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ISSUE:**
2024
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GUIDE



**FEATURED
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GOT NEWS? EMAIL THE EDITOR!

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Resolutions For The New Year



The tradition of making New Year's resolutions dates back thousands of years and has its origins in various cultures and civilizations. While the specific customs and resolutions may have evolved over time, the concept of setting goals and making commitments for self-improvement at the start of a new year has remained a common practice in many parts of the world.

The practice of making New Year's resolutions can be traced back to ancient Babylon, around 4,000 years ago. The Babylonians celebrated the New Year during the spring equinox and made promises to their gods to repay debts and return borrowed items. This was seen as a way to secure favor for the upcoming year.

In the early days of the United States, religious and moral resolutions continued to be popular. The practice later evolved to include promises related to self-improvement, such as losing weight or saving money.

Today, New Year's resolutions encompass a wide range of goals and commitments, from personal fitness and health to career aspirations and self-improvement.

Whether your resolution for this year is related to fitness, financial success, or learning a new hobby, we wish you the very best in pursuing yours!

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January 2024 Calendar



JANUARY 5

Movie Night: Barbie

See a FREE family-friendly flick every Friday at the ArtsPark at Young Circle in Downtown Hollywood. Lawn seating is available, so bring a blanket or beach chair for comfort. As a reminder, City parks are plastic and foam-free. 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm at the ArtsPark Amphitheater, 1 Young Circle. **For more info, call 954-921-3404.**



JANUARY 1

New Years Day

Ring in the New Year with those closest to you. Some of the best holiday traditions come from being with the people who mean the most to you. **Happy New Year from everyone at Our City Media!**



JANUARY 13

Dania After Dark

Join us for the revamped Dania After Dark - an extraordinary experience with live entertainment, themed nights, engaging games, and family-friendly zones. Our creative team is dedicated to curating unforgettable moments that celebrate community spirit. Embrace the joyous ambiance, uniting residents, and visitors alike in an enchanting celebration. City Hall, 100 W Dania Beach Blvd, **Visit www.daniabeachafterdark.com or use the above QR code for details.**

JANUARY 7

Hollywood Historic Walking Tour

Join locals on a guided walking tour of historic downtown Hollywood. The walking tour sets out on the first Sunday of each month at 11:00 am from the north-east corner of Hollywood Boulevard and 21st Ave. It is a wonderful way to learn about Hollywood's past and how the city has grown into the dynamic community it is today. **For more info visit www.HollywoodHistoricalSociety.org.**



JANUARY 1

Food Trucks at ArtsPark

Food In Motion Presents, Food Trucks at ArtsPark every first Monday of each month from 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM As a reminder, City parks are plastic and foam-free. Single-use items, like plastic water bottles and utensils are prohibited on the grounds. 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm at Young Circle. **For more info, call 954-788-3467.**



JANUARY 13

Hollywood Beach Half Marathon

Experience the ultimate beach view run! The course takes you through the iconic Hollywood Beach Boardwalk. The route follows the beach giving runners spectacular views of the Atlantic ocean, and the chance to feel the sand under their feet and the ocean breeze in their hair immediately after they finish. The starting gun fires at 6:30 am sharp! **For more info or to register, visit www.hollywoodhalf.com or scan the QR code.**

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January 2024 Calendar

(CONTINUED)

JANUARY 16

Martin Luther King Day

Celebrate the life of the Christian minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement. Join your neighbors and friends in reflecting on the incredible advances our society has made and what more needs to be done in order to have a truly free and equal country.



JANUARY 19

Movie Night: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

See a FREE family-friendly flick every Friday at the ArtsPark at Young Circle in Downtown Hollywood. Lawn seating is available, so bring a blanket or beach chair for comfort. As a reminder, City parks are plastic and foam-free. 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm at the ArtsPark Amphitheater, 1 Young Circle. **For more info, call 954-921-3404.**



JANUARY 20

Downtown Hollywood ArtWalk

The Downtown Hollywood ArtWalk is back! This monthly event is open to all. Explore all that downtown Hollywood has to offer! Visit galleries and shops while enjoying art, cultural entertainment, live music, murals, and more! Artisan Market, 6pm-11pm; Mural Tour, 6pm-7pm; Gallery Tour, 7pm-8pm; Impulse Art - fusion of music and foot painting, 8pm-9pm. **For more info visit www.floridashollywood.org/ArtWalk.**



JANUARY 20

Operation Paintbrush Paint Giveaway

Hollywood homeowners can get high-quality exterior latex paint for FREE! Paint can be picked up at the Department of Public Works, 1600 S. Park Road in Hollywood from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Distribution is on a first-come, first-served, basis while the City's supply lasts. To participate, you must provide your current driver's license with a Hollywood address and a current utility bill as proof of Hollywood residency. The paint colors typically offered are off-white, beige, gray, terracotta, and turquoise. **For more info, call 954-967-4357**

JANUARY 20

Honey Project Presents Sounds of Motown at T.Y. Park

Honey Project presents Sounds of Motown (partnering with the Music Club of Hollywood). Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy live music in the park. Food trucks will be on site. 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at T.Y. Park, 3300 N Park Road. **For more info, visit www.friendsoftypark.org.**



JANUARY 27-28

Jerry Seinfeld Live

Jerry Seinfeld's comedy career took off after his first appearance on "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson," in 1981. Eight years later, he teamed up with fellow comedian Larry David to create what was to become the most successful comedy series in the history of television: "Seinfeld." Come see Jerry live at the Hard Rock. Shows start at 8:00 pm. **Scan the QR code for tickets or info.**



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ADVANCING PRECISION MEDICINE: MILLION VETERAN PROGRAM'S LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT

By Terry Jaillet

The Coral Springs Police Department is spearheading a drive to gather unwrapped, brand-new toys for disadvantaged children within the local area. This charitable initiative will run from November 15 to December 15.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Million Veteran Program (MVP) reached its goal of enrolling 1 Million Veterans last month. MVP is a landmark research initiative to understand how genes, lifestyle, and military exposures affect health and illness. As one of the world's largest health and genetic information databases, MVP aims to improve health care for veterans through precision medicine and serves as a valuable resource for understanding the relationship between genes, lifestyle, and health.

The program was launched in 2011 and has been recruiting Veterans to participate since. MVP focuses on a wide range of

medical issues including cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and mental health disorders like PTSD. By studying genetic influences on these conditions, researchers hope to develop new ways to prevent and treat illnesses in veterans and the broader population.

The genetic data collected is paired with health information from participants' VA medical records. This comprehensive dataset provides a rich resource for researchers studying complex interactions between genetics, environment, and lifestyle.

A small amount of blood is drawn from enrolled veterans and is used to process DNA tests. The DNA data, combined with the VA's healthcare records is then combined and used by researchers. This is the largest study of its kind in the world.

The huge number of enrollees will allow researchers to analyze small genetic varia-

tions within the larger population to explore impacts on health. The program does not offer individual benefits to participants as it is a "blind" research study and all data is anonymous. It is no surprise that men and women who were willing to join the armed forces were also willing to selflessly participate in the program.

MVP is co-directed by two prominent physicians: John Concato, M.D., M.S., M.P.H., a professor of medicine at Yale University, and J. Michael Gaziano, M.D., M.P.H., a professor of medicine at Harvard University.

Some of the research breakthroughs directly attributable to MVP include:

Height and Health Risks

An MVP study involving 280,000 veterans revealed 127 medical conditions with risk factors linked to height. Tall individuals appear to have a reduced risk of cardiovascular problems but an increased risk for conditions like peripheral neuropathy and circulatory disorders.

Yogurt and Heart Health

Research on nearly 200,000 veterans in 2021 indicated that higher yogurt consumption correlates with increased levels of high-density lipoprotein (HDL), or "good cholesterol," potentially reducing heart disease risk and increasing longevity.

Racial Disparities in COVID-19 Outcomes:

MVP researchers discovered a link between two mutations of the APOL1 gene and increased risk of acute kidney failure in Black patients with COVID-19. This finding, based on data from over 150,000 Black veterans, is leading to new drug research targeting the APOL1 gene.

Genetic Links Between PTSD, TBI, and Dementia

A study found a genetic connection between PTSD, traumatic brain injury (TBI), and an increased risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease. This research highlights the importance of genetic factors in these conditions and may improve screening and treatment.

- ▶ If you are a Veteran who would like to learn how you can participate in MVP, scan the QR code for more info.





**FIRST
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When he came to First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood in 2006, a reporter asked Pastor Kennedy McGowan his thoughts and perspective. He responded, “I’m very excited and intend to do more outreach to the residents and businesspeople in the city.” He has stayed true to his intent and today is either personally active or has enlisted church members to participate in many local organizations across Hollywood and Broward County.

His reach has been wide and extended overseas to

Haiti with “Hollywood Cares,” a remarkable collaborative Ministry with Temple Beth El that supported an orphanage for girls with HIV. The girls are now grown, but Hollywood Cares continues assisting them with higher education needs.

For the better part of 20 years, Pastor Kennedy has been actively leading and growing the Church, its Learning Centers and Ministries. In the cover photo, Pastor Kennedy (from left to right) appears with Fatima Marin, Executive Director of the Church’s Hollywood Learning Centers; Alba Adiles, Director of the Learning Center at St. James; Rebecca Ortiz, Director of the Learning Center Downtown; and Jacqueline Carbonell, Director of the Early Learning Center.

Pastor Kennedy and Marin, worked closely together, with the full support of the Church Elders and governance, to successfully persevere through the COVID pandemic, maintaining all employees, providing on-line education to every student, and assisting parents if a special situation arose. The resolute teachers and administrators were able to create a secure, properly distanced, outdoor, in-person graduation ceremony for each class and student.

Over the last several years, the

strength of management combined with professionalism and dedication of the entire learning center team has been instrumental in the overall growth of the Church’s Hollywood Learning Centers and has allowed the school to successfully grow and create additional campuses.

Everyone is always “Invited, Welcomed and Loved” at First Presbyterian. The church guided by Pastor Kennedy continues to grow its Community Outreach and Family Ministries. Yezi Williams is the Director of Community Outreach and her husband Daniel Williams, the Director of Family Ministries.

The Williams family plays an essential, expanding and collaborative role in developing learning programs for children and adults as well

as providing activities and programs for children, families, couples, individuals, young and old alike.

First Presbyterian is expanding its calendar of events and community activities, including the planning of its 100th Anniversary celebration in 2025. Teaming up with Pastor Kennedy and the Williams’, First Presbyterian Facilities Manager, Bob Roddy has been actively working to enhance the campus and upgrade the facility as required to accommodate the expanded variety of activities planned.

Last year, Pastor Kennedy in coordination with the Williams’ launched “Parties at First”, a continuing monthly series of Friday night dinner events on the church patio. Events are scheduled for the beginning of each month starting in the fall and continuing into the spring.

“Parties at First” events are designed for the entire family and include food, beverages, and chaperoned activities such as pajama parties for kids and a truly enjoyable evening for adults complete with a wonderfully planned menu, fine cuisine and an open bar with specialty cocktails, beer and wine.

“You are invited to be our GUEST and join us for “Parties at First” events. Reservations are requested. This is First Presbyterian’s way of saying THANK YOU for being our neighbor.” We know you will enjoy the evening and we look forward to seeing you!



SOUTH BROWARD HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER NAMED FINALIST FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Monique Archer, Career Technical Education teacher and Department Chair at South Broward High School is a finalist for Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) Teacher of the Year. Ms. Archer has been teaching in BCPS for 25 years and is a cherished member of the teaching staff at South Broward.

“Ms. Archer is a problem-solver, a go-getter and a dynamic member of the South Broward High family,” said South Broward High Principal Alexander Francois. “She is an

exceptional individual who strives to perform at her best in every aspect of her life.”

Monique found out she was a finalist when BCPS’ new Superintendent, Peter B. Licata visited the school with the surprise announcement, along with a gift basket.

The 2024 Caliber Awards Ceremony honoring the nominees, semi-finalists and finalists for Teacher of the Year, Principal of the Year, Assistant Principal of the Year and School-Related Employee of the Year will take place on Friday, February 2, 2024, at 6 p.m., at the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center.

With more than 30,000 employees, BCPS is proud of those individuals who have dedicated themselves to ensuring the future success of our more than 251,000 students and 110,000 adult learners. The Caliber Awards program provides the opportunity for the District to recognize employees who have excelled as teachers, principals, assistant principals and school-related employees.



The Teacher of the Year (TOY) program honors outstanding classroom teachers who inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to excel. Through their contributions, we have made significant progress in student achievement. You are encouraged to join us in honoring these educators by participating in this prestigious recognition program.



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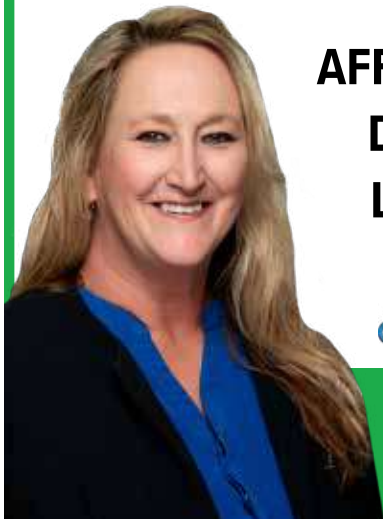
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BROWARD SCHOOLS AND BSO PARTNER IN EFFORT TO PREVENT SEXTORTION

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is partnering with the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) in warning teens that they're the target of an Internet scam called Sextortion.

Sextortion happens when a teen communicates through social media or gaming app with someone pretending to have a romantic interest in him/her. The criminal's goal is to establish a relationship with the teen and obtain sexually suggestive photos to later blackmail the teen for more explicit content or money. If the demands are not met, the criminal threatens to share the images publicly.

To help educate students and families about this crime, BCPS Superintendent Dr. Peter B. Licata and Sheriff Gregory Tony will hold a press conference on Friday, December 8, at 10 a.m., at Lauderhill 6 – 12, located at 1901 N.W. 49 Ave., Lauderhill.

BCPS and BSO collaborated in creating an awareness campaign, which includes a poster with a QR code that students can scan to get information about sextortion: what it is, how it happens, what to do if victimized

and how to preserve information that will be useful to law enforcement. BCPS is placing posters in bathrooms at middle and high schools across the District.

"It is sickening that unscrupulous people are targeting our children for financial gain," Superintendent Licata said. "Education is the key to safeguarding our children and through this partnership we are raising awareness and equipping our students with everything they need to know if they fall victim to this crime."

"The Broward Sheriff's Office is committed to informing young people, their parents, school officials and community stakeholders about the ruthless individuals trying to prey on them and the dangers that lurk online," Sheriff Tony said. "Partnering with Broward County Public Schools will enable us to widely spread the message about this despicable crime. I hope it also encourages victims to safely share their experiences with law enforcement in hopes of arresting the sick individuals who seek to blackmail children and rob them of their safety and security."

BSO, which is the host agency for the



South Florida Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, receives approximately five reports of potential sextortion cases from local victims per week. Investigators believe many more cases go unreported as victims are often reluctant to come forward due to the embarrassment of having been tricked. According to the ICAC Task Force, since early 2022, more than 18 teens across the U.S. have turned to self-harm after feeling overwhelmed by the shame of being exposed.

- ▶ Help is available. In addition to contacting law enforcement to report the crime, BCPS has counselors at every school available to assist. For resources and information about sextortion, scan the QR Code or visit sextortion.southfloridaicac.com.



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Hollywood Historical Society Announces First Major City Grant-Funded Education Project

"OUR LIBERIA: MAKING HOLLYWOOD HISTORY"

The Hollywood Historical Society has expanded its Education programs with the addition of "Our Liberia: Making Hollywood History", a deep dive into the story of the Liberia neighborhood of the city. Approximately 150 middle and high school students from five area schools will participate in the semester-long project.

Liberia, the historically African-American section of Hollywood, was built by Joseph Young as a place for his workers to live as they helped build his Dream City of Hollywood. Like the rest of the city, it followed the ideal of the City Beautiful, with a circle park, broad streets, and designated areas for churches. It is a neighborhood with many great stories to tell.

"Our Liberia: Making Hollywood History" is the first formal collaborative relationship between the Hollywood Historical Society and the local schools, represented by South Broward High School, Avant Garde Academy, Beachside Montessori, Attucks Middle School, and Olsen Middle School. The program is coordinated by HHS board member Andy Ruffner, HHS member Susan Ostheim, and 12 educators.

"The first teacher orientation session was really successful," said Ostheim, a retired SBHS teacher.

"We expected we'd involve only four or five kids per school, but the teachers were so excited and now we're looking at many more! I think it's a testament to how hungry they are for new things to engage the students."

"The concept framework is project-based learning for the students, over the course of the semester," explained Ruffner, a humanities educator. "They'll study the history of the Liberia neighborhood as well as the city of Hollywood as a whole, and prepare exhibitions in their schools about what they've learned."

At the end of the semester, the teams will come together for a culminating exhibition and celebration at a citywide, open-to-the-public event. The presentations, with student-developed items utilizing oral histories, reproductions of items from the HHS archives, and other elements created from their findings, are also designed to help further understand how historical exhibits are developed and built.

During the year, the participating students will visit at least two resources key to their studies: the Hollywood Historical Society Research Center at 1520 Polk Street, and Liberia itself.

"The Hollywood Historical Society has always had an interest in Liberia," noted Ostheim, adding that

the Society arranged for Liberia to be recognized by the state with a historical marker in honor of Liberia's 100th anniversary.

For more information on "Our Liberia: Making Hollywood History", please follow HHS on social media.

"Our Liberia: Making Hollywood History" and other programs are just a part of the Hollywood Historical Society's agenda of activities and events supporting its mission to keep the City's history alive for current and future generations. The Hollywood Historical Society offers free tours of the Historic Hammerstein House on the first Sunday of every month from 1 to 4 pm, and by appointment. Call for info or to schedule. 954-923-5590

To learn more about the Hollywood Historical Society, a nonprofit 501(c)(3)* cultural organization founded and operated by volunteers, or to join us, email HollywoodFLHistory@att.net, or visit <http://www.hollywoodhistoricalsociety.org/>.

The Hollywood Historical Society has over 20,000 items in its collection. Also, it offers many unique items, including books about Hollywood, historic postcards, photographs, maps, and posters, for sale at the Research Center behind Hammerstein House at 1520 Polk Street. Please call 954-923-5590 for hours.



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Faith-Based Schools

All Saints Catholic School

10900 W. Oakland Park Boulevard, Sunrise
www.allsaintscatholicsschool.net

Grades: PK-8 | 954-742-4842

All Saints Catholic School seeks to provide an atmosphere rich in the Catholic faith where each child is challenged to grow spiritually, academically, and emotionally in a safe and nurturing environment.

Through a technologically rich curriculum, students will develop rigorous problem solving and critical thinking skills. These opportunities will allow students to reach scholastic excellence and to be the next generation of compassionate Catholic leaders who live the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Archbishop Edward McCarthy High School

5451 S. Flamingo Road, SW Ranches
www.mccarthyhigh.net

Grades: 9-12 | 954-434-8820

Archbishop McCarthy High School embraces a mission of innovation in Catholic education and fosters innovation in teaching and learning. The curriculum offers honors, advanced placement and dual-enrollment courses.

Technology is integral to the curriculum with state-of-the-art facilities, including laboratories, the iLounge and iCatholicEd classroom; Classrooms have interactive displays allowing teachers to mirror iPads, annotate over content and play 4K videos.

Four classroom buildings house science and computer labs. Extracurricular programs include athletics, theater, dance, art, band & robotics.

Beth Emet School

4807 S Flamingo Road, Cooper City
www.templebethemet.org

Grades: K-8 | 954-680-1882 x1103

Beth Emet School is committed to having students reach their full potential through a challenging, academically advanced, curriculum with a warm, supportive environment that promotes critical thinking, creative expression, self-esteem, social and emotional learning and Jewish Ethics. The school prioritizes STEM education, character building and an engaging curriculum that embraces the whole child. Specials include

chess, agronomy, music, dance, art, PE, swim, Spanish and more.

Cardinal Gibbons High School

2900 NE 47th Street, Fort Lauderdale
www.cgshsfl.org

Grades: 9-12 | 954-491-2900

Cardinal Gibbons High School is dedicated to providing students with a strong formation of Catholic values, academic excellence, lifelong learning and a commitment to service. Founded in 1961, Cardinal Gibbons has come a long way from its humble beginnings. Their 18-acre campus currently houses 10 academic buildings, an interactive Media and Technology Center, four state-of-the-art science labs and a chapel that seats 300. Since opening in 1961, Cardinal Gibbons has grown to become one of the most well-respected Catholic, college preparatory schools in South Florida.

Chaminade Madonna College Preparatory

500 E. Chaminade Drive, Hollywood
www.cmlions.org

Grades: 9-12 | 954-989-5150

Founded in the Marianist Tradition, Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory is part of a network of Marianist schools. Their vision and philosophy reflect the educational principles of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade. The school enjoys a 99% acceptance rate for the approximately 500 students enrolled and believes in a well-rounded education with an emphasis on fine & performing arts, athletics, service learning, and its campus ministry, in addition to rigorous academic programs.

Cooper City Christian Academy

5201 S Flamingo Road, Cooper City
www.coopercitychristian.com

Grades: K-12 | 954-680-0850

Cooper City Christian Academy strives to provide a Christ-Centered environment of academic excellence, where faculty and staff work with families to develop students who will know and serve the Lord Jesus Christ with all their hearts, souls, minds, and strength. At CCCA students will discover their God-given gifts and will learn to lead others into the Kingdom of God with commitment, competence, compassion, and confidence.

David Posnack Jewish Day School

5810 S. Pine Island Road, Davie
www.posnackschol.org

Grades: K-12 | 54-583-6100

David Posnack Jewish Day School offers students a unique learning experience. Combining academic rigor in general and Judaic Studies with award-winning arts and sports programming, the Posnack School prepares students for lifelong achievement. 100% of students from their class or 2018 were accepted into 4-year colleges; over 75% of students participate in at least one sports team; and, they offer electives in truly unique subjects like Madarin, Human Genetics, Yoga and much more.



Hochberg Preparatory School

412 SW 11th Street, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009

www.posnackschool.org/academics/lower-school-east/

Grades: K-5 | 954-299-3600

Hochberg Lower School offers K-5 students the chance to experience the challenge of a dual curriculum that combines the best of general and Jewish education in a warm and nurturing environment. Located on Posnack School's East Campus, Hochberg Lower School provides a richly-engaging, technologically-advanced curriculum that promotes academic student success. We see lower school as our first and best opportunity to instill a lifelong enthusiasm for learning.



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- Low student-to-teacher ratios
- 95% pass rate on AP Exams
- Posnack School offers a full Judaic Studies curriculum based on study of Torah and classical Jewish sources as well as modern Hebrew instruction.
- Over 24 sports teams
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For more information contact our Admissions Office at 954-583-6100 ext. 641 or visit www.posnackschool.org.

Potential Christian Academy

12401 Stirling Road, Cooper City
www.ilovepca.com

Grades: PK-8 | 954-434-1550

Potential Christian Academy has been a part of the South Florida community for over 30 years. They believe that the best place to start building on the foundation of Christ is at a very early age, so that children will be able to experience the full meaning, purpose, and joy that God has for their lives. PCA recognizes that it is during a child's formative years that a strong academic foundation is built, a child's beliefs are formed, interpersonal skills are developed.

Saint Bernadette Catholic School

7450 Stirling Road, Hollywood
www.saintbernadettefl.org

Grades: K-8 | 954-432-7022

Saint Bernadette Catholic School provides an environment where students are physically and emotionally safe from harm, bullying, and discrimination because tolerance, acceptance, and respect are the characteristics of relationships promoted by all members of this Christ-centered Catholic Community. The school encourages parents, as the primary educators of their children, to help their child's continuous growth and development, by educating the whole child through Church and School involvement. St. Bernadette uses a variety of teaching styles, instructional techniques, and concepts to ensure that all students have the potential for a successful future.

Saint David Catholic School

3900 S University Drive, Davie
www.saintdavidschool.org

Grades: PK-8 | 954-472-7086

The mission of Saint David Catholic School is to provide a foundation for nurturing of the Catholic faith, traditions, and academic excellence. Catholic education strives to educate the whole child: spiritually, emotionally, socially, intellectually, artistically, and physically. Our curricula and co-curricular activities are designed to instill in each student a reverence for God and all His creation and to affirm the rich diversity of our students, families, teachers while building positive community involvement.

Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School

200 N University Drive, Plantation
www.saintgreg.org/school

Grades: PK-8 | 954-473-8169

St. Gregory School, committed to the values of the Catholic Church, is an intellectually

challenging, harmonious community in Broward County. Serving early childhood through 8th grade, students are encouraged to demonstrate honorable values, embrace meaningful service and reflect learned knowledge. The school cultivates an environment where students genuinely love to learn and seamlessly advance on a foundation built for their unique successes throughout life.

Scheck Hillel Community School

19000 NE 25th Ave, North Miami Beach
www.ehillel.org

Grades: 18 Months-Grade 12 | 305-931-2831

From Early Childhood through Grade 12, Scheck Hillel Community School educates and inspires students to become exemplary global citizens with enduring Jewish identity and values through an individualized college preparatory curriculum highlighted by STEM and design, Capstone, college dual enrollment, arts, athletics and service-learning. Their 14 acres include a 115,000-sq.-ft athletic complex with additional academic expansion plans. Guided by Orthodox teachings and set within a nurturing, diverse community, Scheck Hillel is one of the world's largest Jewish community day schools and a National Blue Ribbon School.

Saint Thomas Aquinas High School

2801 SW 12th Street, Fort Lauderdale
www.aquinas-sta.org

Grades: 9-12 | 954-581-0700

St. Thomas Aquinas High School, a Roman Catholic, co-educational, college preparatory school has acquired national recognition for academic and athletic excellence. Founded in 1936, STA has provided quality Catholic secondary education to Fort Lauderdale and the South Florida community for 83 years. Committed to the philosophy of Saint Thomas Aquinas, STA defines learning as the simultaneous and harmonious development of all facets of the human personality and strives to cultivate the achievements of each student.

Westminster Academy

5601 N Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale
www.wa.edu

Grades: PK-12 | 954-771-4600

Westminster Academy has been decidedly mission-driven, firmly committed to Christian scholarship, and keenly focused on kingdom impact for the glory of God. With these combined core convictions as a cornerstone, Westminster Academy serves Christian families in South Florida by educating and equipping their children to be exceptional thinkers, lifelong learners, and influential leaders with a Biblical and scholarly perspective for college and beyond.



Non-Faith-Based Schools

Academic School 4 Arts

5601 S Flamingo Road, Southwest Ranches
www.innashalloffame.com

Grades: K-12 | 954-237-6021

Academic School 4 Arts (AS4A) is a unique school where fine and performing arts are treated as equal learning disciplines with core academics. Courses meet all of Florida's State Standards and are taught by certified teachers who provide age-appropriate instruction and individual support. The school also offers the most robust performing arts curriculum in Broward County. The school's daily curriculum strikes a harmonious balance between essential subjects such as math, language arts, science/STEM, social science, and physical education and the four major art forms: music, dance, theater, and the fine arts.

American Heritage School

12200 W. Broward Boulevard, Plantation
www.ahschool.com

Grades: PK-12 | 954-472-0022

American Heritage Schools is the No. 1 private school in Florida for nationally recognized scholars, math competition, science fair, mock trial, moot court, and speech and debate and ranked among the top private schools in Florida in STEM, according to Niche. Founded in 1965, American Heritage is an independent, non-sectarian, co-educational, college preparatory school with two 40-acre campuses in South Florida serving 4,800 students in grades Pre-K-12. The Lower School includes advanced classes and 15 electives; the Upper School offers over 300 courses with 138 honors classes, 28 Advanced Placement classes, and 75 fine arts classes.



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Main: 6311 Orange Drive, Davie

High School: 4650 SW 61st Avenue, Davie

Middle School: 5725 Orange Drive, Davie
www.aefschools.com

Grades: K-12 | 954-521-822

AEF provides and promotes a unique environment that fosters the growth of the individual. Their program encourages the development of the whole student by focusing on social skills, cognitive skills, and academics. Their staff work to instill knowledge and values which help students both inside and outside the classroom environment.

Beacon Hill School

7600 Davie Road Extension, Hollywood
www.beaconhillschool.com

Grades: PK-8 | 954-963-2600

Beacon Hill School is an independent, coeducational school, founded by Irving and Cherie Liss in 1959. It continues to be run by the Liss family under the leadership of Executive Director Andrew Liss. Beacon Hill School is dedicated to the fundamental philosophy, "The future belongs to those who prepare." To achieve this goal, Beacon Hill fosters the holistic development of each child. Beacon Hill operates on an extended school year, consisting of 212 teaching days compared to a typical 180-day schedule.

Divine Academy

3347 N University Drive, Hollywood
www.divineacademy.com

Grades: K-12 | 954-499-4638

Divine Academy is a private school located

in Hollywood, FL for students with special needs. The central purpose and role of Divine Academy is to provide students with autism and special needs the means and knowledge for independent living and to enter the workforce through educational, vocational, and life skills instruction in a safe, nurturing, and structured environment.

Guidepost Montessori at Hollywood Beach

2230 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood
www.guidepostmontessori.com

Grades: PK-8 | 954-923-7100

Guidepost Montessori uses the Montessori method of education. Children learn joyfully, through working with carefully sequenced, hands-on materials. Your child's enthusiastic exploration naturally leads to a solid foundation and advanced academics. Guidepost families tend to be friendly and welcoming folks, eager to make connections and form strong bonds. Because the Montessori approach works best when manifested in a community of like minds, regular campus events, and get-togethers are the norm.

NOVA University School

3375 SW 75th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale
www.uschool.nova.edu

Grades: PK-12 | 954-262-4506

At NSU University School, the classroom is their cornerstone, but they recognize that true development takes a combination of academics, arts, athletics, and community service. By allowing students to focus on their individual talents and strengths, they are able to bring out the best in them today - and well into the future. The school is unique among area schools in that they prepare students for college by helping

them learn at one. The school combines a progressive academic program with a vibrant arts program, competitive athletics and a commitment to character.

Sagemont Preparatory School

1570 Sagemont Way, Weston
www.sagemont.com

Grades: PK-12 | 954-389-9193

The Sagemont Preparatory School provides students with a rigorous curriculum that prepares them for college and beyond. Sagemont is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Association of Independent Schools of South Florida. The school operates two campuses. The Lower School provides students with a strong educational foundation combined with art, music,

Spanish, swimming, physical education, and media and technology. Sagemont's Upper School students choose from a variety of regular, honors & AP course work.

Summit-Questa Montessori School

5451 Davie Road, Davie
www.summitquesta.com

Grades: PK-8 | 954-584-3466

Summit-Questa Montessori School is a community of educators, children, parents and extended family committed to the Montessori philosophy. Dr. Maria Montessori, whose life work centered on the care and education of children, so eloquently said, "Within the child lies the fate of the future." Summit-Questa assists in developing all aspects of the individual, including the child's self-creation of who they become. We are located on a beautiful 10-acre campus, with native habitats, edible schoolyard vegetable gardens, butterfly gardens, a wetland preserve, and a brand new gymnasium and pool.

Sunshine State Academy

1308 S Federal Highway, Hollywood
www.sunshinestateacademy.com

Grades: K-12 | 954-473-0770

At Sunshine State Academy, they believe that a positive experience during the early years of a child's life provides the foundation for a lifelong love of learning. The staff and teachers at Sunshine inspire children to develop emotionally, socially, and intellectually in a setting that fosters individuality, curiosity, and a passion for learning. To support this philosophical approach, they provide a learning environment that is carefully designed to foster children's natural interest, where teachers are trained on how to implement a child-centered based curriculum and nurture the spontaneity that emerges from discovery and exploration that encourages strategic thinking and problem-solving in a safe and secure environment.





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■ MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



By Mayor Josh Levy



Hi there, everyone. I hope you are having an enjoyable start to the new year. In this season, in addition to enjoying time with family and friends, many people have a chance to refresh their house or business property and touch up that curb appeal. So for this month's column, I thought to share some information about our city's "Let's Keep Hollywood Beautiful" program, which started as a way to educate and inform property owners on how to make

Hollywood a better place to live, work and visit through a focus on city beautification and compliance with property standards.

As part of the Let's Keep Hollywood Beautiful Program, Code Compliance Officers regularly attend neighborhood and community meetings to present information and provide marketing materials on the program. In short, the program seeks to inform residents and property owners on what the minimum property standards in Hollywood are. As you can imagine, that most commonly means mowing the lawn when needed, trimming and taking care of plants, hedges and trees, not keeping hard junk outside, painting and maintaining your fence as needed, same for your house or building, look at the paint fascia and roof - does it need pressure cleaning or a new coat of paint? Each property in Hollywood affects the appeal of the entire city, so the Let's Keep Hollywood Beautiful Program seeks to keep property maintenance top of mind. As you step outside your house or business today, take a look and see if anything needs some love.

Many general maintenance repairs don't require a city building permit, and this includes things like: fence removal, landscape pruning, re-sodding a lawn, installing mulch and planter beds (up to 24" high), installing window boxes, landscaping, painting, painting or staining a driveway, adding decorative features to your home (i.e. decorative pots), installing a new single user mailbox, repairing or replacing soffit, fascia or trim (if work/ labor/materials cost less than \$1,500) and pressure cleaning.

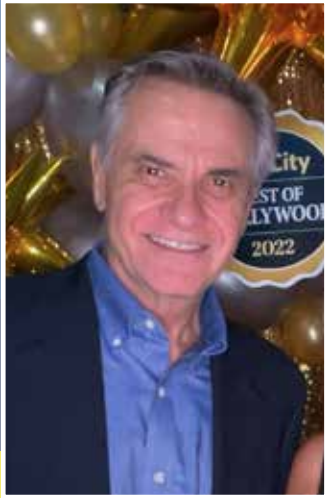
Speaking of building permits, you'll be happy to know that we recently approved the purchase of a new software system for the Building Division. The software is built specifically for permitting, licensing and code enforcement applications. Users will be able to submit permit applications within a secure portal, upload all relevant documents and plan approvals for permits, schedule inspections, process fee calculations and payment, view plan review comments, inspection history and permit status, and so much more. This technology will expedite the permitting process and allow staff to operate more efficiently. The new system is planned to be operational by the end of 2024. This is in addition to the new workspace we are building for the Building Division at City Hall Circle, on the second floor of the Hollywood Branch Library.

Thank you for doing your part in Keeping Hollywood Beautiful - one house and property at a time.

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Pet of the Month



“Kenobi”

Hello Hollywood! I'm named after the great Jedi master, Obi Wan Kenobi; friends and family call me Kenobi. I'm a two year old Himalayan who enjoys spending time on the balcony and scaring my family by walking on the edge outside the railing. I enjoy climbing onto everything, stealing bread and love meeting new people.

ENTER TODAY & MAKE YOUR PET FAMOUS!

Your Pet Could Be Our Pet of the Month!

Every month OUR CITY MEDIA randomly picks a pet of the month winner.

Send Pet's: Best Picture, Name and about fifty words describing why they're so special!

Include: Your Name, Email, Phone, and City of Residence.

Email entries to: anna@ourcitymedia.com
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Across

- 1 Suckers
- 5 Mouse catcher
- 8 Service award
- 11 Beige
- 12 Kimono tie
- 13 Paltry
- 14 Laughed softly
- 16 Erelong
- 17 Advantage
- 18 Cul de sac, e.g.
- 20 Greek H
- 22 Price word
- 23 Historic times
- 26 Sheltered spot
- 29 See 55 Across
- 32 Napkin's place
- 33 Kick back
- 34 Honorarium
- 35 Mischief-maker
- 36 Greek war god
- 37 Leak slowly
- 38 Mustache site
- 40 2001 mainframe
- 42 Lake between Israel and Jordan
- 46 Onion relative
- 49 Chills and fever
- 50 Certain rental units
- 53 Discovery grp.
- 54 Broke bread
- 55 Climbing plant
- 56 Summer quaff
- 57 Item in a bucket
- 58 Collar type

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Down

- 1 "Now hold on just a ___!"
- 2 Tooth trouble
- 3 Motivate
- 4 Upswells
- 5 USMC rank
- 6 Not up yet
- 7 Ocean motion
- 8 Largest of the Canary Islands
- 9 Chipping choice
- 10 Remain unsettled
- 13 Fashioned
- 15 Hanoi holiday
- 19 Pinnacle
- 21 Allege as fact
- 23 Yale student
- 24 Butt
- 25 Standing ovation
- 27 Draft choice
- 28 Mascara site
- 30 Victory sign
- 31 Slangy assent
- 33 Criticizes
- 37 Shirt part
- 39 Concept
- 41 Totally
- 42 Comedian
- 43 Old-time oath
- 44 Dutch treat
- 45 Garage occupant
- 47 Door sign
- 48 Lotto variant
- 51 Gusto
- 52 D.C. bigwig



Meet The Winners

The winners of the 2023 Best of Hollywood Awards came together at The Greek Joint in Downtown Hollywood to commemorate their achievements. During the celebration, the winners relished in the delightful dishes prepared while graciously accepting their well-deserved awards. Visit these exceptional establishments soon to experience the excellence they have to offer!



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