



MESSENGER

Shine a light on the news

Hurricane Irma

Power out for days.

Neil J. Moore

In the wake of Irma, a nursing home in Hollywood is under investigation after elderly residents died due to being left without power for days. A somewhat similar situation exists in Century Village. Condo units with elderly residents went without power for days exposing vulnerable elders to the risk of dehydration and heat exhaustion. Despite the hurricane preparedness touted by the administration there is no plan for dealing with the aftermath of hurricanes. The clubhouse was closed and sat without power. Residents should have been able to seek support and shelter in that facility but were unable to get into the

Continue on page 2

Clubhouse closed. Century Village residents outraged

WHAT A DISGRACE !

Neil J. Moore

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma Century Village has many residents without electric power in their units. There's a lot of special needs persons, many aged and infirm dealing with health issues and a vast number of elderly people who are threatened with heat exhaustion. They struggle to get a decent meal as they cannot cook while their refrigerators without power quickly turn into breeding grounds for dangerous bacteria that infest spoiled food.

So what is the disgrace in all this you may ask. The shame is that Century Village has a large clubhouse fully equipped with a kitchen and air conditioning that CV residents just forked out almost a million dollars to repair that is locked up and unavailable until further notice, whatever that means.

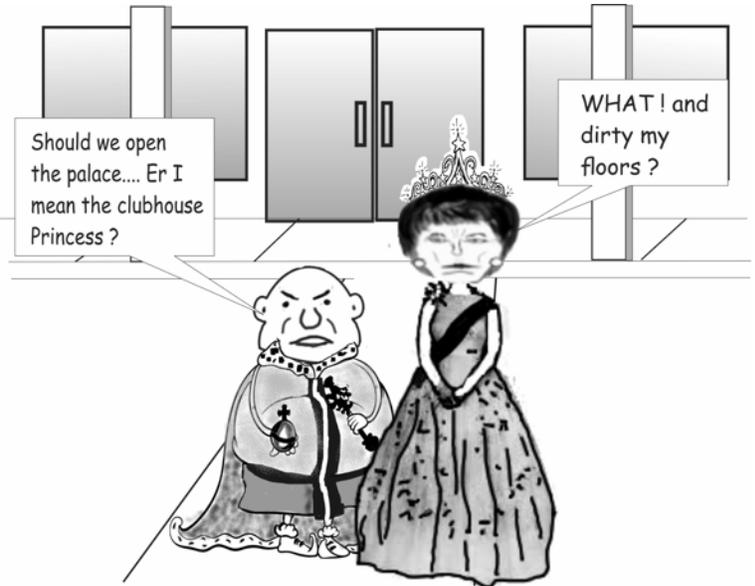
Continued page 2

THE CLUB HOUSE CODE.

Ed Grossman

What are the reasons for not equipping the clubhouse with a standby emergency generator? Not knowing why the generator was not installed after the disastrous hurricane that tore the building to pieces, we asked Jean Dowling who was in charge of renovations. Jean informed us that a generator was not considered. Priority was given to rebuilding the auditorium, altering

Continued on page 5



Scandal !

More than just interesting, -- it's shocking!

When you conceal items involving money, in my opinion, it's the same as stealing. Concealing things in Century Village seems to be commonplace among people who control the money, and the good guys continue to wear blindfolds, earplugs and duct tape over their mouths. To put it bluntly, nobody seems to give a fiddler's #S%@ as to what is going on. Only when it becomes ridiculously expensive to live in CV, will the

Continued page 6

Let's get ready to rumble!

Hurricane preparedness is one thing, but preparations for the aftermath is another.

The reports about our sister village in Boca Raton are disturbing to say the least. Elderly, infirm residents trapped in apartments without power for days after Irma ravaged the area, it should be a wake up call for Century Village West Palm Beach.

We heard and read the instructions to be prepared, stock up on food, water and medicine, secure and fortify as best you can and so on. However, what about the aftermath?

Continued on page 3

Hurricane Irma from page 1

building for days, it was closed and guards manned a roadblock at the entrance to Duck Island. Questions regarding the plan to deal with hurricanes are being raised, chief among them is the question of why the clubhouse was ill prepared to deal with sheltering or offering support for residents left on their own to cope with the breakdown of electrical service. The facility has large rooms, and a fully equipped kitchen sitting idle. Those without power struggle to cook a meal, and are dangerously exposed to the threat of food poisoning as refrigerators warm up quickly in the stifling heat. The clubhouse was rebuilt to the tune of millions of dollars after it was damaged during a previous hurricane. Though the Levy's insurance was used to restore the clubhouse, the additional improvements were an extra that CV residents paid for out of pocket.

Priority was given to providing topical amenities, there was little or no consideration to preparing the clubhouse to serve as a shelter or relief center, during, and after a hurricane.

It's a disgrace that Ed Ross, the only resident architect involved in the restoration of the clubhouse was summarily dismissed and did not participate in the planning despite his willingness. He was dropped when he made objections to some of the plans and offered alternate plans that did not suit the administration's intentions.

There are no emergency generators in the building, and there are no plans to get portable generators to temporarily fill the need if a disastrous situation arises. There are no plans to make the clubhouse a relief center despite it now having a lot of the things that would offer temporary relief. It has plenty of room to accommodate hundreds if need be. It has washrooms and a kitchen. Why not use the clubhouse for emergency relief?

The priorities of the Operations committee, who are charged with defining what goes on in the clubhouse, and the priorities of WPRF management are misplaced to say the least.

It's time to review the policies of both entities and redefine their objectives.

The time to do it is now, before a disaster strikes. After the fact it's too late.

**\$250,000.00 for the tennis courts
But nothing for a generator on
the agenda for the operations
committee!**

Disgrace from page 1

It is unconscionable by any standard, to deny residents a place to cool off, get a cold drink or a sandwich until power is restored to their homes. Where is the leadership and the compassion of our leaders who do worse than nothing while residents suffer in the dark sweltering heat? No power they cry ! Why not ? Where's the foresight, the planning, the priority for residents welfare?

Is there any reasonable excuse for locking residents out when they need the facility the most? There is none that comes to mind. The excuse that there was no power to the clubhouse is a little weak. There could have been power if the powers that be had thought about it for a few minutes.

Advocating that the clubhouse be turned into a storm shelter is not reasonable, there are shelters available for any one. Preparing for the aftermath where the clubhouse becomes a relief center is reasonable. Residents faced with destruction of their homes or the absence of power should be able to use our facilities for sanctuary until the situation normalizes.

The situation shows the shortsighted, crass and uncaring attitudes of the managers and the administration who would rather sit around their committee tables discussing the spending of thousands of dollars for decorative lights to wrap around the trees at the entrances, or some other dumb expenditure, like painting pictures on the bottom of swimming pools, than planning for the real needs of residents.

It's time for all residents of century Village to demand that our money be spent on the things that are needed the most. A hurricane/disaster relief center for residents should be front and center.

A large tree uprooted behind Salisbury I



Rumble from page 1

CV West Palm is woefully unprepared to deal with any serious consequences from a hurricane. Fortunately we dodged major damage from hurricane Irma, but we should not get too complacent. It could and more than likely will happen again. The next time a hurricane blows through here we may not be so lucky. We should make preparations now to deal with any eventuality. Prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

That our clubhouse was closed due to the lack of power in the days following Irma is one area of concern that could and should be rectified as soon as possible. Emergency generators installed and ready to go, would give residents some measure of relief if worst comes to worst. The next best solution is to arrange for portable generators to be available.

The clubhouse could be stocked with a few days supply of food and water, the kitchen could easily serve as a backup in case of disaster.

The large rooms in the clubhouse could serve as a relief and cooling center for the elderly seeking escape from the stifling heat, or shelter if their homes are damaged.

An emergency communications center wouldn't be a bad idea, either. We have residents who are experts in short wave radio communications who could be assigned to keep us in touch with the outside world.

A first aid center should be established and stocked with medical supplies, ready to treat and perhaps save lives of any one who may suffer injury.

We have our own transportation system that could serve as an evacuation service with a little pre-planning. Our own security forces could and should be ready to serve in the event of a disaster, but that would require a contract with the security company to ensure the person power is available.

The clubhouse was not rebuilt to a higher standard after it was severely damaged in a previous hurricane. It does not reach the standards needed to be designated as a shelter, an obvious and troubling set of circumstances. If we are to be truly prepared for the kind of damage that struck many areas around us in this latest disaster, we should fortify the clubhouse before it's too late.

The biggest stumbling block to this kind of preparation is the financial burden of accomplishing it. The question of whether CV residents are ready to bear the burden or roll the dice in the hope that it won't happen here, is a question that should be investigated and analyzed, then answered with clear answers.

Ask yourself: Are we ready to rumble? If the answer is no. Then let's get ready or we could find ourselves knocked out and wishing we did.

Neil J. Moore

Comments from the web

CV Residents reactions to the closing of the clubhouse during and after hurricane Irma.

Elizabeth Anne Suchocki

Elizabeth Anne Suchocki This IS shameful...what no emergency response plans!!! Makes me second guess my recent purchase....community action is needed people...don't let management off the hook

William Divale Since we paid almost one million for new air for a building we are only renting, at least the management or UCO could buy a powerful generator for the building for use during emergencies.

Beverly Bradley There is a lack of caring here

Annette Loper Worked out here for years And your correct. WPRF AND UCO ARE CROOKS !! Trust me I know !!

Elaine Huot D'Alessio Shame on them

Carole Szepesi. Subject: Re: This is a disgrace.

Disgrace is not a strong enough word. I have always believed the clubhouse should be a haven for residents during hurricanes or tornado threats. Sickening!!

Esther Joseph Rosenau All they care about is money!!

Ray Stoecker .. care ?? are you kidding us. if she can't make a \$buck\$ she won't do it !!!

Maureen Downey- Komoroski If the residents are without power could it be the club house is without power also ? Just asking

· Reply ·

The Century Village Messenger Club

The Century Village Messenger Club YES ! The clubhouse is without power, But that is the point! Why no standby generator ? POOR PLANNING

SCANDAL from page 1

moaning and groaning start and then finger pointing. Let's have a look at one particular issue ... PAVING! To get a good idea of what I'm talking about, browse Eduardo's Scandals articles, which can be found on MY VILLAGE BLOGGER.

On 9-4-2017, Donald Foster, LCAM, the CV Property Manager, reported: "Paving – Federal Maintenance made repairs to walkways and bus stops at various sections. New job list was submitted to contractor for estimate. Walkway, bus stop, and roadway maintenance is an ongoing project," Patching of walk ways, bus stops and roadways, has been going on secretly for a considerable period of time. Logically, one has to ask" "Why is that? All of the paving is only about 5 years old." If the paving was done PROPERLY, it should last between 12 and 15 years under normal wear and tear. Obviously, it isn't going to last because it is and has been cracking up, wash-boarding, the surfaces are prematurely deteriorating; it is coming up because of lack of bonding, improper heating of bituminous concrete, perhaps improper rolling, and lack of proper preparation of existing pavement.

When Dorothy Tetro was the CV treasurer, she set up seven individual accounts relating to the budget. In the event there was an emergency, you couldn't use any of the dedicated money unless you got the delegate's approval. Everything was above board and nothing was concealed.

When Ed Black took over the treasury, sanctioned by David Israel, all of the monies were moved into a single "Reserve" account. Israel and Black could use the "Reserve" account money for anything they wanted without anyone's approval. The goal was a concealment of the facts. Get out the blindfolds, earplugs and duct tape over the mouths of the good guys who turn their backs.

So, what does all of that mean? It means that when the walkways and roadways fell apart prematurely, Israel and Black took the money, whatever amount of money, and repaired these areas. Where are the competitive bids? Where are the bidding documents? Where are the invoices? Who explains why the work is necessary? No doubt, hundreds of thousands of dollars have already been spent on re-paving the new paving job and this should not have been necessary Consult any architect or engineer and

you'll get the same response.

Mr. Foster states that the "walkway, bus stop and roadway maintenance is an ongoing project." He tries to wiggle out of a serious statement by using the word "maintenance." Patch paving a 5 year old re-paving job is hardly maintenance; it's a cover-up for a failed paving job that was improperly performed.

Mr. Foster no doubt ordered patch paving to be done so that when the walkways and roadways are inspected by the defendant's professionals, it can then be reported that nothing appears to be wrong with any of the "original" work. You don't need a private detective to figure this one out. Right before your very eyes, the paving contractor will spread dirt free of pebbles and rocks on a large roadway patch so that it will not look new. The dirt swept around will make the new patch blend in with the existing roadway. There is a word for that ... deception.

Mr. Foster, with the approval of Israel, and Israel's button pusher Black, are spending your money. In

reality, the paving contractor, M & M Paving Contractors, should be paying for all of this work from day one of walkway, bus stop and roadway failures to present date and beyond because they knew, or should have known, that failures were going to occur rapidly due to labor and material deficiencies. Inasmuch as Israel and Black permitted a single page contract for a paving job costing over five million dollars and disregarding their fiduciary responsibilities, and their actions and non-actions creating an extremely poor paving job, then they should be responsible for the cost of all patch repairs past and future. Israel and Black need to be stopped cold in their tracks and be held fully responsible for concealing the facts and causing extreme monetary damage to the people of Century Village.

By the time enough money is saved for a new paving job throughout the Village, the patch paving "ongoing project will probably exceed a half million dollars. Hey you! — With the blindfold, earplugs and duct tape over your mouth, who are you going to blame, Vivian Walsh or Kurt Weiss? A better questions — when patching of the patching of the re-paving job comes about — who do you hold responsible — anyone that Israel and Black names. I remember what an elderly woman at the Hastings pool once said — "I don't care if they steal, as long as they don't steal a lot." God bless women over 90.

EDUARDO

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Code from page 1

the room configuration, and adding what was needed to bring the building up to code. Hurricane windows and doors were added and the roof was reinforced to comply with the building codes.

When asked by a concerned resident why there are no generators management said that code enforcement wouldn't allow it because it would be situated too close to the water. We checked the building codes for Palm Beach County and could find no reference to water in regard to generators.

Jean Dowling went on to say that she thought a reserve fund should have been established to cover the costs. No fund was ever established. "If we had started putting money aside back then we could have paid for generators many times over" She also commented that FPL could be brought in to the picture and perhaps the clubhouse could be added to the electrical grid that supplies the fire station on Okeechobee Blvd.if that could be accomplished there would be no need for generators.

Jean could see no reason it couldn't be used as a shelter. "Eva probably doesn't want to clean it up after it is used as a shelter", she said.

Hurricane Irma is not the end of encounters with disastrous winds and rain. It's only a matter of time until we get struck again. Let's do what needs to be done now!

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Palm trees under attack



Emergency services braved the storm as long as possible



EVA FORRAY surveys damage to her building

WHY?

Why did Ed Grossman had to go on the stage in order to be heard? Why, during the “reign” of David Israel, there are so many arguments and exchanges of unpleasant words among delegates on the podium and David Israel? Why is there so much animosity in the air when David Israel is presiding? I look back with yearning to the delegates assemblies years ago where delegates on the podium were bundling a joke with their message. It was such a pleasant atmosphere. They say that every dictator needs enemy to survive, so David Israel has created quite a few of them. Instead of being the president of all, he is the president of his “henchmen”. Century Village Delegate Assembly is a senate of 309 associations of almost 14,000 residents. The delegates, i.e. the senators, should be heard without interruption from David Israel. Do you remember how often David Israel used the phrase “call security...”? I, being a licensed security officer for many years, know that a security officer can do nothing, zero, zilch, physically or any other way. So, this has been off the table. So, David Israel began to scare delegates with “call 911... call the Sheriff...”. When this was happening too often, some delegates took preemptive moves and contacted the Sheriff. They asked him whether they were breaking any law and if the Sheriff was going to arrest a delegate who had the right to speak but was constantly interrupted by David Israel. Many times just because he did not like what the delegate was saying. His new weapon is now “you are out of order”. I am emphasizing that the delegate was speaking on the subject on the agenda or speaking during the ‘good of the order’ when any delegate can talk about anything relevant to our Century Village. A severe case of David’s “out of order” was when I showed the delegates proof of how he interfered with my two associations decisions about the choice of their delegates! When I talked to the delegates he constantly shouted in his microphone “Dan, you are out of order SIT DOWN” again and again. I would not sit down and over screamed at him until I had my say. He, of course, sent two security officers who could only stay near me (that is all they could do). Later on, it showed that I was very much in order because David Israel changed UCO bylaws because of it!!! By the way, Roberts Rules, that UCO is bound to abide, has a specific chapter on how to act if there is a dispute on “out of order”. Does David Israel act accordingly? Guess again, NO HE DOES NOT !.

Back to Ed Grossman going on the stage. It caused David Israel to once again shout “call 911” was that because he felt threatened and feared for his life!!! Do you think that Ed would put dirt on his reputation by even getting close to David? Fact, He was standing way from the officers table, about 14 feet away from David, facing the audience and holding a piece of paper in his hand. If David is so fearful of Ed, let him sneak out from the theater and not mingle with the delegates after the meeting, where Ed and David are almost rubbing each other on the way out...

Presented by Dan Gladstone.

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