response...in all types of emergencies, the Village applies the concepts of National Incident Management System for coordination and interoperability...what that means is that the Village EOC operations are based on common procedures and are executed in close coordination with County EOC which provides direct access to state and federal emergency resources...under emergency situations, Village Staff members have special jobs such as: our Village Manager is ultimately responsible for overall disaster response; our Village Engineer has direct responsibility for coordinating all emergency operations...most of the other key staff members have their own special emergency duties, such as: Director of Public Works functions as Chief of Infrastructure Repair and Normalization and the Community Development Director serves as Private Property Damage Assessment Chief...they each got to perform in these roles, last Thursday and Friday...so, even if our individual preparation might have felt like an "overkill", when Matthew wobbled to the east,

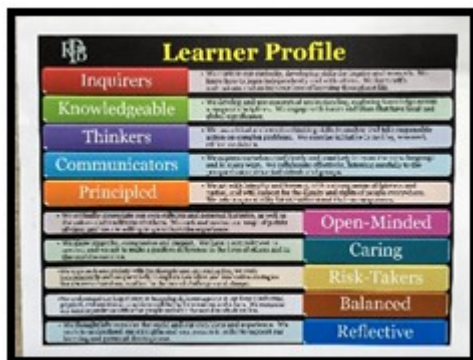
our Village Staff gained valuable experience from their preparation and initial operations...hopefully, we're all better prepared, now...remember, the Hurricane Season is not over until November 30th...stay safe and remember to help those who weren't as fortunate as we were...

MPO KEEPS SR 7 EXTENSION AS TOP PRIORITY ROAD PROJECT



During Palm Beach MPO's September meeting, the Directors approved the FY 2018-2022 Priority Projects List for Major Highway, Local Initiatives and other projects...this Priority Project List is the basis for next year's Transportation Improvement Program and the associated project funding by FDOT and Federal sources...listed again this year as #1 Priority is SR 7 Extension Project—the 4 lane extension of SR 7 from 60th St. to Northlake Blvd...as you know, this last stretch that will link Okeechobee to Northlake Blvd. has been opposed tenaciously over the last 5+ years by West Palm Beach...I was prepared to distribute our recently published "Letter to the Editor" stating VRPB's support for SR 7 Project, as a counter-argument to WPB's normally extensive, but repetitious opposition...however, at this meeting, WPB representatives just simply stated their opposition, briefly, apparently acquiescing...it was then put it to a vote...the outcome was predictable: the majority voted to approve the Priority Project List, as presented, with SR 7 as #1, except the 3 who usually vote against it (two WPB Commissioners and one County Commissioner)...so, SR 7 Extension Project remains the #1 Priority PBC Road Improvement Project in 2017 through its completion...as you may remember, in August, the WPB suit opposing the SFWMD Permit for SR 7 was heard by Administrative Law Judge ...we expect judge's ruling sometime in October...if FDOT prevails, they should be able to begin construction in 2017...

2. RPB SCHOOLS 2016-2017...WORLD CLASS K-12 EDUCATION, A 'WORK IN PROGRESS'



New programs and passionate commitment to quality education is characteristic at all our RPB Schools...a common theme: "better today, then we were yesterday and better tomorrow than we are today"...a new Information Technology Program begins this year at Crestwood Middle School; it will accompany the STEM Program which began last year...more steps toward K-

12 continuum of choice programs...on October 10-11, 2016, RPBHS hosted the International Baccalaureate Authorizing Team completing the process with the last on-



site visit...even though this is the second year of IB instruction at RPBHS, the complete Authorizing Process is a full two years long...RPBHS is now one step closer to being fully recognized as an IB World School offering a highly valued IB Diploma...FYI, the IB Learner Profile (above) lists the IB characteristics that are instilled in the IB students by the faculty and program, day-to-day...and, just as important, these values are usually contagious and affect non-IB students, as well....so, the entire student body

will feel the influence of being an IB School...one of the RPB Schools' Goals is to have IB Programs at all education levels providing an IB continuum from Elementary to High School...other RPBHS program changes include: restructuring Academies, for example-- "Gaming (computer coding) moving to STEM Academy from Global Business; Global Business including Marketing (Sports & Entertainment); SECME including Robotics...if you want to know more about the IB Program, go to:

www.ibo.org. or contact RPBHS.

3. FIRST MEETING OF VRPB SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

First meeting of the Village's Sr. Citizen Ad Hoc Advisory Bd., will be held on Thursday, October 13,, 2016, at 6pm, in the Village Council Chambers...the purpose of this 9 member volunteer Board is to work with a consultant to study Seniors' Needs in our community and to perform a "gap analysis"...that is to determine unmet senior needs...the Board will then report-out to Village Council before next Budget Formulation begins (March-April) to ensure needed resources can be applied in next year's budget, if needed...it is possible that some "unmet needs" can be satisfied with existing non-profit resources and/or neighbors-looking-after neighbors...all Board meetings are open to public and your input is welcome...check the Village Website (www.royalpalmbeach.com) for all meeting dates and other information.

4. PALM BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOUNDARY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

I attended my first Advisory Boundary Committee Meeting of the PB School District as its newest member...school boundary changes are considered only when schools are significantly over capacity...on the agenda was an elementary school in west Boca which is estimated to be near 150% of capacity next year...about 200 parents showed up to express concerns about two proposed boundary change



alternatives...one of the possible solutions presented by staff rippled through as many as half-a-dozen schools...an understandably emotional issue for parents and students, but to everyone’s credit, most comments were reasonable and some additional alternatives were provided...the staff was asked to develop another alternative solution, taking into consideration some of the public comments... As you know, there is a lot of development planned throughout PBC, but the majority of it is here in Western Communities area...last year, Minto West/West Lake already had an impact on some school boundary planning...Arden development (Southern Blvd. by ‘20 Mile Bend’) may impact Binks Elementary...boundary changes are important and very sensitive matters...we need to stay informed and engaged...Community Meetings are usually held at affected schools to get public input early in the process...even if you don’t have kids or grandkids in school, these decisions have a big impact on traffic and quality of life our village...I’ll try to keep everyone informed...



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REMEMBER TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016

YOUR VOTE COUNTS...EVERY ITEM ON THE BALLOT IS IMPORTANT...BE SURE TO VOTE THE ENTIRE BALLOT, FRONT AND BACK—TOP TO BOTTOM...DO YOUR HOMEWORK...EVERY VOTE HAS CONSEQUENCES!

As always, if you have any comments or questions, please contact me at: jhmara@royalpalmbeach.com or by phone: (c) (561) 371-3581.