

Alliance of Delray Residential Associations, Inc.

Serving the Membership ♦ Improving the Community Lifestyle ♦ Working Toward Sustainable Development

Visit Our Website at: www.allianceofdelray.com

December 2020 issue of The Alliance Connection

ZOOMCAST Meeting

Wednesday December 2, 2020 10 AM

POWER & WATER: 2 Essentials

FP&L : Delivering America's Best Energy Value

Sophia Eccleston, Sr. External Affairs Manager

PBCWUD: Our Safe Water

Shawn Reed, Public Information Services Manager

Plus Updates from PBSO, PBCFR, and our Elected Officials

HERE IS THE LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86896549715>

also

Go to www.allianceofdelray.com for link to meeting

& phone-in directions



Featured Speaker:

Army Veteran Sophia Eccleston, BA, MBA is a member of the External Affairs team at Florida Power and Light Company (FPL). Along with her military experience, Sophia also worked in the Middle East and Africa. Two of her most notable roles were negotiating multimillion dollar contracts to build infrastructure in Iraq and Afghanistan for the United States military and starting up the first Regional Expediting Department located in Dubai.

As a Sr. External Affairs (EA) manager in Palm Beach County, Sophia is responsible for advocating with local elected officials and key community stakeholders on behalf of FPL. Prior to joining EA, she worked as a solar developer and developed large-scale solar projects located in Desoto, Manatee and Charlotte Counties.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE ALLIANCE:

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ALLIANCE OF DELRAY 1 DECEMBER 2020

**New Faces on the Board of County Commissioners
Welcome Commissioner Maria Sachs and Commissioner Maria Marino!
& Best Wishes to Former Commissioner Mary Lou Berger
Congratulations to Commissioners Dave Kerner and Mack Bernard on their re-election!**

Former Senator Maria Sachs was elected to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners on November 3, 2020 replacing District 5 Commissioner Mary Lou Berger who was term-limited. The Alliance of Delray worked with Commissioner Sachs while she served in the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate. She served the people well during those years and is committed to leading the County into better health for its residents during this COVID-19 pandemic as well as economic recovery.

District 5 has no municipalities so the District 5 Commissioner is the first governmental contact for the residents. The Alliance of Delray has a long history of expressing the concerns of the residents to the County Commissioner and will continue to do so throughout Commissioner Sachs' term.

Commissioner Sachs' priorities include public health and re-opening the economy. Specifically, combatting the COVID-19 pandemic and restoring jobs and providing assistance to small businesses so that they can recover economically are priorities.

Regarding development in the Agricultural Reserve and other rural western communities, our new Commissioner is advocating for smart growth. Smart growth is interpreted as listening to County Staff, Industry, stakeholders, and residents.

The new Commissioner is directing focus on seeking Federal grants to offset the loss of revenue and invest in promoting local tourism so the County can increase tourism revenue where it has been the hardest hit. Commissioner Sachs also suggests that the County needs to be more aggressive in taking control of the delicate ecosystem. Seawalls are becoming more vulnerable to rising waters, salt water intrusion is rising, septic tanks are an issue in residential communities, and Lake Okeechobee's Federal management needs to be addressed.

The Alliance wishes the best to former Commissioner Mary Lou Berger and welcomes her back any time to visit at one of our ZOOM meetings or Civic Center meetings (when the public is allowed to assemble there).



Photo from left: Commissioner Maria Sachs, Alliance Exec. VP Lori Vinikoor (center), Former Commissioner Berger, right.



From left: Newly elected Palm Beach County Commissioner Maria Marino is replacing Hal Valeche who, like Mary Lou Berger, is term-limited. Commissioner Marino is a former Palm Beach Gardens council woman. Commissioner Mack Bernard (center) and Commissioner Dave Kerner (right) were re-elected to the PBC Board of County Commissioners. Congratulations to all!



During An Emergency, Our Navigator Is Here For You!



DELRAY
MEDICAL CENTER

PALM BEACH HEALTH NETWORK

At Delray Medical Center, we are committed to making your visit to the Emergency Room as comfortable and convenient as possible. Delray Medical Center offers the assistance of an ER Senior Services Navigator who will assist our patients with any questions they may have related to their ER visit.

The Senior Services Navigator serves as a community liaison and can assist with ER wait times, hospital visitation policies, checking in on-line and questions about safety protocols. Our navigator is also familiar with hospital community education and events and can assist our seniors with securing virtual speakers for their communities.

Questions? Need assistance?

Contact Laine Sherman, ER Senior Services Navigator

Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm

561.495.3453

SeniorServicesRN@tenethealth.com



Laine Sherman, BSN, RN | ER Senior Services Navigator

Laine has been a nurse at Delray Medical Center since 1994. She has served as a Clinical Nurse Educator and as a Nursing Supervisor. In 2016, Laine was named a Top Nurse by the International Nurse Association, and in 2012 she was named Palm Healthcare Educator of the Year. Laine has visited many of our communities and spoken on a variety of healthcare topics. She received her Associate's Degree at the College of Staten Island and her BSN from Florida Atlantic University.

Contact Laine Sherman, ER Senior Services Navigator at 561.495.3453

This is What Your Community Has Been Waiting For!
Alliance Presenting Virtual HOA and COA Certification Course
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Thursday January 14, 2021

6-8 PM

**A ZOOM Webinar to receive
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RSVP: allianceofdelray@bellsouth.net

Or E mail or Message Exec. VP Lori Vinikoor at

vinikoor@bellsouth.net or (561)715-1530

for the LINK to the meeting.

**Joshua Gerstin, Esq. will conduct the course and you will receive a
Certificate following the Course.**

Alliance Facilitates Donation to the South County Mental Health Center

The Alliance of Delray facilitated the donation of 20 mattresses to the South County Mental Health Center this month. Board Certified Pediatric Dentist and Diplomate of The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Dr. Shana Capra and her husband Leonardo Capra provided the donation. Mr. Capra is the owner of Draco Freight Logistics in Medley, Florida and through his company, he was able to provide this generous donation. Draco Freight opened in 2009 and has been providing importers and exporters with supply chain solutions. They are experts in customs brokerage, freight coordination and warehousing solutions. The website is www.dracofreight.com.

Dr. Shana Capra graduated with a degree in Pediatric Dentistry from Nova Southeastern University and served as chief resident. Born and raised in Hollywood, Florida Dr. Capra's family was always involved in community service.

Dr. Capra opened the Kids Dental Practice in December 2019 at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and State Road 7/441. The address is 15065 S State Rd 7 Suite 650 Delray Beach, FL 33446. The website for her practice is www.thekidsdentalpractice.com with telephone 561-840-KIDS (5437).

The South County Mental Health Center (SCMHC) is a state-chartered, nonprofit health care organization in operation in Florida since 1974. As such, it depends on local support to continue to make a difference in the lives of adults, children, and families in the community.

The SCMHC employs psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, activities therapists, mental health technicians, and administrative support professionals.

SCMHC outpatient programs serve all of Palm Beach County south of Southern Boulevard, an area that includes approximately 600,000 residents. Its staff provides behavioral health care for more than 5,000 clients each year and receives 400 requests for emergency and non-emergency services each month.

School's Half Penny Sales Tax Update

The Independent Sales Surtax Oversight Committee (ISSOC) met to review the state of the half penny sales tax which is being used for repairing infrastructure within the school system and upgrading computer software and hardware.

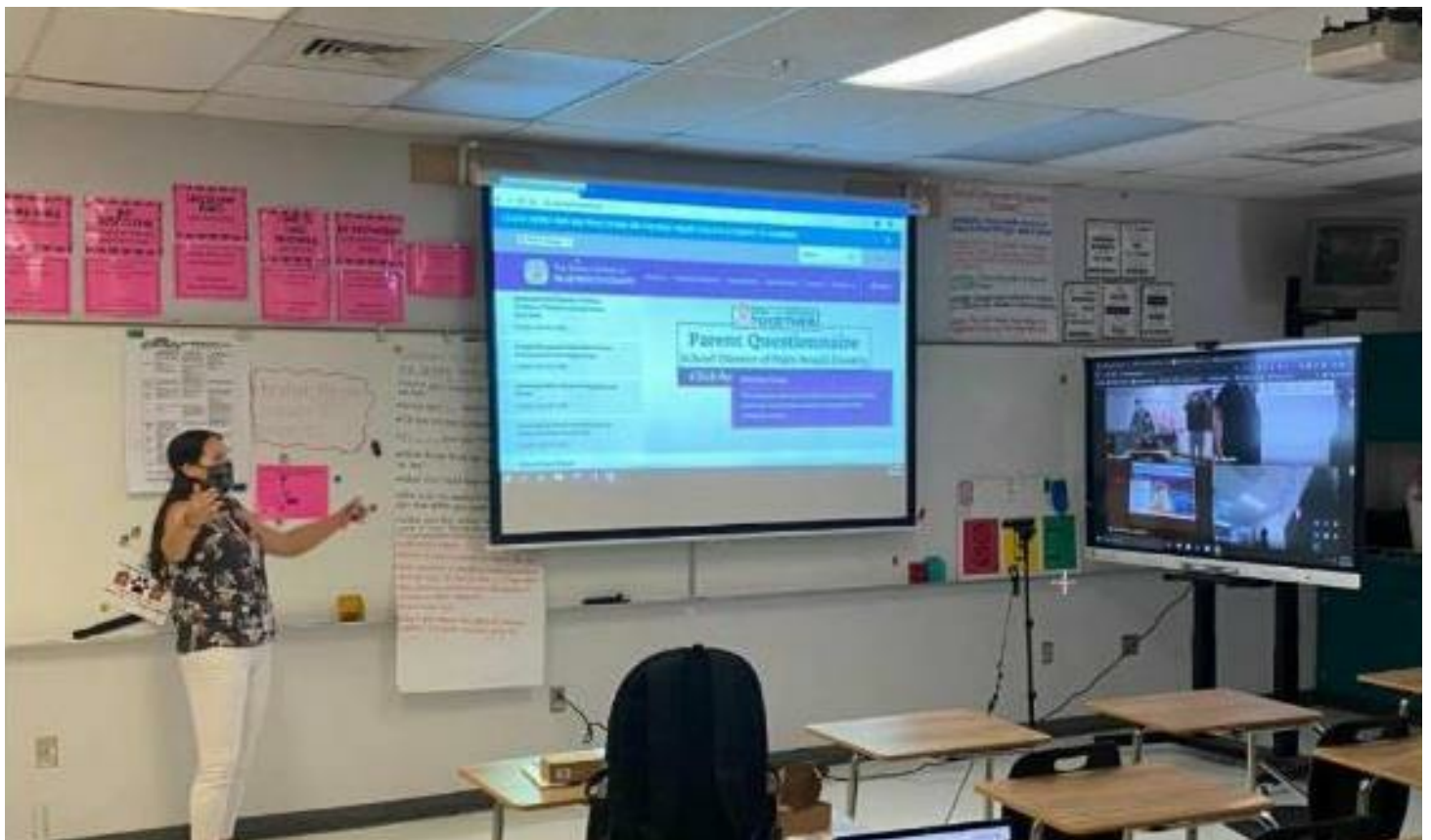
Receipts through October 2020 were \$508,920,898 versus the projected \$450,313,455 so the County is 113% above projection. It was suggested that the surtax may end earlier than ten years however, the receipts would need to reach 125% above projection in order to consider that. Prior to the pandemic, sales tax revenues averaged 115% of the original forecast.

Technologically, schools are undergoing server replacement and upgrading of the school phone system. Updating fibers in schools will be providing 100 Gigabits per second. One goal is for improved wireless access. Currently there are over 16,000 access points across the school district. It is expected that high-density availability and performance supporting digital instruction and online testing will be provided. Projects have been completed in the high schools and middle schools. Elementary schools are included in the current projects.

The photo demonstrates the classroom envelope with smart panel, projector, and audio enhancement. To date, 10,973 SMART panels are being provided from fiscal year (FY) 2019 to FY 2021. 3,251 projectors were updated in FY 2019 and audio enhancement was updated in 1/3 of the classrooms in FY 2017 and 2018. The next 1/3 of audio enhancement is scheduled for fiscal year 2022.

When working with new technology, training is always important. To date, there have been 10,538 training hours provided to the District with an 18,152 balance remaining, so Staff is being trained appropriately in the use of the new technology.

The School district assures that the County is prepared for the future and distance learning. The experts are "building out the [virtual] highway for people to drive down."



We Have a New PBC Clerk of the Court! Welcome Joseph Abruzzo, Clerk of the Court! We will miss you, Sharon Bock!



The Alliance of Delray is pleased to welcome Senator Joseph Abruzzo to the office of Palm Beach County Clerk of the Court and Comptroller! We will miss Sharon Bock! Thank you for all the work you have done. We look forward to working with you, Joe!!!



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ALLIANCE OF DELRAY RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATIONS

MEETING SUMMARY - November 4, 2020

The Zoom meeting of the Alliance of Delray Residential Associations was called to order at 10 a.m. by Lori Vinikoor, Executive Vice President. She welcomed the audience and provided an update regarding the much-needed sidewalk on Lake Ida Road. Following the Alliance's request to add the sidewalk to the road expansion plan for the corner of Lake Ida and Hagen Ranch, the County agreed and is incorporating the sidewalk into roadway plans. The Alliance also facilitated the donation of 20 mattresses to the not-for-profit South County Mental Health Center in Delray Beach. She then introduced Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, newly reelected winner of the recent election. The Sheriff thanked the audience for their support and assured everyone that his office is watching for an impending storm and is ready to assist if or when needed.

Fire Chief Reginald Duren provided updates on his department. He proudly announced that the Palm Beach County Fire Recue team was named the Top Life Support Unit in Florida! He explained the various aspects of life saving that this encompasses.

PBSO Lt. Michael Morales told the assemblage (via Zoom) that among some of their major concerns are keeping the roads safe. inspecting for violations of the large trucks that travel our area.

The Alliance was pleased to present some of the tired but happy winners of the local elections in Palm Beach County. Thanking our members were newly reelected Congresswoman Lois Frankel, PB County Clerk Joe Abruzzo, reelected State Senator Lori Berman, Senator-Elect Tina Polsky, Representative-Elect Kelly Skidmore, and District 5 Commissioner Elect Maria Sachs.

Fire Chief Anthony Tozzi spoke about the management of the Medical Service Committee. They train medical personnel and collaborate with experts on patient care, in addition to providing medical training to new recruits.

EMS Division Chief Charlie Coyle explained that lately, they are following the progression of Covid19 and taking protective measures, as well as educating the EMS on proper precautions. He demonstrated a 'timeline' of the progression of the disease from the first known case in Wuhan, China to a worldwide pandemic. There is in place a dispatch system to firefighters describing symptoms which may lead to a medical alert and the need for protective gear. He stressed that early treatment is beneficial to a good recovery. High on their list of priorities are protecting patients in skilled nursing home facilities. There are currently 3000 coronavirus patients in Palm Beach County. Chief Doyle urged everyone to take all necessary precautions.

The meeting video is available on YouTube and the Alliance website.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:04. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 10 a.m. Topic: Power & Water: 2 Essentials! FPL: Delivering America's Best Energy Value and PBCWUD: Our Safe Water presentations along with updates from our first responders and elected officials. Thank you to FP&L for the sponsorship of this meeting.

Submitted by
Carol Klausner, Director
Alliance of Delray Residential Associations



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Preserving the Community Lifestyle

10290 W Atlantic Ave. #480504

Delray Beach, Florida 33448



*Important Information Contained in this Newsletter
And Happy Thanksgiving to All*

TO:

Alliance of Delray Residential Associations, Inc

Meeting Reminder

ZOOMCAST Meeting

Wednesday December 2, 2020 10 AM

POWER & WATER: 2 Essentials

FP&L : Delivering America's Best Energy Value

Sophia Eccleston, Sr. External Affairs Manager

PBCWUD: Our Safe Water

Shawn Reed, Public Information Services Manager

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