



“If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!” - Benjamin Franklin

I know how disappointing the last few months have been. Graduations, birthdays, retirements, celebrations of life, and so much more. While we thank our lucky stars for all our blessings, we long for life to return to normal. I deeply missed not being able to observe Memorial Day at West Boca Veterans Park last week and remain hopefully optimistic that some type of celebration will happen for my last fireworks show as your commissioner at the [Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park](#). Both events are highlights of my calendar that I look forward to each year. ***Alas, life is what happens when we are making other plans!***

While I encourage you to keep making fun plans, I want to take this time to make sure we are planning for the not so fun ones as well. Especially during a pandemic, I implore you to please take this time now to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. Shopping for supplies can be expensive and strenuous, particularly doing it in a mask and six feet apart. Shopping for items a little at a time before an event can reduce the stress of recovery by avoiding long lines and empty shelves. Like we have seen first-hand, disasters can happen without warning and it is a good idea to have supplies on hand year-round. To help you, I highly recommend our [Emergency Supply Kit Shopping List](#) and our printable [Hurricane Survival Guide](#).

Hurricane season begins June 1st and ends November 30th. In addition to food and supplies, you should secure legal documents and irreplaceable items such as family photos, compile important names and contact numbers for insurance claims, and please, check on your neighbors. This is a hard time already and many people could be feeling isolated and depressed. Being residents living in an area prone to these types of natural disasters, we must be accountable for ourselves. Preparation is key. ***Despite all of the good intentions of government, it takes time to get help to you*** – sometimes as much as 24 to 48 hours.

If you are a senior living alone, [Ruth & Norman Rales Jewish Family Services](#) (JFS) is offering a registration for older adults living alone who wish to have someone check in on them before and after a major weather event. There is no charge to register for this program but it is only available to residents in the JFS service area of Boca Raton, Delray Beach and Highland Beach. Seniors can register (or their families can register them) for the program by visiting www.ralejfs.org/stormreg or by calling (561) 852-3380. They are also looking for volunteers who can register at www.ralejfs.org/stormvol.

Other than that, I want to commend you for your participation in flattening the curve, which slowed the spread of Covid-19 in our area. While new cases, hospitalizations, and unfortunately deaths are still expected, your diligence and cooperation has stopped our amazing county from becoming a hot spot. This pandemic is far from over. Our nation has lost over 100,000 people to this pandemic. In their honor we must continue to be vigilant.

In closing, it is almost officially summertime. The children are out of “school” and I have seen the car carriers returning many of our friends, neighbors and seasonal residents to their northern homes. We wish them all health and safe travels until we are together again. As we enter a more quiet time with regard to community meetings, publications and special events, Vivian, Janet, Meaghan and I remain here to help you and your community with any needs from now until the end of season and the end of my service in November. You may write me at 301 N. Olive Ave., West Palm Beach, 33401 or at MBerger@pbcgov.org. You can call me or my staff at 561-355-2205 or toll free at 877-930-2205. Please visit me on the Web at www.pbcgov.com/d5.

Yours in Public Service,

Mary Lou Berger