



Ballantrae Newsletter Online

From the Ballantrae Community Development District in Land O' Lakes, FL

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Ed Holloway succeeds Rich Solkin as Ballantrae HOA president

The [Ballantrae Homeowner's Association](#) Board of Directors has appointed [Ed Holloway](#) of Castleway to succeed Richard Solkin as its president.

Mr. Holloway was appointed to the HOA Board on Sept. 8, 2015. He was its senior member after Mr. Solkin.

Joining Messrs. Holloway and Solkin in voting at their Dec. 8 board meeting to appoint Mr. Holloway was the board's third member, Justin Martens of Ayrshire.

Board members are volunteers who receive no payment for their services.

Mr. Solkin has sold his home and moved out of the community, resulting in his resignation.

Nonresident landowners can serve

on the board, Mr. Holloway said. But they lose their seats if they cease to be landowners.

Upon his appointment, Mr. Holloway said, "We are sad to see such a devoted, hard-working resident leave the Board."

For his part, Mr. Solkin said, "Ballantrae was an amazing place to raise my son and have a family with great schools, close to everything."

The HOA is responsible for



Ed Holloway

enforcing deed restrictions on private property. The HOA also pays for basic TV service, and the part-time services of off-duty Pasco sheriff's deputies.

The HOA Board also announced proposed annual operating expenses of \$663,234 for calendar 2021.

Owners of Ballantrae's 971 building parcels will pay \$170 quarterly in 2021 HOA fees, the HOA Board explained.

Income for 2021 includes \$19,200 in rent on a house it owns, the Board added.

The HOA Board also said expenses proposed for 2021 include \$565,128 for cable TV, \$36,516 for management fees, \$30,000 for legal/collection services, and \$10,000 for the part-time services of off-duty sheriff's deputies.

Family values top priority for new Ballantrae area Commissioner

No one could have known, when an elementary school girl began working as a community volunteer, that her efforts would one day lead to her winning election as Pasco County [Commissioner for District 4](#), which includes Ballantrae.

Christina Fitzpatrick is that little girl grown up.

She won the Aug. 18 universal primary election to fill out the unexpired two years remaining in the term of Commissioner Mike Wells. He resigned as Commissioner to successfully run for a full-term as county property appraiser, a position once held, coincidentally, by his father.

"Fitzy" Fitzpatrick, as she is known, won the four-way Republican primary for the fourth district Commissioner's seat by 1.09 percent of the countywide [votes cast](#) – her 24,553 votes (32.60 percent of those cast) compared to Gary Bradford who received 23,738 votes (31.51 percent), Gabriel Papadopoulos who received 14,339 votes (19.04 percent) and Jeff Miller who received 12,697 votes (16.86 percent).

Ms. Fitzpatrick fared much better in Precinct 31 voting. That precinct includes Ballantrae voters plus those from the adjoining Suncoast communities who also vote at our clubhouse. She received 196 of the 464 [votes cast](#) in the precinct for Commissioner (42.24 percent) versus 96 for Mr. Bradford (20.69 percent), 90 for Mr. Miller (19.40 percent) and 82 for Mr. Papadopoulos (17.67 percent).

Because the winner would have no opponent in the General Election on Nov. 3, winning the primary meant

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Commissioner Fitzpatrick and sons Mikey, 4, and Cory, 7.

Family values ...

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winning the Commissioner's seat. Therefore, voting was open to all registered Pasco voters regardless of political affiliation.

Ms. Fitzpatrick joined the ranks of county politicians known for working long hours. Their workday starts, of course, by being available during business hours to government employees and the general public.

Then, Commissioners must also be available to respond to the needs of their constituents, most of whom work weekday shifts. That means Commissioners must also be regularly available weekday evenings, weekends, holidays and during all emergencies.

Ms. Fitzpatrick is used to being available around-the-clock for positions that paid far less than a Commissioner's \$94,160 annual salary.

There was no stipend or salary when she first became a volunteer.

While in elementary school, she recalled, "I remember coming in to help (elementary teacher) Miss Bradley every day over summer school, to volunteer to help her out. I would write out the blackboard words, do all the poster boards. I sat and read with the kids. I've always liked to help," she said.

Ms. Fitzpatrick has been a New Port Richey resident for 33 of her 36 years. Over those years, the list of her active volunteer efforts included on her resume has grown to more than a dozen. They include Rotary Club, Foster/Adoptive Parent Association, Trinity Positive Business Network, Women Helping Women, Business Professional Women, and the Pasco Youth Initiative.

The list does not include her paid work as a marketing executive, tax preparer and head of the Miracles School in Shady Hills that she founded.

She thinks the contacts she has made over the years helped her in her campaign for office – both in terms of setting her agenda and attracting votes.

She explained, "I grew up in New Port Richey. A lot of people know me from going to school together, also from a lot of organizations in Pasco County where I have met many people. So, I feel that just growing up here helped a lot, so did being a part of many of the young professionals' groups."

Ms. Fitzpatrick says a major priority for her is to strengthen family values, because "then we can help break the cycles of mental health, drug addiction, homelessness and crime."

She added that from her campaign visits with voters and now discussions as a Commissioner, "Everyone in the community seems to be on board" with issues she raised and supports.

Sh said it was difficult "just creating that foundation and framework that special needs children require for speech, mental health and occupational therapy.

"Once you have it you can see how much progress they can make in just six months. Some of these kids are on 2-3 year wait lists for these programs. That is not helping the child," she said.

She also supports plans for additional community gardens and for a playground on the west side of the county for special needs children to compliment the one in Wesley Chapel.

Her campaign literature includes "dedicated to work hard" as one of her attributes, as does a "Why Me?" flyer asking voters for their support. Her resume also notes that "hard work and determination helped create Christina's success."

Of those claims, she said, "I remember when I went to USF I had a teacher, Mrs. Price. She walked into the classroom and wrote 'perseverance' on the chalk board. And I believe as long as you are working hard and continue to persevere and keep working hard you can make anything happen.

"So people ask me how I do everything I do, especially as the single parent of two young sons. And I used to say 'I don't know. I just do it.' But God has a plan for all of us and I feel this is where He has led me. He never gives me anything I can't handle. So as long as He puts something on my plate, I have to continue moving forward and working hard with it."

And that plate is fuller since her Nov. 17 swearing-in as Commissioner.

She is taking a state course teaching what makes a good, effective and conscientious Commissioner. She has met for several hours with each county agency head to learn their duties and the scope of their work. And like all Commissioners, she studies the hundreds to thousands of pages of documents that make up the agenda for

their twice monthly public meetings.

She is also continuing her meetings with community groups throughout the county,

She explained, "Every community has different needs. So unless I know by listening to what a community says it needs, I'm not going to know what agenda to place in service for them. So it's important for me to attend those local meetings. I'll meet in person, by phone, Skype, Zoom – whatever works for them."

The new Commissioner wants her constituents to know "If they have any questions or concerns they can always reach me anytime by phone or by email. I'm here to serve our county. If anyone has a problem, let us know your thoughts. What are your suggestions?"

Her phone number is (727) 847-8100 extension 3720. Her email address is cfitzpatrick@pascocountyfl.net.

To our residents:

The Ballantrae CDD Board has opted to experiment since November with an online newsletter that will be fresher in content and cheaper to produce than the paper edition it would replace.

We hope to maintain a 1-2 page online newsletter every 2-3 weeks in place of spending \$10,000 annually on the 16-page paper quarterly edition.

This online newsletter is expected to be more than just these 1-2 pages every 3 weeks or so. Whenever possible, it will link in red to other resources on the subject at hand and/or the names of contacts for further information.

The [Ballantrae HOA](#) and its community manager agreed to send an email to approximately 1,800 landowners and residents on their email lists to let you know when each issue of [Newsletter Online](#) is posted to the CDD website at ballantraecdd.org.

For those who have inquired: Yes, there is a reason the CDD Board does not maintain its own email list of residents to contact you on our own. By law, the CDD would have to make that list available to anyone who wanted it for whatever purpose they wish to use (or abuse) it. The HOA is under no such law and can keep its list private. To protect your privacy, the CDD Board asks the HOA to send our emails to you.

Send any story ideas, questions or comments on the Online edition to the editor at jflateau@ballantraecdd.org.
