



Sunset Park Area *Homeowners Association*

September – October 2018

President's Letter

I hope everyone had a nice Labor Day holiday. What a different year it has been as we reflect back to this time last year while we were embracing for Hurricane Irma and the widespread damage she spread across the state of Florida.

In upcoming news we have the event on September 19th at the Sunset Park Garden Club, additional information can be found in this issue.

Next month we look forward to hosting our third annual Halloween extravaganza which will take place on Sunday October 28th, in the greenspace at the intersection of Westshore and Dundee kicking off at 2PM. We are expecting over 300 attendees again this year.

Tony Pastore

SPAHA Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 11h

**Jan Platt Library
3910 S. Manhattan Ave.**

Meeting Start Time - 6:45 pm

**Guest Speakers:
Hillsborough County
Property Appraiser
Bob Henriquez**

Topic: The TRIM Notices received and how to interpret them. General information on the property taxes

**Certified Urban Planner
Tom Levin**

Topic: Local environmentally responsive developmental projects.

Should You Vote for the Additional \$25,000 Homestead Exemption?

By Marlin Anderson

On November 6, 2018, there will be a referendum for an additional \$25,000 homestead exemption on the ballot. This exemption would actually be the third \$25,000 homestead exemption. Per the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office, the first \$25,000 was first implemented in 1994 and the second \$25,000 was first implemented 2008. The proposed third \$25,000, if passed, will be implemented on Jan 1, 2019,

Who Qualifies for this Proposed Third Exemption?

The short answer is, every property in Sunset Park would qualify for 100% of this benefit, because the third exemption applies in full to properties who have an assessed value greater than or equal to \$125,000.

Approximately How Much Would I Save?

To arrive at the answer to that question, I finally confronted all of those numbers on the annual Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notice. If you add up all of the numbers in the millage rate column, it comes to 20.34060. That's 20.34060 divided by 1,000 = 2.034%. That percentage is modified by the fact that the public schools portion has a \$25,000 exemption limit. But let's use 2% just to get an idea. So we would be saving roughly an additional \$500 – correct? $\$25,000 \times .02 = \500 . Right? Keep reading.

The Public Schools Are Not Affected

The proposed additional \$25,000 exemption does not apply to the public schools portion. So you have to add up the millage rate for the schools, which comes to 6.414 and then sub-



tract this number from the 20.34060 total millage.

The Calculation

Therefore, you take 20.34060 minus 6.414 = 13.9266, divided by 1,000 = 1.39266%. Then multiply \$25,000 x 1.39266%, and you arrive at \$348. An estimator is also available online at www.3hkestimator.org/hb3/hb3.php#. Created by the Florida County Property Appraisers, you first select Hillsborough County, then start entering in your street address. The web page will recognize your partial entry and offer the full address. For my address they come up with **\$338**. But type in virtually any valid address in South Tampa for that matter and you get - \$338. Both numbers are estimates, but let's use the lower number.

How Do We Evaluate this as a Neighborhood?

Just out of curiosity, in 2011 I emailed the Property Appraiser's office to find out how much, as a neighborhood, does Sunset Park pay in property taxes. And then in 2018 I asked the same question again, to find out how much we paid in 2017. Here are the numbers:

2017 property taxes assessed	13,163,277
2010 property taxes assessed	<u>9,290,688</u>
Increase in 7 years	3,872,589

That is a 41.6% increase! And you know that this is only going up. For example, our total taxes assessed for 2016 was \$12,081,521, for an increase of over \$1 million in 2017, in just a single year.

Multiply \$338 by approximately 1,300 home-steaded homes in Sunset Park equals approximately \$439,999 savings annually as a neighborhood. Compare that to the \$1 million in-

crease in 2017 alone, with no additional services or capital projects provided to our neighborhood by the city or county government.

What to Do?

We've already heard from city and county governments how it's going to be so hard to get by without the tax dollars that will be lost by this additional exemption. But my answer to that is - it must be nice to get that 41.6% increase in annual income from Sunset Park alone. I'm sure a lot of employees, businesses and professionals would love to be receiving 41.6% more than they were 7 years ago. So don't feel sorry for them. Go ahead - vote to take your additional \$25,000 exemption.

Hillsborough County Property Appraiser

Bob Henriquez, CFA

(Certified Florida Appraiser)



Bob "Coach" Henriquez is deeply rooted to the community he serves. A fifth-generation resident of Tampa, Bob was born and raised in that city and his great grandfather, Enrique Henriquez, was the last mayor of West Tampa before it was annexed into the City of Tampa in 1925. Guid-

ed by working-class parents devoted to him and his three siblings, Bob has been driven by a desire to help those around him. He built the foundation for that goal by achieving academic success at Tampa Catholic High and Princeton University. At both schools, Bob learned the importance of teamwork as a starting offensive lineman on the football squads. Soon after graduating from Princeton, Bob went to work for Hillsborough County's Streets & Addresses department to help enhance its 9-1-1 program. Later, he joined the county's Planning Commission to assist in growth management. In 1998, Bob followed his ambitions to serve his community to a new level when he was elected to the Florida Legislature as a State Representative. There, he developed a reputation as a legislator eager to put aside party politics for the good of his constituents. After four terms in office, Bob was appointed to head up the Pinellas and Pasco counties division of the Department of Children and Families. He served in that role for three years. Interwoven with Bob's public service has been his tireless work molding the lives of young men as a football coach. Bob served two stints as head coach at Tampa Catholic, from 1990-99 and again from 2005- 2012. In 2007, TC reached the state championship game for the first time in school history and the Crusaders returned to that stage in 2009. During his tenure at TC, Bob's teams compiled a record of a 128-71, reached the playoffs 13 times and won seven district crowns. Bob also served as an assistant coach at Jefferson High. After winning the election of Hillsborough County Property Appraiser in 2012, Bob made the decision to step down as head coach at TC in order to focus his energies on the constitutional responsibilities

of his office. He now leads a new "team" with his same ambitions: to serve the public with fairness, professionalism and humility. Bob and his wife, Carrie Henriquez, are the proud parents of their son, Drew Alexander, and their two daughters, Elin Mackenzie and Emma Elizabeth. Bob enjoys time with his family, along with fishing, golf and going to the gym.

Landscape Architect
Bob Henriquez, CFA

(Certified Urban Planner)

Tom Levin is a certified urban planner, professional landscape architect and a board certified environmental professional. He is president of Ekistics Design Studio in Tampa for over 30 years. Mr. Levin has been responsible for numerous environmentally responsive site development projects including the Florida Aquarium, Upper Tampa Bay Trail and the Palmetto "Green Streets" Demonstration Pro-



**Sunset Park Garden Club Open House/
Coffee**

Enjoy coffee and refreshments at the Sunset Park Garden Club Open House while you learn about the interesting and educational programs we have planned for the coming year. Monthly meetings might include a guest speaker, a field trip or entertainment. Additional activities include flower shows, card parties and much more.

Come meet the friendly members of the Sunset Park Garden Club

Wed., Sept. 19, 2018, 11:00 - 1:00
4624 Browning Ave, Tampa, 33629
813-765-9303

90 Years of Garden Club History

Linda Colman

Can you imagine what Sunset Park was like in 1928? Lots of open space, pine trees, beaches and sand with a few new homes dotting the area built by the Sunset Park Company. Charles Glover, one of the developers was married to Alma who was a poet. Alma is credited with suggesting our lovely streets be named after poets.

On June 5, 1928, a group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. Glover to form the Sunset Circle of Tampa Federation of Garden Club Circles. It was at that meeting over 90 years ago that what is now called the Sunset Park Garden Club was born.

In 1928 the ladies helped to landscape the shores of Lake Kipling, and the parkways of the neighborhood. In the early 30's, the members of the Sunset Park Garden Club planted oak trees along Westshore Blvd. from Beach Park to Gandy Bridge. They were instrumental in getting the Tampa Electric Co. to run power poles to Sunset Beach so that lights would be available for picnics and family suppers.

Throughout the years the ladies of the club sponsored many charities, set up a lending library, planted trees and shrubbery along the parkways and triangles that beautify our neighborhood. They had style shows, erected street markers, and delivered Christmas baskets to the needy. During the war years members met to sew items that would aid the Red Cross. They planted trees at Roosevelt and Dale Mabry Elementary Schools.

In the 50's, the club began focusing on flower arranging, flower shows and horticulture. They also did many fund raising events to purchase and beautify the building that is today's meeting place at 4624 W. Browning Ave.

Today's members continue many of the traditions passed on over 90 years. Monthly meetings feature interesting guest speakers, plant exchanges, educational programs, field trips and lunch. Throughout the year the club hosts Flower Shows, plant sales, card parties, a flea market and much more.

But most importantly, the ladies and gentlemen of today's Sunset Park Garden Club enjoy the easy-going, friendly atmosphere of the club. Whether you have the greenest of thumbs and a yard full of beautiful plants or a little basil plant from the grocery store, the Sunset Park Garden Club extends a warm welcome to you.



Photo credit (left) by Linda Colman

SPAHA Website: www.spaha.org

1. Historical and demographic information.
2. Photos and videos.
3. Helpful links to governmental services.
4. News articles on Sunset Park and its residents.
5. Recent and archive newsletters.



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 we are on the corner.

Community Policing

SPAHA is located in TPD District 1. The District 1 office is located at 3818 Tampa Bay Blvd. The office is staffed 24 hours/7 days each week.

Numbers you should know are:

Captain Ruben Delgado 354-6600
Maryanne Hunsberger 354-6692
 Neighborhood Affairs Liaison

General information 354-6600

Needless to say, **in the event of an emergency, always call 911.** However, for non-emergency assistance, call **231-6130.**



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 Fax: (813) 831- 0977
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Marlin Anderson	813-288-8952
Sandy Ernst	813-404-5723
Doug Fishman	813-960-1256
Paige Gonzalez	786-457-4541
Michael Lundberg	813-787-2600
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Committee Chairpersons:

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Beautification: Doug Fishman	813-960-1256
Newsletter: Bridget Pastore	813-545-7908
Website: Marlin Anderson	813-288-8952

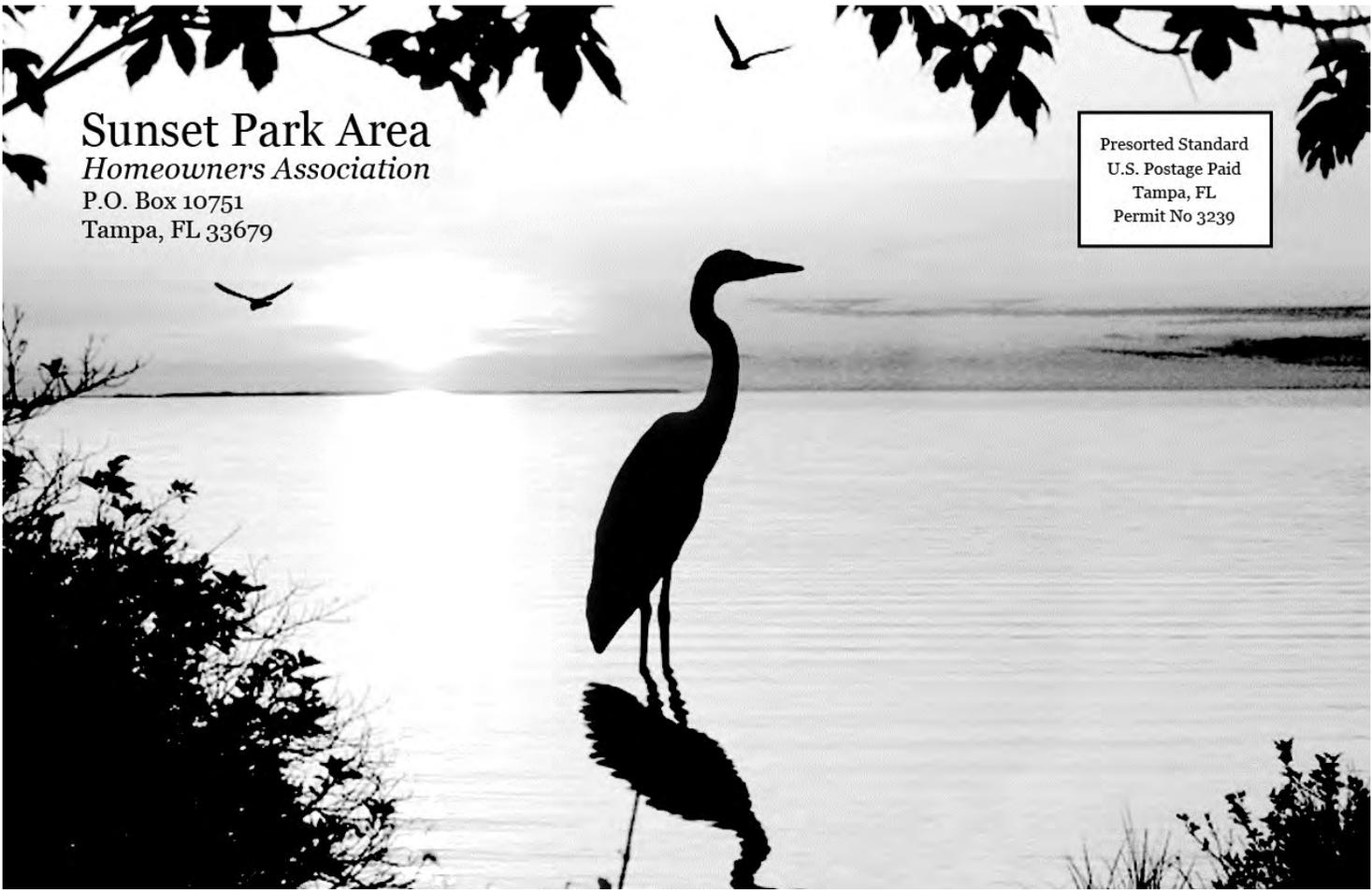


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For County Court Judge

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Campaign to Elect Lisa Allen for County Court Judge, Group 2, Non-Partisan.

- Sunset Park Resident since 2013
- Sunset Park Homeowner's Association Board Member (2015-17)
- Endorsed by Marlin Anderson, Jenn Mayfield, Jenny Lovell and Barbara Picca
- Member in good standing with the Florida Bar since 2001
- Married for 15 years to Ben Allen (Plant High grad)
- Proud Mother to 3 children
- Sister of a U.S. Airforce Veteran, Daughter of a U.S. Army Veteran, Grand-daughter of two World War II veterans (U.S. Army and U.S. Navy), Great Grand-daughter of Spanish Immigrant
- Learn more at www.AllinforLisaAllen.com

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Sunset Park Area
Homeowners Association
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Sunset Park Representatives			
Mayor Bob Buckhorn	274-8251	County Commissioner Sandy Murman	272-5470
City Councilman Harry Cohen	274-8134	State Representative Jackie Toledo	281-5549
City Councilman Guido Maniscalco	274-7071	State Senator Dana Young	281-5507

Important Phone Numbers			
Police - non-emergency	231-6130	Lawn Watering Complaints	274-8036
City of Tampa Information Line	274-8211	Solid Waste	348-1111
Recycling Dept.	348-6504	Code Enforcement	274-5545
Special Waste Pickup	348-6507	Stormwater drains - clogged	622-1901
Manhattan Brush Site	348-1127	Zoning information	274-3100
Potholes or sinkholes	274-3101	Mosquito Control	635-5400
TPD Neighborhood Watch	354-6692	Street light outage (TECO)	223-0800
Tree Hotline	258-8733	Animal Control	744-5660