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Resilience and Sustainability: Now & Tomorrow

By Debbie Swain, President, Gables Good Government Committee, Irela Bagué, Contributor

Irela Bagué, a Coral Gables resident, Vice-Chair of the Coral Gables Sustainability Board and former member of the South Florida Water Management District Board, in a statement, indicates that, "There has been much

talk these days about 'urban resilience,' but do we really know what that means?

Urban resilience is simply the capacity of individuals, communities, businesses, and government services within a city to survive, adapt and thrive regardless of what chronic stresses and active shocks they experience. With close to two million people living near the coast and storm surge areas in our region, and example of a resilience challenge can be a hurricane or an extreme weather event."



Closely allied to *resilience* is *sustainability*. The latter is defined, in its simplest form as, "able to be used without being completely used up or destroyed, able to last or continue for a long time."

Coral Gables is dedicated to sustainability and environmental protection, investing in energy, water and waste efficiency. A Sustainability Master Plan is being developed to serve as a "road map" to follow over the next 10 years. Goals will be set, and implementation projects will be identified.

Although still in draft form and therefore subject to change, the City has established a goal to reduce energy and water consumption, fuel usage and overall greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2025. Consistent with the

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GABLES GOOD GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE WAS ORGANIZED TO SUPPORT ISSUES AND CAUSES THAT PRESERVE AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN CORAL GABLES AND PROMOTE THE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF ITS GOVERNMENT.

State's goal, the City also has a goal of diverting single family residential and municipal operations solid waste (recycling) by 75% by 2020.

Specific project plans include:

- ✓ Upgrading the City's irrigation and flow and flush fixtures
- ✓ Adding electric vehicles to the fleet
- ✓ Increasing City building energy efficiency (HVAC, lighting, building automation, etc.),
- ✓ Installing LED streetlights and garage lighting
- ✓ Exploring renewable energy (Solar PV and Solar Thermal)
- ✓ Conducting a vulnerability assessment with regards to sea level rise
- ✓ Adding more bike and pedestrian infrastructure
- ✓ Increasing waste diversion and recycling efforts

Included in the City Strategic Plan, the City has established the following goal in order to achieve Sustainability-focused Excellence:

Provide exceptional services that enhance local and global environmental quality, enrich our local economy, and strengthen the health and well-being of our current and future residents, businesses, and visitors.

The City created a Sustainability Advisory Board in 2010 (formerly the Green Task Force) "for the purpose of promoting environmental sustainability for

the City, which is a way of living and conducting business to ensure a quality of life for the future of Coral Gables. The Advisory Board shall make non-binding recommendations for taking environmentally progressive actions within the City in support of promoting environmental sustainability..." The Sustainability Board with the Sustainability Office has spearheaded several electronic recycling events in the City.

The City is mindful of the growing threat posed by climate change and sea level rise and has already undertaken a number of actions to minimize the possible impact of sea level rise. These include development of the Sustainability Master Plan, signing the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact, expanding and maintaining our tree canopy and performing a Sea Level Rise Assessment.

The City recently took a leap forward in sustainability by banning the use of polystyrene (Styrofoam) within the city limits, effective January 1, 2018. The ban pertains to all vendors, special events and food service providers. Then a second major step was taken in banning the use of single-use plastic bags. This will be effective May 10, 2018, after a 12 month public education period.

For More Information contact:

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The War on Mosquitoes is in Full Swing



Miami-Dade County has issued a notice of spray treatments for mosquito control in Coral Gables on June 26, 2017. The scheduled area for treatment is as follows: To the south: Palermo Avenue, to the north: Menores Avenue, to the West: Segovia Boulevard and to the east: S.W. 34 Avenue.

Spray equipment is mounted on pick-up trucks and emits a fine mist. Spraying will be done in the pre-dawn hours and at dawn and dusk. Every effort will be made to avoid the use of the product when most residents are active. Information on the Center for

Disease Control can be found at: www.cdc.gov/features/stopmosquitoes.

Coral Gables Riding Academy and Show Ring Marked as Historic



Mayor Valdes-Fauli attends the dedication of the historic marker at the site of the Coral Gables Riding Academy, Show Ring & Bridle Path.

On a rainy but otherwise happy occasion one of the longest lived businesses in Coral Gables was marked as historic. The Coral Gables Riding Academy and Show Ring was the longest continually operating business in the City until it relocated in 1952. From 1930 the beauty and excitement of equestrian activities were a



"Hey, Partner, did they spell our names right?"
The Guests of Honor at the unveiling of the historic marker.

part of the ambiance of Coral Gables. The show ring was located on the property now occupied by Ruth's Chris Steak House. To the South, across Giralda Avenue at the corner of Salzedo Street was the stable and office. A bridle path meandered through the Gables via the large median which divides Alhambra Circle, around the Granada Golf Course, to Country Club Prado and taking in the site of the Biltmore Hotel. There were Saturday horse shows and Sunday breakfast rides to be enjoyed. Yes, there is something to be said for the slower pace of life. The marker, dedicated on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, through efforts of the Historic Preservation Association of Coral Gables, its President, Karelia Carbonell and the City of Coral Gables Office of Historic Preservation, can be a permanent reminder of the way things were. Thanks are in order for the gracious hospitality tent with appetizing munchies from Ruth's Chris Steak House. Next time you are at Ruth's Chris take some time to read the marker and reminisce.

What Happens to the Remaining Money?

*According to Florida State Statute 106.141, any surplus funds remaining after an election must be disposed of in one or more of certain defined ways. Of the more likely ways allowed is that: 1) funds may be given to a charitable organization(s) that has met the qualifications of a 501(c)(3) organization according to the Internal Revenue Code. 2) The candidate may also give not more than \$25,000 of his or her remaining funds to the affiliated party committee or political party of which such a candidate is a member. 3) The funds may also be turned over to the City for deposit in the General Revenue Fund. 4) A candidate who is elected or takes office by virtue of being unopposed, may also transfer remaining funds to an office account up to \$5,000 multiplied by the number of years in the term of office for which he or she is elected in a

less than countywide race. The statute goes on to say that the office account referred to in this regard "shall be separate from any personal or other account... and shall be used only for legitimate expenses in connection with the candidate's public office." There follows a lengthy list of legitimate uses.



Each candidate who withdraws from the race, is unopposed, is eliminated or is elected to office, "shall, within 90 days, dispose of the funds on deposit in the campaign account and file a report reflecting the disposition of all remaining funds.

*See the statute for all information on this question.

The GGG newsletter is not a publication of the City of Coral Gables. It may contain errors and omissions.

GGG Board Member, Dorothy Thomson, Rotary's Citizen of the Year



Mayor Thomson receives Rotary's Citizen of the Year Award from President, Steven Spann, (left) as husband, Jack Thomson, shares the moment.

Rotary Club of Coral Gables has honored Mayor Dorothy Thomson as its 2017 Citizen of the Year. At its meeting on May 24, 2017 the club added Thomson's name to the ranks of other distinguished Coral Gables citizens including Commissioner William Kerdyk, Leona Cooper and Roxcy Bolton.



Mrs. Thomson served on the Coral Gables City Commission for 12 years and was later elected to the office of Mayor of Coral Gables in 1985. She still holds the distinction of being the only woman to serve in the Office of Mayor. During her service on the Commission, it was her deciding vote, after a long and contentious struggle, which ultimately saved the historic Biltmore Hotel from destruction.

She was the co-founder of Coral Gables Citizen's Crime Watch and Crime Watch of Dade County and spearheaded a community focus on senior citizens issues which resulted in the establishment of the City's first Office of Senior Affairs. As a member of the Coral Gables

Garden Club she was involved in the ideas and completion of many beautification projects in the city including acting as Chairperson for the fund raising campaign which brought to fruition the creation and installation, at City Hall, of the statue of Coral Gables founder, George Merrick.

It's That Time Again...June 1 through November 30.



Now is the time to make preliminary safety and protective preparations. Go ahead and purchase non-perishable food products, enough for two weeks; make sure your window and door coverings are in good order, check your supply of batteries and get fresh ones if necessary. Get an emergency charger for your cell phone. If you have a generator, make sure it is in safe working order. This would be a good time to clean out the garage so your car will have a safe place to be in a storm. If you are in a flood or evacuation zone know what you and your family are to do in

case of orders to relocate. Know what to do for elderly and disabled family members. Know what to do about your pets. Make a list of what you will need to do if a storm is actually approaching: Check on medicine supplies, fill the car(s) with gasoline. Know what to do if cell towers are disabled. Figure out ways to entertain kids. Check on friends and neighbors who are alone or infirm. Those who have done this before know that preparation is the key to getting through to the other side safely and with no unnecessary complications. With any luck there will be no "hits" and we will end up with just a clean garage and a supply of fresh batteries!

HOW TO JOIN GGG

Send a letter to: Gables Good Government
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