



SACHS SENTINEL



Maria Sachs



PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 5



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County Receives Application for Large Distribution Center Proposed in Ag Reserve



Photo Credit: Greg Lovett, The Palm Beach Post

Kushner Properties represented by Stephanie Toothaker is interested in developing a warehouse-distribution center on the 50.99 acres site, known as Morningstar Nurseries, located on the north side of Atlantic Avenue between Starkey Road and the Turnpike.

The formal petition known as Star Key Industrial Park is a proposed future land use amendment for 50.00 acres of land to change from the Agricultural Reserve to a maximum potential of 999,506 square feet of Industrial uses.

Currently the specific future business has not been disclosed. If you wish to weigh in on whether this land should be changed from Agriculture Reserve to Industrial please contact my office. I am committed to listening to the interested stakeholders before approving or declining any new development.

National Organization for Women Recognizes Commissioner Maria Sachs & Commissioner Melissa McKinlay with Esteemed Annual Susan B. Anthony Award

2021 Feminist of the Year Maria Sachs

Maria Sachs is recognized as the 2021 Feminist of the Year. She was elected a Palm Beach County commissioner in 2020 after serving many years in the Florida Legislature as a Representative of the 86th district and the Florida Senate 30th and 34th District. She has previously worked with our chapter to protect the rights of incarcerated women in Palm Beach County.

Born in Michigan, she moved to Florida and attended the University of Miami Law School. Upon graduation, she was offered a position with the newly appointed State Attorney, Janet Reno. Maria specialized in representing victims against violent crimes. She created the Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Inc.

Maria is founder of Women for Excellence, a professional women's organization with over 150 members. She was also the past president of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Broward chapter.



2020 Feminist of the Year Melissa McKinlay

Melissa McKinlay is recognized as the 2020 Feminist of the Year. Because of COVID-19, the awards luncheon was cancelled. Presently she serves as a Palm Beach County Commissioner. She has spent over twenty years advocating on behalf of women, children and families as a legislative aide to the Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs office, and as a volunteer for members of Congress and U.S. Senate.

Melissa grew up in a family that discussed politics and policy on a daily basis-especially on issues surrounding mental health and social justice. She earned her degree from Florida State University with dual majors in Political Science and Sociology.

Her proudest accomplishments were being on the team that developed the Butterfly House, Palm Beach County's first sexual assault response service center and successfully promoting a legislative bill aimed at eliminating human trafficking.



Susan B. Anthony Feminist of the Year Awards



"As any woman knows - we see farther due to the shoulders of the women that have come before us and the women that have shown us the way. It is to the founders of NOW we owe this gratitude. I thank the women of NOW for this significant recognition. I look forward with optimism to the future of our country." Commissioner Maria Sachs



Successful Second Round of Vaccines in Kings Point & Century Village

It was a great success for the first senior communities in Palm Beach County to complete a second round of vaccinations. This success is due in large part to the residents who complied with the directions of Vesta Properties Services, led by Lisa Manzione, and Cen-West Communities, led by Judy Millington. President Mike Limongelli and Vice President Stanley Siegel who worked tirelessly during the entire process assisting residents and making sure that everyone who was eligible received a vaccination.

We were all watching, not just Palm Beach but all of Florida, to see how well our senior PODS could handle thousands of recipients in an orderly and safe manner. We did so well that the Governor awarded 5,000 more vaccines to senior communities in the Tampa area.

My office has received many calls from communities desiring to be considered as a distribution site once the vaccine is more readily available. I am encouraged by my district's resilience and eagerness to help. If your community desires to become a POD please have the association write a request and send it to MSachs@pbcgov.org or MDamone@pbcgov.org we will add you to the list.

Lets hear it for our seniors!!!

COVID-19 public vaccination site coming to Palm Beach County Fairgrounds

Vaccination Sites at John Prince Park and the South County Civic Center Operations are Running Smooth



This week, a 22,000 square foot massive COVID-19 vaccination center has opened at the South Florida Fairgrounds drastically increasing our vaccination abilities. This is very similar to how the County began COVID-19 testing with our first site located at the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches then eventually expanding throughout the entire County.

"Palm Beach County has 1.5 million residents with almost 400,000 seniors. We are the largest geographical county in the state which requires additional resources to reach the entire population". "We needed a large centralized site to accommodate the massive population that qualify for the vaccine". said Commissioner Maria Sachs.



The Healthcare District of Palm Beach County (HCDPBC) estimates they can perform 1500 inoculations per day, per site. Once they make their way through the backlog of registrants who utilized the deactivated chd50feedback@flhealth.gov email, they can add new registrants.

Palm Beach County (PBC) is currently providing 80% of the vaccines received from the State Health Department to our seniors. We will continue to vaccinate our residents at both the South County Civic Center and John Prince Park sites through Palm Beach County Health Department (PBCHD) in conjunction with the Health Care District. Publix

Pharmacies will continue to register and administer vaccines at its' 67 locations throughout the county.

Commissioner Sachs continues to urge the state to ship more doses of the vaccine to Palm Beach County as soon as the state receives vaccines from the federal government. She is also urging for mobile vaccination abilities, particularly for homebound residents.



Celebrating 50 Years & 3 Million Requests for Help

I recently sponsored one of my first proclamations as a Palm Beach County Commissioner recognizing February 11th - 17th as 211 Awareness Week as well as observing their Agency's 50th Anniversary.

211 is available 24/7, anytime of the day or night... helping people in times of crisis or for their everyday needs...

and over the course of 50 years, 211 has responded to over 3 million requests for help, from people of all walks of life- your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers and others in the community.

211 has expanded and grown as an agency to provide vital services based on the needs of the community...with staff providing quality, caring and trusted service.

211 staff have also been frontline responders during the current pandemic and economic crisis...and with a mental health crisis that continues to grow.

Requests for help have come from people who are overwhelmed with fear, sadness, and desperate need and even suicidal.



Now more so than ever 211 is that beacon of hope providing critical and often life-saving service.

We are so grateful to have this wonderful service and resource in Palm Beach County.



BOARD BRIEFS



At the Board of County Commissioners meeting, we approved a 50-year lease agreement with the YMCA for approximately five acres in Lake Lytal Park at a rental rate of \$10 per year with one 50-year extension option. The YMCA is relocating its branch in Palm Springs to this undeveloped site within Lake Lytal Park.

Under the agreement, the County will construct an aquatic facility; the YMCA will construct an Olympic-style skate park training facility (Phase 1), a 45,000-square-foot community center/health and fitness facility (Phase 2), and a 10,000-square-foot childcare center/preschool (Phase 3). The YMCA will assume operational responsibility over the aquatic center within 24 months of construction.

During the discussion, I inquired whether members of the YWCA could also participate. We all know that girls should be able to participate in outdoor recreational activities equally as our boys. It is for this reason I invited the YWCA to participate in this wonderful opportunity. I'll keep everyone posted as this advances to ensure this commitment is provided to the YWCA.



Amber Pelish
President
Country Club Acres HOA
A Woman of Action

Amber Pelish never thought she would become president of the neighborhood association for Country Club Acres, a community of more than 500 homes on the west side of Military Trail wedged between Atlantic Avenue and Linton Boulevard.

Yet, after seeing that the community needed organizational help and knowing that was her long suit, Amber volunteered to become secretary and took on the role of president in 2020.

One of her most successful accomplishments was forging a relationship with the staff of Palm Beach County's Office of Neighborhood Revitalization who alerted her to grant opportunities, which are helping to improve the community's appearance.

Dubbed a "Woman of Action" by a member of the county staff, Amber also learned of food give-away programs for those hit hard by COVID-19 and made sure more than 1,000 hot meals and boxes of meats, vegetables as well as other food items made it to her neighbors over several months.

"Making a huge difference in the lives of my neighbors is more fulfilling than I ever imagine," she said, adding that several homebound seniors in the neighborhood suffered food shortages during the pandemic as did some of those who struggled to feed their families after losing jobs.

A potter and graphics designer from a family of artists, Amber is also a shoe designer. A wife and mother, Amber has lived in Country Club Acres since 2002.



Do you know of a volunteer to be featured in the Sachs Sentinel?
Send your nomination to MSachs@pbcgov.org.

FIGHTING FOR YOU



Contact us on Any Matter of Interest or Concern

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