

Pinecrest

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30% FPL rate-hike request makes alternative energy a 'no brainer'



FROM ROBIN'S DESK

BY ROBIN KORTH

Now is the time for home and business owners to "go green" by installing alternative energy sources. Reaching "payback" for the cost of solar-energy equipment and installation used to be four to five years.

"With FPL's huge slated rate increases, the time it takes to cover the costs and start realizing significant savings will soon shrink to less than two years," says Kent Crook of Wiremasters Electric.

An electrical contractor with 28 years experience, Crook understands that reducing our carbon foot print through alternative energy production will soon be the norm. After training for more than 100 hours to become certified as a solar



Ken Crook

lighting/energy specialist, last month Crook added an alternative-energy division to his business, one he dubbed EnergyMasters.

Crook was also appointed an Ambassador for Change by the International Green Energy Council (IGEC).

The IGEC is an International non-profit association comprised of individuals and companies that promote "green" (sustainable) forms of energy production, renewable energy sources, sustainable design practices

and advanced thinking in utilizing education and information for the promotion of being better stewards of our environment.

Contact Crook at 305-378-1880 or go online at www.KCenergymasters.net.

DON'T TAKE FIRE-SAFETY INSPECTION LIGHTLY

We all know that new buildings are not sprouting up around town like they used to. And with fewer permits being pulled, it looks like building departments may be experiencing a lack of revenue and stuff to do. Watch out for the inspection guys! They are more vigilant than ever in checking for building code violations and open or expired permits.

"It may be that building authorities who normally rely on permit and inspection fees to fund activities have shifted their emphasis to code enforcement as the economy strains their operations," says Alan Lerner.

Lerner, a local architect and planner, has noticed a dramatic increase in requests for assistance with rectifying building-code citations.

"If you are scheduled for a fire-safety inspection, take it very seriously," Lerner says.

Building code violations spotted by this department can open the door to a host of other inspections and possible violations. Violations equal immediate and significant fines.

Lerner says business owners

should maintain their premises, exit lights and fire extinguishers in proper order and under no circumstances do even minor remodeling without a permit.

Lerner may be contacted at 305-385-4469 or by email at alerner@offler.com.

FLYBOYS LANDING IN PINECREST?

Yep, there used to be an airport in what is now the Village of Pinecrest. My brothers have fond memories of scouting out the airplanes and hangers on their way to swim in the nearby canals, probably making real pests of themselves!

Please email me or call me with your memories and stories of this lost gem of Pinecrest's early days.

As always, I am looking for photographs and insight about the not-so-recent past, when Pinecrest was considered the "way back of beyond" and "who the heck would want to live way out there?" Little did anyone guess, huh?

I can be reached 305-669-7355, ext 275 or by email at robinsdesk@communitynewspapers.com.



Alan Lerner



Brown's Airport