

# Praxis

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He spoke of hallways that leak, no air-conditioning working in the hallways, let alone the apartments, smells, odors, dirt on the carpet ...

Praxis residents spoke of bed bugs, roaches, rats in the dumpster and snakes in front of the door; exterior doors that do not lock properly, allowing access to their apartment building floors, with people sleeping in the hallways, and auto thefts and drug deals outside.

Residents reported one of the overhead lights near the dumpster remains out since Christmas, making it unsafe to go out to the dumpster at night.

One woman, Berniece Caison-Bay, recalled that in the last great storm [Hurricane Irma] the water outside Praxis looked like a great lake, with water coming into the apartment building hallways.

"They never replaced it [the carpet for mold and mildew]. They just vacuumed it," she said, adding that she has noticed insects coming from under the carpet.

Mayor Bill Ganz said he

visited Praxis two years ago around the time of Hurricane Irma and was appalled at the conditions. Not much has changed, he noted from a recent visit.

"It was only by the grace of God that Deerfield didn't end up with a Hollywood, Florida type situation," Ganz said [referring to 12 who died at The Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills after temperatures climbed to 99 degrees due to lack of a backup generator in the hurricane power outage.]

Attorney Christina Bilenki, of the legal firm Dunay, Miskel and Backman, represented the new owner of Praxis.

Bilenki said, "The voices of the residents have made it loud and clear. A lot of what the residents were saying was new to me as well."

She said afterward that she took very detailed notes to pass on to the applicant, as well as extending the mayor's invitation for the owner to come here for a meeting.

City Manager David Santucci clarified that the two plat

note amendments encompass all of the Praxis buildings (in answer to a question from former State Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed about how many of Praxis' seven buildings do the renovations pertain to.)

The commission approved both plat note amendments, concluding items 7 and 8 on a 16+ item agenda at 9:23 p.m.

### Andy retires

Beloved, longtime Deerfield Beach City Attorney Andy Maurodis was called up to the podium unexpectedly to be honored by the commission. Maurodis, who had his last day as Deerfield City Attorney on June 30, 2019, also serves as Parkland City Attorney. He recalled working with Deerfield mayors Al Capellini, Jean Robb [as well as Peggy Noland and Bill Ganz] and spoke fondly of his time in Deerfield, as well as his replacement, Assistant City Attorney Anthony Soroka, who works for the same firm of Weiss Sorota & Helfman. Maurodis said Deerfield will continue to be in good hands, calling Soroka a talented and hungry young attorney.

### MSD strong

The first presentation at the July 2, 2019 commission meeting brought three com-

missioners from Parkland to present a recognition to Deerfield Beach for its support following the Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) tragedy on Feb. 14, 2018. Parkland Vice Mayor Ken Cutler and Commissioners Rich Walker and Robert Mayorsohn presented the recognition together.

"Feb. 14 was an unthinkable day – and eternally [will be]. There were many acts of kindness. So many came together and illuminated the darkest day. We are here tonight to thank you, the City of Deerfield Beach, for reaching out with a warm and welcoming hand," said Parkland Vice Mayor Cutler.

"We had an event that we canceled [Pioneer Days 2018, in support of MSD]. The horror and pain in the children's faces, I will never forget. Whatever you need going forward, Deerfield Beach is with you," said Deerfield Vice



Former Deerfield Commissioner and State Rep Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed is pictured with retiring City Attorney Andy Maurodis.

Mayor Drosky.

\*See "Other Presentations" in future *Observer*.

### Upcoming meetings

Deerfield Commission meets next on Tuesday, Aug. 6, at 7 p.m. at City Hall, after

the commission approved at the July 2 meeting, this extra meeting in August.

As of press time, Commissioner Ben Preston just announced a District 2 meeting on Thursday night, July 25 at 7 p.m. at the Oveta McKeithen Recreational Complex.

# DBLL

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At this year's state tournament, Deerfield Beach overcame a rain delay and defeated St. Cloud, 4-1. The local squad then dropped its next two contests to finish pool play, 1-2.

Deerfield Beach lost to Hancock American, 14-2 and then fell to Land O'Lakes, 3-1. Land O'Lakes went on to win the state title with an 11-3 win over previously unbeaten San Mateo. Against Hancock American, Deerfield

fell behind early and couldn't recover. When Hancock defeated St. Cloud, it finished 2-1 in pool play and ended Deerfield Beach's hopes of advancing to the championship round.

Deerfield Beach still turned in a solid performance in defeat against the eventual state champion. Deerfield Beach pitcher Brock Buerosse tossed a complete game and gave up 3 runs on 4 hits, but it wasn't enough as Deerfield's bats were virtually silent scoring

I run on just 3 hits.

"This is the second year in a row Deerfield has sent a team to the state tournament," Siracusa said. "We have made some improvements over last year's (team) but left our core intact.

"But the competition at the state level is pretty fierce," he added. "As one of the younger teams in the tournament, Deerfield held up against teams that were comprised of 16-year-old high school varsity players. Our team was made up of 16 players. Everyone had a role and when called upon they performed the way we expected. I'm proud of every single one of them."

# Hillsboro

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Police Chief Thomas Nagy spoke briefly about some issues within the Town. He spoke about the recent approval of the texting while driving legislation and more.

Building Official Steven Mitchell gave a brief presentation about the improvements going on

within the Town. Tarrant said that many projects were being undertaken because there were a lot of older homes in the Town, and upgrading the homes increased the property values. Tarrant talked about the upgrades at the Town Hall.

At the end of the long meeting, Finance Director Stephen Bloom gave a pres-

entation about the funding sources within the Budget, including the General Fund, the Water Fund and other funds. He also spoke about the Fiscal Year 2018 audit, and how the Town was still missing funds from FEMA.

Bloom said **the Town's first budget meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 11, with the second budget meeting scheduled for Monday, Sept. 23.**

The commissioners approved a tentative Millage rate of 3.5 Mills for Fiscal Year 2019 through Fiscal Year 2020.

# JM Family

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For HFC, it's an opportunity for new resources and synergies that can take the franchisor's four industry-leading retail brands to the next level."

Established in 1993, HFC provides a growing suite of home solutions that combine the latest products

and styles, including motorized, automated offerings such as the new Budget Blinds Smart Home Collection, with personalized, in-home customer service delivered by local franchisees.

HFC's family of brands includes the following:

- Budget Blinds – The

largest retailer of custom window coverings in North America.

- Tailored Living featuring PremierGarage – The largest franchise system in North America providing whole-home organization solutions.

- Concrete Craft – The only decorative concrete franchise system backed by a large international company.

- AdvantaClean – A national provider of professional services for a healthy home.

# London

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### International foods

There are many different food options here. Most pubs are centered around fish and chips, and meat or chickpea pies, it seems, which are tasty, but there are plenty of restaurants that offer global fare, from Italian to Middle Eastern. There is even a Chinatown. The Indian food is out of this world! If you like dessert, try the delicious sticky toffee pudding.

### Outside of London

There are so many great spots around London that did not even get mentioned here. A short drive away and you can visit a castle, head to Stratford Upon Avon to see where Shakespeare grew up, see the majestic architecture of Oxford, where there are 39 colleges, and much more. Families must go to the Warner Brothers Studio to see where Harry Potter was filmed. I spent four hours and it was not enough. Adults will really enjoy this too as

it is more informational than anything else. You learn about every aspect of making the movie – props, sets, costumes and plenty of secrets. There are interactive components to add to the fun for kids too. Make sure to get a Butter Beer! It tastes like butterscotch soda with some sort of whip cream on top.

Spending time in London was a dream come true and we packed a lot of sightseeing into nine days, but there was so much more to see. I can totally understand the sentiment of Samuel Johnson, the writer of the first dictionary, who famously said, "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life."

# Rosemurgy Properties secures \$11 million loan for Federal Highway Self Storage

Rosemurgy Properties, a privately owned commercial real estate development, investment and management firm, is excited to announce the closing of an \$11 million loan for Federal Highway Self Storage. The loan will offer permanent financing for the storage facility and was provided by Goldman Sachs Bank USA. Elliott Throne and Jesse Wright of HFF represented Rosemurgy Properties in the transaction.

"The storage industry is becoming more and more popular as people begin

turning towards renting in downtown areas rather than buying expansive houses. Residents are looking for safe, air-controlled spaces to secure their valuables," said Nic DeSiato, CFO of Rosemurgy Properties. "We are thrilled to provide a reliable storage facility in an accessible location to our customers."

Federal Highway Self Storage is a premier self-storage operator in Deerfield Beach, Florida. The storage facility offers self-storage units of all sizes with attractive features such as climate control, RV

parking spaces, individual door alarms, gated entry and month-to-month leases. A full line of boxes and packing supplies is also available. Federal Highway Self Storage was developed by Rosemurgy Properties in 1999.

Rosemurgy Properties has extensive experience in the self-storage industry, with projects in Hollywood, Miami, Panama City, Deerfield and Boca Raton.

For more information on Federal Highway Self Storage, please visit [www.federalhighwayselfstorage.com](http://www.federalhighwayselfstorage.com).