The Park Press

DECEMBER 2015

~ Positive news that matters ~

Winter Park | Baldwin Park | College Park | Audubon Park | Maitland



Holiday **Safety Tips**



Calendar of **Events**



For updated news, events and more, visit www.TheParkPress.com

Fifth Annual Holiday Heroes Toy Drive



Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs has launched her 2015 Holiday Heroes Toy Drive. This is the fifth year Mayor Jacobs and her team have facilitated the toy drive, which serves children from infants to 18-year-olds. Citizens are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys to participating dropoff centers. Last year, Orange County collected more than 4,600 toys for area children. The goal this year is to collect 4,700 toys.

Donations will be delivered to children in need through the Orange County Neighborhood Centers for Families, Wraparound Orange, Orange County Public Schools' Homeless Program, the Community Food and Outreach Center, and Toys for Tots. Mayor Jacobs' Holiday Heroes Toy Drive lasts until December 14. Sponsors and partners include WOFL Fox 35, the World's Finest McDonald's, Valencia College and Winter Park High School.

Donations can be dropped off at the following locations:

- All Orange County Fire Stations
- Orange County Parks & Recreation Facilities
- Orange County Holiday Events

Continued on page 8.

Major League Baseball Players Hit Course To Make A Difference

By Phil Chinnery

Once the final silent auction winner checked out on Monday evening, smiles were seen on the faces of all the Florida League staff and volunteers. After months of preparation and a busy weekend of activity, the 2015 Florida League Celebrity Golf Tournament had ended. Everyone knew that the tournament had gone off without a hitch, and it was hard not to be proud of all the work that had been put in to make the event a great success.

The Florida League is a summer wood bat baseball league for college athletes that is based out of Orlando. The League has teams in Altamonte Springs, DeLand, Leesburg, Sanford, Winter Garden and Winter Park. Players come from colleges all across the country to gain exposure in hopes of being drafted by a Major League Baseball team. To date, the Florida League has had an impressive record of success, with 324 players selected over twelve seasons.

As a 501c3 non-profit organization, the Florida League relies heavily on sponsors, donors and fundraisers to provide the necessary budget to operate each summer. The Celebrity Golf Tournament brings in roughly 10% of that budget.

Continued on page 8.



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Publisher's Message



really hard on a project? Dedicated yourself to burning the midnight oil to meet a deadline, and then once complete, you believed the finished product to be a total disaster? Well, such was the case back in 1965 when a television producer with an

Have you ever worked

idea partnered with a guy named "Sparky" to pitch an advertising agency. Lucky for us, the agency liked the idea.

The producer was Lee Mendelson, "Sparky" was more commonly known as Charles Shultz, the agency was New York-based McCann Erickson, and the client was The Coca Cola Company. Mendelson and Shultz scrambled to put the outline together in one day. The agency pitched the outline and The Coca Cola Company agreed to buy the special, with one exception...they wanted it completed in time for an early December broadcast. Mendelson agreed, without complete confidence and the rest of the story is literally history!

A Charlie Brown Christmas quickly entered production. Schulz wanted the special to touch on the over-commercialization and secularism of Christmas. He wanted to make sure it served to remind viewers of the true meaning of Christmas, thus Linus's brilliant reading from the Bible. He also wanted to include both traditional and jazz music, so he turned to composer and pianist Vince Guaraldi.

Since they were casting from a silent comic strip they quickly sought voices that they thought would match the character's personalities. Most of the voices were provided by children, except Melendez used his voice for Snoopy's and they would speed up the tape to create the dog's mutterings. And the teacher's classic voice is Guaraldi on trombone.

They created 13,000 drawings for the special that would run 12 frames per second to create the movement of the illustrations. The detailed process caused them to exceed their budget of \$76,000 by \$20K.

The special was completed just ten days prior to its national broadcast premier, and everyone associated with it thought it was a complete disaster. Upon first seeing the completed animation Melendez turned to his crew and said, "My golly, we've killed it." But one animator, Ed Levitt, said, "This is the best special I'll ever make. This show is going to run for a hundred years." If it wasn't so close to air time, it is believed they would have cancelled the broadcast.

On December 9, 1965 at 7:30 p.m. more than 15 million viewers watched the special, and it has continued to air every year. ABC now owns the rights, and will air a 50th Anniversary Special on December 24. I'm thinking Mr. Levitt was right. Actually, Melendez was right too...they totally killed it!

killed it: when someone ruins a joke or a moment; when someone does something really well.

As always, thank you for reading *The Park Press* and we look forward to the great things to come.

Rick Cable Founder/Owner

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Peace, Love And Understanding By Tricia Cable

I know Thanksgiving was last month, but I started making myself a list of all that I am thankful for at the beginning of November and as of yesterday, I am still adding to the list. Specifically, I'm honing in on just this past year, in an attempt to

honor those who have been a source of positivity for me during what has unexpectedly been my most challenging year to date.

Health, money, personal, and professional...nearly every aspect of my life took a turn in a direction that I would have never predicted. Apparently I got comfortable with the ordinary and the universe decided to spice things up a bit. Routines are boring, I get it! But the rollercoaster ride that was 2015 for me took its toll and I for one will be happy to ring in a new year.

Listen, I am a planner, type A, a bit of a control

freak. I like to do my research and over-prepare myself for any and all anticipated changes. I pride myself in being able to handle anything that life throws at me no matter how heavy the load or great the burden. But the curve balls tossed in my direction this past year had me waving the white

flag and calling in for reinforcements on many levels and on many occasions.

Those reinforcements are the people at the top of my gratitude list. My circle is smart, talented, strong, generous, kind, loving, supportive, patient,

Life is amazing. And then it's awful.

And then it's amazing again. And
in between the amazing and the awful
it's ordinary and mundane and routine.
Breathe in the amazing, hold on through
the awful, and relax and exhale during
the ordinary. That's just living
heartbreaking, soul-healing, amazing,
awful, ordinary life. And it's
breathtakingly beautiful."

- LR Knost

and compassionate. I am continually reminded of the unwavering support and the authentic and genuine love and friendship that is offered up to me by those whom I hold dear. I am beyond fortunate to have walked beside an amazing group of people in this life; those who don't shy away from a challenge themselves and push me to continually strive to be a better person, friend, wife, and mother. I am humbled by their faith and confidence in me and I am eager to return the favor. I am surrounded by a tribe of courageous people who em-

power me and enhance my life. I am eternally grateful.

Life is amazing and then, sometimes, it's not. We need to learn to drink up the energy, enthusiasm, and excitement during the amazing times in order to maintain and persevere during the drought when times are tough. We need to feed those around us with praise and encouragement during our "everything is wonderful" moments so that they can, in turn, lift us when we are struggling through the mundane or awful.

We are flawed. We are works in progress. We

have big lives and we are forced to move faster at times than we would like. Our paths are different as are our challenges and our journeys are unique. But we are not alone, we share one common goal, we are all traveling toward the same destination.



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City Commissioner's Message

Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, City of Orlando District 3



Dobort E Stuart

I love the holidays in Orlando. There are so many ways to spend time with family and friends. If you haven't been downtown recently, December is a great month to visit one of our City jewels, Lake Eola, for many great events.

Enjoy the Eola Wonderland Christmas Tree Show every

night in December through Wednesday, January 6th at 5:45 p.m.; 6:45 p.m.; 7:45 p.m.; 8:45 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. The Eola Wonderland 72-foot Christmas tree will come alive with a synchronized light and music show while the Lake Eola fountain displays red, green and gold lights.

Also at Lake Eola, enjoy holiday-themed movies, on Friday, December 11th, Friday, December 18th and Saturday, December 26th. Movies will begin at 7 p.m. and enjoy classics such as "Elf," "The Christmas Story," and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas (Jim Carey version)." Visit cityoforlando.net for more details.

On Saturday, December 12th, enjoy the Winter Spark in Baldwin Park festival and parade in the Village Center. The festivities begin at 3 p.m. with the parade starting at 6 p.m.

Also, back in Lake Eola on December 12th, Violetric, an electric string quintet band with keyboards and drums, will host a free concert at the amphitheater at 7 p.m. where they will be playing a mash-up of rock, pop and holiday favorites.

Speaking of Downtown, I hear many times from friends and constituents that it is just too hard to get downtown and especially to find parking. And while many will continue to think that parking is too expensive, I believe that the City has made great strides to make it as easy as possible to find well-lit parking

anywhere in the downtown core. And for those of us who don't have a disability, walking is good for you! Much of our parking was designed with the intent that the patron will walk a few blocks to their destination so as to enjoy other amenities along the way. And for those who need assistance, there is handicapped-accessible parking in all garages as well as the LYMMO bus service, which provides a free circulator all around downtown, including a stop near Lake Eola. The Downtown Development Board's app called Parkin' is available for download on iTunes. For more

After the holidays, join us back downtown on Wednesday, December 30th at 11 a.m. for the annual Orlando Citrus Parade in conjunction with the college football bowl games that take place at the Citrus Bowl. This year, the Citrus Bowl will host three bowl games for the first time: Russell Athletic Bowl on December 29th at 5:30 p.m., the Buffalo Wild Wings Citrus Bowl on New Year's Day at 1 p.m. and the inaugural AutoNation Cure Bowl on December 19th at 7 p.m.

details visit, downtownorlando.com.

Lastly, while this is a special time of year, it is also a time when many of us are very busy and can forget to focus on easy crime prevention techniques, whether at home, in our car, or shopping for that perfect holiday gift. When shopping, avoid overloading yourself with packages and secure all bags and items in the trunk or other concealed area so they are not visible in your vehicle. If you are going out of town, ask a neighbor to pick up your mail and/or newspaper and leave a light or two on inside and outside your home so that the house looks occupied. And when putting your trash curbside after the holidays, break down any boxes from high-end items so as not to advertise

what type of property is in your home.

Our OPD North Patrol officers have also made me aware that many of our District 3 residents have a tendency to leave their cars unlocked. In Baldwin Park, for example, where we

have seen a small end of year uptick in vehicle burglaries, all but three of the incidents, have been unlocked vehicles. While I certainly understand the belief that you shouldn't have to lock your cars, it is unfortunately the world we live in, and there is evidence that the bad guys go back to areas where they know there are a lot of cars in a small area where they can make a quick grab. Please help us make it harder on criminals

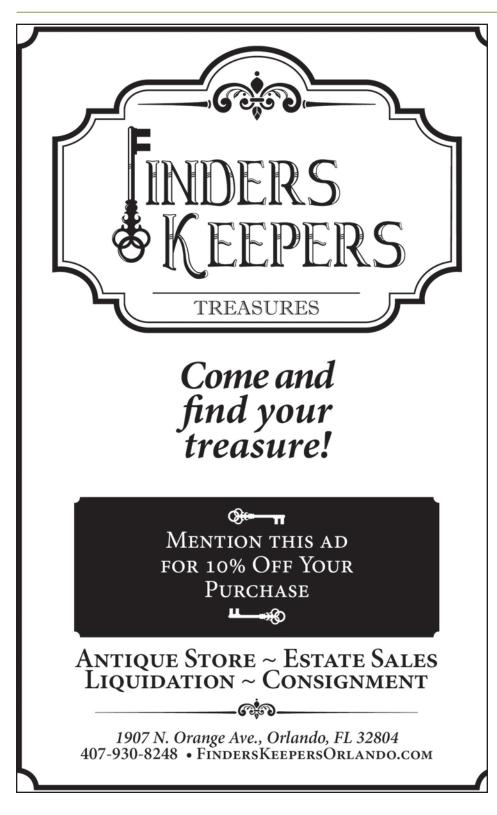
If you are interested in learning more about crime in your area, through a partnership between the Orlando Police Department and Crimereports- creators of the National Crime Map- you can access Orlando's crime information 24 hours a day. You can also download Crimereports' free app from iTunes. This service allows citizens to sign-up for free custom email alerts and submit anonymous online tips to help improve the safety of your neighborhood and your community.

by locking your vehicles and securing your valuables.

As we are poised to ring in the New Year, let me express my personal thanks for your support of our District 3 staff, our city professionals, and our local neighborhood and homeowner groups. Merry Christmas and best wishes to you and your family for a prosperous 2016!

ROBERT F. STUART | COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 3, CITY OF ORLANDO | 400 S. ORANGE AVENUE, ORLANDO, FL 32801 | 407-246-2003 |

ROBERT.STUART@CITYOFORLANDO.NET





The Park Press | DECEMBER 2015 **NEWS**

Winter Park Mayor's Message Mayor Steve Leary



First Ever Complete Golf Course Restoration Approved

Last year marked the centennial anniversary of the Winter Park Country Club

(WPCC). Established in 1914, the golf course has always been a favored pastime for our community. Pros and legends such as Walter Hagen, Sam Snead, Ben Hogan, Ky Laffon, Joe Kirkwood, Dave Ragan, and Babe Zarias have also enjoyed our course. WPCC sees approximately 30,000 rounds of golf annually and has always been an enjoyable community amenity.

Given the importance, and current state of your course, the City Commission approved funding \$1.2 million in Fiscal Year 2016 for a complete renovation. The Commission approved this funding based upon the research and recommendation of an appointed Task Force that was formed in November 2014, to study the needs of our 101-year-old course. Thank you to the members of the task force: Gary Diehl, Brian Furey, Matthew Hegarty, Steve Hoffman, Bill Neidlinger, Taylor Sacha, and Jeff Shafer.

During the year-long process, the task force held numerous public meetings and spent hundreds of hours evaluating our course and researching others. This helped formulate the recommendation to the City Commission in July



Winter Park Country Club

2015, to renovate the 9-hole golf course that will include the redesign and rebuild of the greens, tees and fairways, replacement of the existing grass, and the installation of a complete new state-of-the-art irrigation system.

The city issued a formal solicitation in September 2015, yielding six responses. After review and presentations, KCR Contracting was awarded the design/build services contract in November 2015. KCR's goal is to bring the best of out the property and deliver a worldclass, 9-hole golf experience. One of the most compelling factors in choosing KCR was their assertion that the course was more than just a golf course; it is a city park. The course should

be as beautiful to the casual passerby as it is engaging to the player. At the conclusion of the project, residents will enjoy a golf experience that provides affordable enjoyment for all golfing abilities, as well as an aesthetically beautiful golf landscape that we all will be proud of.

KCR principals have worked on world-class golf courses including Yokohama Country Club in Japan; Simapo Island Golf Club in China; Trump International Golf Club in Dubai; Tseleevo Golf and Polo Club in Russia; Cabot Cliffs, Country Hills, Miskanaw Golf Club, Springbank Golf Links and Wascana Golf and Country Club in Canada; Forest Dunes in Michigan; Streamsong Red Course in Fort Meade, Fla., and others. We look forward to the experience, quality, insight and expertise KCR Contracting will bring to our community in the coming year.

Due to the size of the renovation, the golf course is expected to be closed from March 2016 to September 2016, with a grand re-opening scheduled for the fall. Plans and scheduling for the project will be finalized within the next couple of months. For the most up to date information visit cityofwinterpark.org or email parktalk@cityofwinterpark.org.

Ben Hogan said it best, "The most important shot in golf is the next one." I look forward to our "next shot" at our newly renovated golf course in fall 2016.



Friday, November 20, 2015 thru Sunday, January 10, 2016

group discounts & private party rental available > reservations required

3 p.m. – 9 p.m. Monday thru Thursday >



3 p.m. – 10 p.m. Friday > Saturday > 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Noon – 8 p.m. Sunday >

see website for extended school holiday hours

Winter Park









special thanks to our sponsors







For more info, please call 407-599-3203 or visit cityofwinterpark.org/WITP

Maitland Mayor's Message

Mayor Dale McDonald



RFQ & RFP

CRA Issues

On October 26, the City Council and CRA Board approved the issuance of a RFQ for Master Planning

Services and

a RFP for a Branding and Marketing Plan for Downtown Maitland.

Download the My Maitland **Smartphone App**

The City of Maitland is pleased to announce the launch of the free smartphone app called My Maitland. Residents will be able to submit requests in the following areas: Streets and Roads; Drainage and Lakes; Code Enforcement; and Garbage, Yard Waste or Recycling. Additionally, residents

can adjust settings on their phones to receive notifications related the service requests they're following.

My Maitland is available on the Apple App Store and on Google Play.

Subscribe to Maitland Minute

Maitland Minute delivers a concise presentation of City news, events, and information to your inbox twice a month. Like the name suggests, brevity is a goal and we value your time. Sign up at www.itsmymaitland.com.

Public Works Pipeline

The Public Works Department continues its work for all Maitland residents. Here you will find a list of completed and pipeline projects.

Completed:

• Jim Houser Azalea Gardens. Amenity additions include a new pervious walkway, new signage, en-

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hanced landscaping, benches, a picnic area, and parking enhancements.

In the Pipeline:

• Lift Station #4 Diversion Project. This project entails construction of over 9,500 feet of sewer force main throughout the eastern service area of the City. To date, approximately 3,000 feet of pipe has been installed. The construction path continues on Dommerich



Lake Sybelia stormwater project.

Drive, Algonquin Trail, Arapaho Trail, and Mohican Trail. Visit www.bit.ly/ StationNo4 often for updates.

 Lake Sybelia Stormwater Project. The City of Maitland is in the process of installing two treatment systems to upgrade the Lake Sybelia stormwater system. Check the "Lake Sybelia Stormwater Project" webpage under "Project Updates" on www.itsmymai-

> tland.com for updates.

 Pedestrian and Bicycle Access to the Maitland Sun-Rail Station. Construction of the pedestrian and bicycle access, also known as the Greenwood Gardens boardwalk, has begun.

County Commissioner's Message

Commissioner Ted B. Edwards, Orange County, District 5



The Holiday Season is one of my favorite times of the year. I always enjoy the cooler weather, the opportunity spend time with

family and friends, and celebrating with my neighbors and constituents as we prepare to ring in the new year. One of my favorite things about serving on the Board of County Commissioners is experiencing the rich holiday traditions of the many diverse communities I represent in District 5. This month, I would like to highlight some of the many festive happenings taking place across District 5 in the weeks to come.

Winter Park and Maitland residents have a unique set of local Christmas events to choose from. Those looking for a nostalgic Christmas experience indoors may enjoy Orlando Shakespeare Theater's production of "It's a Wonderful Life." Five Orlando Shakes players will perform their interpretation of this classic Christmas film in the style of a 1940's radio drama in front of a live audience, complete with period costumes. The show runs throughout the month of December. On December 3, The Morse Museum of American Art and the City of Winter Park will cohost the annual "Christmas in the Park" celebration at the northern end of Central Park. This free event begins at 6:15 p.m. and will include the lighting of historic



Tiffany glass windows and performances by the Bach Festival Choir, Youth Choir, and Brass Ensemble. The next day, the Winter Park Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held in Central Park at 5:15 p.m.. Local WFTV Channel 9 will broadcast the tree lighting ceremony live followed by performances by children's choirs and jazz ensembles, children's activities, and the screening of an outdoor movie. Perhaps the most well-known

mas music. The concert will be held at Maitland Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m. on December 13. Those liv-

ing near Downtown Orlando have interesting

holiday events to choose from as well. The Orange County Regional History Center hosts its annual "History Center Holiday" at Heritage Square



Winter Park Christmas parade photo credit: City of Winter Park Communications Department.

holiday event in Winter Park is the annual "Ye Olde Hometown" Christmas Parade held along Park Avenue on December 5 and begins at 9:00 a.m. This is one of the longest-running holiday parades in Central Florida, with the first parade taking place over 60 years ago. The City of Maitland will host its "Season of Light Celebration" at Lake Lilly Park on December 5. The event will include music, fun, and a

> fireworks show at 7:00 p.m. In addition, The Performing Arts of Maitland will celebrate its 10th anniversary with "Come Fly With Me," a performance of both newlywritten and familiar Christ

cludes entertainment by Grand Avenue Avenue Elementary School students followed by the festive lighting of Heritage Square. Afterwards, the History Center is opened to the community free of charge. In addition, a tree lighting celebration will be held at the Walt Disney Amphitheater at Lake Eola Park on December 4 at 5:00 p.m. The event will include live musical performances, food truck bazaar, and a Christmas Village. College Park residents can look forward to the "Holiday on the Drive" event on December 3 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. along Edgewater Drive. This familyoriented event will feature costumed

event on December 1. The event in-



character, activities, a Christmas tree lighting, and even snow.

Numerous Christmas traditions exist on the east side of Orange County as well. Those looking to experience the history of East Orange County may enjoy the annual "Cracker Christmas" held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on December 5 and 6 at Fort Christmas Park. This event includes pioneer demonstrations, handicrafts, delicious food, tours of historic homes, and live music. Many people also visit the Christmas post office during the holiday season to have their Christmas cards postmarked from the most appropriately-named community in Orange County. The annual "Light Up UCF" event will be returning to the CFE Arena between November 13 and January 3. The event includes an 8,000 square foot outdoor ice skating rink, rides, holiday attractions, and simulated snowfall.

I hope you will take the opportunity to incorporate some of these events into your families' Christmas traditions. I plan to attend many of these events myself and look forward to seeing you there. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff, Edgar Robinson and Lynette Rummel, if you have any questions regarding any Orange County issue. We can be reached at 407-836-7350 or by email and district5@ocfl.net.

I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!



Protection And Service The Winter Park Police Department

Holiday Safety Tips

The following are a few strategies that will help you enjoy the holiday season without becoming a victim of crime.

Unfortunately burglars view the holiday season a little differently than most of us. For them it is a time of great opportunity to burglarize your home for cash, credit cards, and even gifts meant for loved ones. Burglars prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows but, given the chance, will force entry into your home or vehicle.

 Burglars know to look for the hidden door keys near front entrances. Don't hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, or above door ledges. Instead give the spare key to a trusted neighbor.

• Don't leave descriptive outgoing voicemail messages like, "You've reached the Wilsons'...we're away skiing for the Christmas holidays... please leave a message." Bad guys love to hear that they have plenty of time to break in and completely ransack your home.

• Don't pile up empty gift boxes from your new computer, large screen televisions, or electronic

devices on the street for the garbage man. Burglars appreciate knowing you have expensive gifts inside waiting for them to steal. Break the boxes down or cut them up to better conceal what you have inside your house.

• The holiday season is the time of year many of us will be busy shopping and run-

ning errands. We must not forget that criminals

will also be out and about looking for easy targets to make a big score.

If you mistake these for pretty holiday lights,

you shouldn't be driving.

• During the big Christmas sales, shop before dark if at all possible. Coordinate shopping trips with a friend. Never park in an unlit lot or parking area, no matter how convenient

it is.

 Lock your packages and gifts in your vehicle's trunk. Keep your vehicle's doors locked and windows closed. This is especially important when it comes to SUVs.

 Have your keys readily available in your hand before you go to your car. When you return to your ve-

hicle, scan the interior of your car to be sure no one is hiding inside. Always make sure to check to see if you are being followed.





- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card when possible.
- Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep a wallet in an inside jacket pocket, not a back trouser pocket.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

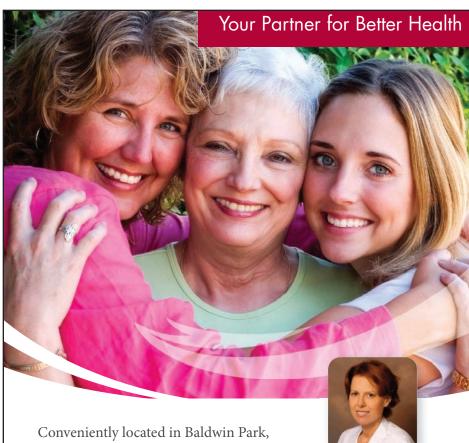
• The Winter Park Police Department provides free house checks for all Winter Park city residents when they are away from their homes for more than 24 hours. If interested please call

> 407-644-1313 to be place on the house check list.

And Remember **NEVER DRINK AND DRIVE**

Your life or someone else's could depend on it!

The Winter Park Police Department is wishing everyone a safe and wonderful New Year!



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Pictured above: Hunter Pence Group. Top right: Kyle Schwarber and Gary Sheffield. Group at Putting Contest. At bottom right: Kyle Schwarber, Daryl Boston and Tim Wakefield.

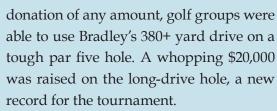
Not only does the tournament help raise money for the league, it also offers residents of Central Florida a rare opportunity to be involved with Major League Baseball players. More than thirty current and former MLB stars volunteered their time to be a part of the two-day event held at Interlachen Country Club in Winter Park.

San Francisco Giants All-Star outfielder Hunter Pence was an integral part of the tournament's good fortune. Hunter, who has attended seven of the eight tournaments, started things off with an appearance on Golf Channel's "Morning Drive" on Sunday. He then hosted a private hitting clinic for a select number of youth players, offering hitting tips, stories of making it to the big leagues and taking pictures and signing autographs for the kids.

On Sunday evening, the Pairings Party commenced at Interlachen Country Club. All of the tournament golfers, as well as a select number of sponsors and local supporters, were joined by more than a dozen celebrities for a night of great food, drinks and an important message. League's president, Rob Sitz; the tournament chair, Kevin Davidson; tournament sponsors Mike Zizmer and Newton Jones of UBS Private Wealth; and Pence all spoke on behalf of the league, stressing the importance of summer ball for players

A number of unique items were sold via live auction, including a week-long stay at any Diamond Resort in the country, an autographed Reggie Jackson Yankees jersey, a case of fine wine, and jumbo canvas portraits of Jose Bautista, Hunter Pence, and Kyle Schwarber. In addition, more than \$7,500 was raised through generous pledges from attendees for the "Feed the Players" campaign. The money raised from the campaign will go towards securing meals for players over the summer.

Monday morning was the main event at Interlachen. The highlight on the course was professional long-driver Bobby Bradley showing off his power stroke on Hole #10. With a



The weekend concluded with dinner, tournament prizes and a silent auction featuring more than 80 packages, ranging from vacations to dining certificates to autographed memorabilia. An impressive total of 93 different companies and indi-

viduals donated an item for the auction. This event would not be such a success without their generosity.

A special thank you goes to UBS Private Wealth for being the presenting sponsor of the tournament for the fifth consecutive year. Lastly, we would like to thank all of the celebrities who attended and supported this year's event: Jose Bautista, Kris Benson, Daryl Boston, Drew Butera, Dave Carpenter, Tyler Clippard, Darnell Coles, Tyler Danish, Zach Eflin, Luke Gregerson, Ryan Hanigan, John Hart, Jim Hickey, Casey Kotchman, Tyler Marlette, Kent Matthes, Hunter Pence, Tim Raines, Jr., Kyle Schwarber, Gary Sheffield, Mike Stanley, Eddie Taubensee, Ted Tryba, Tim Walefield, Forrest Wall, Jemile Weeks, and Rickie Weeks.

and the surrounding communities.

From Page 1

- Orange County Administration Office 201 S. Rosalind Ave., Orlando, FL 32801
- Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts Box Office 445 S. Magnolia Ave., Orlando, FL 32801, Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Saturday - 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- Canvs Church Street Exchange, 101 S. Garland Ave. Suite 108, Orlando, FL 32801

Additionally, Mayor Jacobs will also "flip the switch" on Dec. 12 at 5:45 p.m. to illuminate Heritage Square Park at the Orange County Regional History Center's annual Holiday at Heritage Square event. This free event, featuring Santa, activities and crafts for the entire family will take place from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information on drop-off locations and gift ideas, visit www.ocfl.net/holidayheroes.



The Park Press | DECEMBER 2015

JFS Orlando Family Stabilization Program

The Family Stabilization Program (FSP) is a preventative, six-month case management program. The program is designed for families to obtain self-sufficiency by teaching them critical skills and tools to resolve crises and avoid future hardships while

achieving long term stability. The program's primary objectives are to improve money management skills, family functioning, mental stress, and to maintain or improve employability and housing while reducing stress. This is accomplished

by providing clients with a variety of supportive services at no cost to participants.

These types of programs are always great on paper, but let us put a face to the service and introduce you to a family that went from homelessness to home. Dennis and Danni were thrust into a situation where they

found themselves needing the services of the Family Stabilization Program.

"My husband and I always thought ourselves as stable people. We paid our bills on time and had lived in the same apartment for six years. Then... my husband lost his job, and we couldn't afford the rent. My husband, our two young boys and I moved into a rundown motel surrounded by violence and illegal activity. We were living paycheck to pay-

check with little hope, and not knowing how to improve our situation."

"When we came to the Family Stabilization Program we had just become homeless. All the staff was very friendly, supportive and real with us. I always

felt like they cared about us as people, and made it easy to complete the program. Workshops were fresh, and helped solve real problems. Rather than just teaching us how to make a budget, they also taught us how to repair our credit, deal with student loans and housing debt."

JFS Orlando actively partners with other local agencies to avoid duplication of services and to ensure clients receive well-rounded assistance to address any and all issues they may be facing. The Family Stabilization Program also includes access to the Pearlman Emergency Food Pantry. Last year alone, over 76,000 meals were distributed through the Food Pantry. Dennis and Danni were one of the many people who were able to utilize the Food Pantry to help provide meals for their family.

Clients from all walks of life fall on hard times. There are so many families on the very brink of losing it all, in need of support from their community. This family just needed a hand up.

"I am proud and excited to say that thanks to the Family Stabilization Program, we just moved into our own apartment. My husband got a stable job and we increased our income significantly. There is no better feeling in the world for a mom than to know my kids can safely play outside and sleep in their own bed."

For more information about the Jewish Family Services of Greater Orlando, please visit www.jf-sorlando.org.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Go From Zero To Fit In 2016

By Susan S. Paul, MS, Program Director at Track Shack Fitness

"Those who think they have not time for bodily exercise will sooner or later have to find time for illness." Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby (1826-93), British statesman. The Conduct of Life, address at Liverpool College, 20 Dec 1873.

Truer words were never spoken. The most common reason given for not exercising is a lack of time.

With the New Year almost upon us, now is the perfect time to make the time and the commitment to improve your health and fitness.

Do you want to get fit but don't know how to begin training? Do you need accountability? Would you like the support of a group-coached environment? Then Track Shack, Central Florida's walking and running resource has just what you need! Introducing Zero To Fit, a beginner training program starting January 2016.

In order to better serve the health and fitness needs of the Central Florida community we have improved and expanded the services of our beginner running program. Zero To Fit is designed to provide

> the conditioning necessary to get you outside and on the road to a fitter you.

Zero To Fit begins by conditioning participants and then gradually introducing run/ walking or running. For those already doing some running, Zero to Fit will work as well. Coaches will offer multiple workouts at each class to reach a variety of needs and fitness levels. This program targets everyone from the true beginner to those already doing some running.

Zero To Fit is 10-week program that meets twice a week. Orlando classes meet on Monday and Wednesday at Baldwin Park. Lake Mary classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday at Lake Mary Preparatory School. Each workout lasts about one hour. Learn how to warm up, how to train properly, how to cool-down, and how to stretch. Gain conditioning and fitness while having fun in a very social and supportive atmosphere. Participants will receive a weekly email with instructions about the upcoming week of training along with educational information. Members will also have special access to free clinics on running, exercise clothing, and shoe fitting at Track Shack. The cost is \$85.

Classes are offered at convenient times through the day, starting at 5:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. So, no more excuses! Make the time to exercise.

Who is Zero To Fit for?

- Those not currently running or walking but want to start
- Those doing some running, walking, or run/ walking but want to improve cardio vascular fitness.
- Those doing some running, walking, or run/ walking but are not ready for half marathon or marathon training.
- Those who want to get fit and have fun at the same time.
- Those who have a goal of participating in community run/walk events.

Before registering for this program, please check with your physician for approval. For more information, run to TrackShack.com or call 407-898-1313.

FEED HOPE NOW

Second Harvest Food Bank is working to feed hope. Each week, an average of 72,000 people need help getting food – kids, seniors, working families, homeless and others. And, though we provided enough food for 43 million meals last year alone, it simply wasn't enough. Because until everyone can eat, we still have work to do. Our neighbors in need continue to need your caring, and your help. Remember: a dollar donated can provide up to \$9 in groceries.

Make a difference. Please give today. www.FeedHopeNow.org | 407.295.1066





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Runners Annual Community Outreach Initiative

The Winter Park Sunday Running Group will conduct its eighth annual community outreach initiative on Sunday, December 13th prior to its 7:00 a.m. regular run. This year we will be collecting food for hungry children and adults in our community and delivering it to Second Harvest Food Bank for distribution to needy families. (One in six Central Florida families deals with

the reality of hunger and food insecurity!)

The collection point will be at Park Avenue & Welbourne (the Williams Sonoma store) in Winter Park where the group meets for its weekly Sunday morning run. We invite all runners and other interested parties to join us for an informal group run on December 13 and bring along foodstuffs suggested by the Second Harvest staff.

In past years, other groups also have joined us in this outreach, including the Orlando Runners Club, Track Shack's Marathonfest programs, the Winter Park Dawgs, the Galloway Marathon Training Group, Teresa Williams Sunday Running Group, St. Margaret Mary Church, Cross Fernandez & Riley, and others. We anticipate that these organizations will once again join the collection effort this year.



Changing Lives One Treat At A Time

Jane's Short And Sweet is a local 501C3 nonprofit organization that raises funds through the sale of shortbread cookies and sugar scrub to change the lives of Central Florida women in need. Proceeds fund an eight-week class called "Toolbox4Life." According to founder Jane Hursh, the program seeks to "create a different and hopeful trajectory for women in Central Florida coming out of homelessness, trafficking, abuse, incarceration, addiction and/or a combination of those challenges." The

women attend classes, then are hired to produce the merchandise that funds the program. Their goal is to, one day, have a brick-and-mortar store of their own. For now you can find Jane's Short and Sweet products in a variety of local stores such as An-

cient Olive and Peterbrooke Chocolatier on Park Avenue in Winter Park.

The cookie for this month is Peppermint Buttercream Shortbread. Sugar scrubs include lavender, peppermint, orange, and grapefruit. For a list of local stores carrying Jane's products please

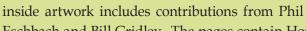


visit their website, www. janeshortandsweet.com. You can also order online, or make a direct charitable contribution. You can also find more information about the toolbox4life program there, as well as finding pages for both

Jane's Short and Sweet and Toolbox-4Life on Facebook.

Scores Of Delights

Scores of Delights is the title of a new cookbook that was compiled and published just in time for the holiday season by the St. Gregory Choir at All Saints Episcopal Church. The cover was created from still-life oil paintings by local artist Dick Yoho, and the



Eschbach and Bill Gridley. The pages contain Honorariums, limericks, and of course favorite recipes from various parish members. The development committee includes Cyntia Greenwald, Susan Arnall, Shannon Gridley, Cindy Mackinnon, Betty Spangler, Katherine Bunn, Ruth Ann Heller, Susan Miller, Richard Yoho, Kaylyn Dere, Ray Holland, and Tim Smith. Proceeds from the book will go to support the music ministry efforts of the St. Gregory Choir.

For more information, or to place an order please visit www.all-saintswp.com.





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Thank You To My Community

My name is Uma and I am an eighth-grade student at Glenridge Middle. I recently held a drive to collect Halloween Costumes for children at the Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless. I had only three weeks to collect costumes for the 85 children at the Coalition. I set up collection boxes at three of the local elementary schools (Aloma, Brookshire, and Audubon) and at the Winter Park Public Library. The response I received was overwhelming. In a matter of three weeks, I received over 125 costumes. I ended up donating extra costumes to one of the other great organizations: Mustard Seed. I would not have been able to do this without the support of our wonderful community. Though I do not know each of you individually, I would like to give you my personal thank you through this letter from the bottom of my heart for all of your donations. Every costume has made a difference to a child. All of your donations brought indescribable happiness to these children. Once again, I really appreciate the help of this community in making this possible.

Happy 100th Birthday, Mr. Wildman

In November, Marion Ellsworth Wildman (Ellis) celebrated his 100thbirthday. Ellis was born in Ohio and had an ideal rural 1900s childhood: no running water or electricity, he played baseball, he learned to swim in a mud hole, and delivered milk to neighbors in his wagon. He met and married the love of his life, Hazel, and raised two daughters in a very musical house as he enjoyed playing the piano, violin, guitar, banjo and harmonica. He spent 40 years working for Columbus Coating and Fabrics and he and Hazel spent many a Saturday in the Horseshoe watching Ohio State football. The Wildmans vacationed in the Tampa Bay area for years and eventually made the Sunshine State their permanent home. And although you can take the boy out of the state, you can never take the buckeye out of the boy... if you are looking for Ellis on a Saturday in the fall, you will be sure to find him in front of the TV watching his beloved Buckeyes, surrounded by his loving and adoring family- five grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren!



Ellis Wildman and five of his 12 great-grandchildren.





real estate in the parks by Scott Hillman

There Really Is No Place Like Home For The Holidays



time of year when family and friends get together, exchange gifts and give thanks. Whether you're celebrating

Christmas, Hanukkah or simply enjoying the color and pageantry of this festive season, it is a wonderful time to enjoy being home to celebrate the holidays surrounded by loved ones. It's a great time to gather around the kitchen table to play games or do a puzzle, maybe share conversation by the fire or take some time to pour through family photo albums. Not to mention taking the time to prepare a scrumptious holiday meal and linger at the dining room table enjoying each other's company.

Often, this is the only time during the year when many families have the opportunity to be together to enjoy good food, fellowship and the spirit of the season. For many of us, it's a time to reminisce and get caught up on what's been taking place in each of our lives. And what better venue than in the comfort of a home where

ily of our own. Special too, is if this is the first holiday season living in a new house where more lasting memories can be made.

What's truly amazing is how homes are transformed into something special in December. A home for the holidays truly comes alive and takes on extra special meaning. For many families, the holidays provide an opportunity to arrive a few days early and help decorate the home by putting up a tree, lighting the menorah, or hanging the lights, the holly and mistletoe. A spe-

old family recipes that have been handed down home for the holidays..."

December is that special many of us may have grown up before going off to bake all those pies and cookies. It's worth the to college or getting married and starting a fam- couple of extra pounds we may put on to spend

time with the ones we love.

This is the time of year when colorful decorations, the presence of those near and dear to our hearts, and the many taste-tempting aromas that fill every room amplify the hominess of a house and make it much more than just a structure. So if you are travelling to visit family or welcoming family and friends into your home, enjoy the holidays and all they have to offer. It is truly a time to be gracious and to make every effort to enjoy the season at home with family and friends.

cial time for generations to get together and use Because, as the song says, "There's no place like



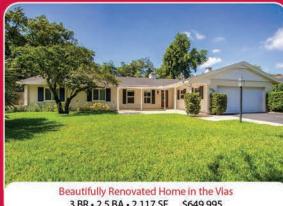
Scott Hillman is president of Fannie Hillman + Associates, a 34-year-old Winter Park-based real estate company specializing in residential real estate sales and producer of The Hillman Report, a semiannual look at residential real estate in Orange and Seminole counties that can be viewed on the company's website (fanniehillman.com) or by calling (407) 644-1234 for a copy.

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Orlando Business Journal



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14 BUSINESS The Park Press | DECEMBER 2015

fiscal fitness by John Gill

The Holidays And The Power Of Compound Interest side, but works against you on the debt or As you are reading this I am sure that in the back

of your mind you may be contemplating some aspect of the holiday season. Whether Christmas, Hanukkah, or some other celebration

there are gifts to gather, decorations to deploy, or meals to make. One key ingredient needed in all these pursuits is money.

During the holiday season we find ourselves in the midst of merriment, hoopla, and joy. We also find the stresses of the season with our financial position under assault.

This month is a fitting time to talk about debt. Many will increase their debt levels through credit cards to make the holidays, "what they should be" and worry about the impact next year. Regarding debt, I am not going to talk about things to avoid. You already know that. I am going to give practical insight into the power of compound interest and how it affects debt.

Simply put, compound interest is when interest earns interest. Say you have \$1,000 and you are paid 4% annual interest. At the end of twelve months the total in your account would be \$1,040. At the end of twenty four months the total would be \$1,081.60, not \$1,080 as many would have guessed. The extra \$1.60 in our example is from the compounding effect. Compounding works for you on the investment borrowing side.

Many wonder why it takes forever to pay down their credit card debt when they are making the minimum payments. Compounding is the answer.

Credit card debt is "revolving" debt. Because of the way interest is calculated on revolving debt, it's difficult to tell how long it's going to take to pay off the balance. The interest is compounded daily and each month that interest is added to the beginning principal so that the next month interest is calculated on that interest. The problem is compounded, no pun intended, when you add additional monthly charges to the balance.

With a fixed debt, your payments are scheduled for a fixed amount of time (like with a car loan). You can easily tell when you will pay off the principal on the debt and - even with the same interest rate and monthly payments - your pay-off date is usually much sooner than with revolving debt. Look at the table below to see the difference between revolving debt and fixed

The compounding effect is very powerful and works for you with investments and against you with debt. If you must use debt, consider some fixed type of debt if possible.

To combat the need for debt, set a budget for

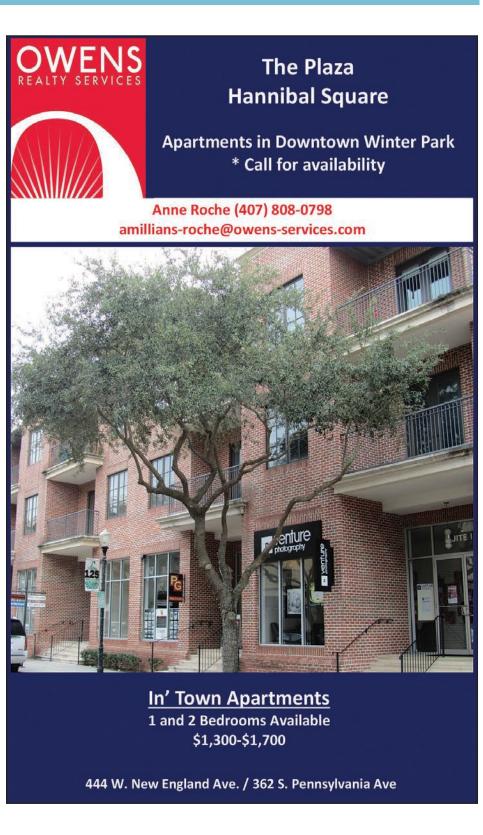
Revolving Debt Fixed Debt (Credit Card) (Car Loan) Amount Borrowed: \$15,000 @ 15%* \$15,000 @ 15%** **Total Monthly** Payments: \$525 per month \$525 per month Years to Payoff: 15 years 3 years Interest Paid: \$8,156 \$3,674 **Total Cost** \$23,156 \$18,674 Source: Equifax

*Assumes revolving payment (minimum) of 3.5% of the remaining balance or \$20, whichever is greater. First month's payment is shown and term assumed continued payment of minimum amount. No additional debt incurred and payments decrease over time period. **Assumes payment of 3.5% of initial loan amount, no additional debt incurred and payment amount remains fixed throughout the term of the loan. This illustration is hypothetical only. Each debt situation will vary.

the holidays, for food, gifts, anything that is required for the season. Discuss with the family and adhere to it. For next year's holiday season, set aside a certain amount each pay period or month between now and then. When December 2016 arrives, you will have cash ready to go, and can start the 2017 New Year in a truly festive mood and maybe debt free.

If you have questions, comments, or an area of financial interest you would like to see discussed in The Park Press, please call John at 407-353-0594 or send email to FiscalFitness@ymail.com.





family business perspective

How To Create A Productive And Empowering Culture

where all those associated feel a stewardship responsibility for its success and/or its failures? To navigate this subject, let's first focus on what generally gets in the way.

The most influential issue that impacts a busi-

ness' culture is the owner's style of management. The owner has the most influence on the organization and therefore sets the tone for what is acceptable and a "norm" amongst their employees, vendors, and customers.

If the owner micromanages or in other ways inhibits members of the organization from offering suggestions or creating opportunities, this type of behavior will become the root of the culture. To preclude this type of behavior, ownership mentality should

be an attitude of inclusion. This attitude conveys to the stakeholders that they are valued, necessary, and that great ideas can come from anyone. An attitude of inclusion, acceptance and collaboration must begin with the owner, and then also perpetuated and encouraged by example, othempty slogans.

From my personal experience, I have had the pleasure to work with a business owner who communicates to new members of his team that by their involvement the "pie" of opportunity has



grown rather than the pieces of the current pie becoming smaller. If this type of behavior is not a natural leadership style, become aware of your shortfalls through completing a Leadership Assessment. This assessment will identify areas of improvement and allow you to take the next steps

How do you create a positive business culture erwise stakeholders will see through it as just to become more adept in this style of management. What are some key development steps to enhance leadership style?

- Complete a Leadership Assessment that will identify your natural style of leading and areas of improvement.
- Seek out an accountability partner whom you trust to provide coaching in the areas that need enhancement.
- Identify specific goals or areas that you and your accountability partner can review to measure progress.
- Perpetuate this attitude throughout your leadership team by having them complete the steps above.

Employees who are used to being told what to do and simply do their job, become critics of leadership, versus empowered and proactive members of your team. An environment of inclusion will develop loyal employees communicating to the community that your business is a good business to deal with. The attitude of valuing all the stakeholders is contagious, but is easily broken. Don't forget that "one bad apple can spoil the whole bunch." Once this productive empowering attitude is established, guard against anything that could herald a return to everyone looking out for themselves and watching their backs.

Dan Schneider, M.A. is a Partner with The Rawls Group, a national business succession planning firm. He can be reached at dschneider@rawlsgroup.com. . For more information visit www.seekingsuccession.com





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WP-218-33114

Business In The Parks

Universal Engineering Sciences (UES) hired Erin **Murphy** as the marketing manager for the corporate office and 17 branch offices across Florida and Georgia. Erin brings 10 years of marketing and public relations experience and will manage marketing, branding and provide proposal support for UES's 18 offices across Florida and Georgia. She joins UES



Erin Murphy

16

from HNTB Corporation, where supported numerous transportainfrastructure projects in the role of marketing coordinator III. Her A/E/C industry experience includes marketing

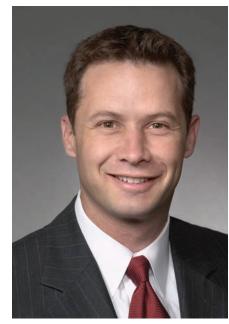
for a commercial general contractor. Prior to joining the professional services industry, Erin worked in public affairs in the non-profit sector. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations from the University of Florida and a Master of Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University. A native of Orlando, Florida, Erin resides in Ocoee with her fiancé, Michael.

Blackton Inc. a major provider of roofing and flooring materials to the homebuilding industry, recently had the grand opening of their roofing division that relocated to the former Hood Tractor building at 2200 N. Orange Blossom Trail. Micky **Blackton**, chief executive officer at Blackton, said the firm's growing roofing division moved from the Alden Road location near Loch Haven Park after 62 years, to the 40,000 square foot industrial building situated on a one-and-a-half-acre site."We relocated our roofing operations to this central location to better serve our customers in this building boom we're experiencing, and to limit exposure to Interstate 4 construction planned over the next seven years," Blackton said. The main corporate offices and flooring supply division remains on Alden Rd. next to the train tracks where it has been since opening in 1954.

Winderweedle, Haines, Ward and Woodman, P.A. (WHWW,) celebrating their 85th anniversary in 2016, was recently named a 2016 "Best Law Firm" in U.S. News & World Report by Best Lawyers. Several areas of practice were recognized in the report, including; Commercial Litigation, Litigation - Banking & Finance, Real Estate, Banking & Finance, Business Organizations, Corporate, Liti-

gation - Bankruptcy, Trusts & Estates Law.

Orlando Health President & CEO, David Strong, has become the newest member of the Florida Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors. Mr. Strong's Board membership was effective November 5. Mr. Strong was appointed Orlando Health's president and chief executive officer in April, 2015. He is responsible for providing leadership, strategic guidance and direction of the organization which consists of eight wholly-owned or affiliated hospitals, two of the largest multi-specialty practices in Central Florida; ownership in an outpatient surgery center, and a subsidiary interest in five outpatient imaging centers. Mr. Strong has more than



David Strong

healthcare management expertise and experience. Prior to joining Orlando Health, served president of Rex Healthcare, in Raleigh, NC, an affiliate UNC Health Care, and chief operating officer for

20 years of

system affiliations at the University of North Carolina Health Care System in Chapel Hill. He began his healthcare career at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, LA, where he served as vice president of operations and ambulatory care as well as executive vice president. In 2000 he joined Mercy Health Center in Oklahoma City, OK as chief operating officer. In 2004, he joined Rex Healthcare and in 2011, was named chief operating officer for system affiliations at the health care system. Mr. Strong received his Bach-





Above: Blackton, Inc. is a major provider of roofing and flooring materials.

Orlando Philharmonic Announces Resignation Of Executive Director David Schillhammer

The Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra Board of Directors accepted the resignation of the executive director, David Schillhammer, effective February 28, 2016. Schillhammer is the orchestra's first and only executive director, a position he has held for 15 years.

"I leave the organization in good standing," said Schillhammer. "Artistically, under the helm of new music director, Eric Jacobsen, and the talented, hardworking and selfless musicians; financially, with 22 consecutive years of balanced budgets, and a capital campaign that has raised nearly \$4 million since 2013 to initiate renovations to The Plaza Live, our first permanent home in the community. Over these many seasons, we have expanded our donor and patron base to an all-time high, with over 5,000 subscriptions sold last year."

"Now that all the pieces are in place, it's time for me to exit stage right, pursue new opportunities, and welcome in fresh, new leadership to usher in the next chapter for the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra."

President of the board, Michael Elsberry, thanked Schillhammer for his dedication. "David Schillhammer has been with the Orlando Philharmonic since shortly after its rebirth from the ashes of the Florida Symphony," he said. "His leadership, through good times and not-so-good times, has been the glue that held the organization together and the inspiration that molded the orchestra into the preeminent ensemble that it is today. His standing in our arts community is unequaled, and that community will miss his passion as much as we will at the orchestra. The board of directors accepted his decision to resign with sadness and regret, but we knew that he reached the decision with careful deliberation, which those of us who know him recognize as part of his DNA. We wish David only the best as he takes a rest from the unrelenting stress that his position with the orchestra necessarily entails. He plans to keep himself available to us, to answer questions that can be answered only by a person who has led an organi-



David Schillhammer

zation from the front for over a decade and a half. We thank him for that, and for his undivided commitment for fifteen years."

OH.

are

Schillhammer says he is seeking a new position, but will stay connected

to the orchestra. "I am looking forward to pursuing other opportunities and meaningful projects in the non-profit world," he said. "I will always remain a loyal supporter of the Philharmonic, and I will cherish the many friendships I have made during this journey, with the musicians, hardworking staff, the many members of the boards of directors, our loyal and passionate patrons, and most importantly, the many members of the Friends of the Orlando Philharmonic."

The board of directors is discussing next steps and plans to conduct a national search for Schillhammer's successor.

pop culture detours by George McGowan

The Pop Culture Detours' Pop Culture Detour

Exactly what is Pop Culture anyway? Over the years writing this column, I have mostly stuck with recommending movies, music, and books.

But for this holiday season, I would like to recommend a place. I think everybody should take some time this holiday season for a visit to and through the Corrine Drive corridor from Baldwin Park to Leu Gardens. This part of town is becoming a fun and unique place to spend time and spend money.

The City of Orlando designates this quirky and interesting area along with several others as a "Main Street Neighborhood." It

is going by a much better name - Audubon Park Garden District. I like it because it combines the best of both Orlando (my full-time employer) and Winter Park (where I make my home) in one place. On the east side, the area is anchored by the East End Market which is a micro-

cosm of the area all in one spot. Shopping, eating, and gathering take place in a wonderfully homespun setting. The garden in front demonstrates the aesthetic of the place and echoes the dedication of the vendors to offer their wares direct from the producers.

On the west end, Leu Gardens is the perfect spot for almost every occasion from quiet walk among the greenery or if you happen to be invited to a offices and restaurants are some of my

by Palmer's Nursery to start a garden of your own!

Sprinkled in among the other shops,

favorite places to spend my free time. My first stop is always Park Avenue CDs where you can find your favorites music but also a cool tee shirt, book, magazine or knickknack. I've done my share of stocking stuffing with some of the peculiar items I have found

and the staff is happy to let you "test drive" any of their selections. This is a must stop for anyone with an interest in what is new and exciting in brewing.

For something on the other end of the beverage spectrum, the coffee brewed at both Bikes, Beans and Bordeaux and Stardust Video and Coffee are exceptional. Both shops offer a great atmosphere from the sporty vibe at 3B and the boho vibe at 'Dust and both do the trick for a quick "cup of joe." Bikes, Beans and Bordeaux offers coffee by this correspondent's favorite coffee roasters from Athens, GA - Jittery Joe's Coffee.

For those of you reading who have also visited this neat cultural "habitat"

> (get the birding reference?), I'm certain you have another place to recommend whether it is P is for Pie for a sweet treat, O'Stromboli for a slice of pizza, or The Lovely Bou-

tique Market for some lovely flowers for your special someone.

Take a Pop Culture Detour to the Audubon Park Garden District and you will be glad you did! This consumer of culture who also splits his time between Orlando and Winter Park gives it his highest recommendation!



AUDUB N P·A·R·K·

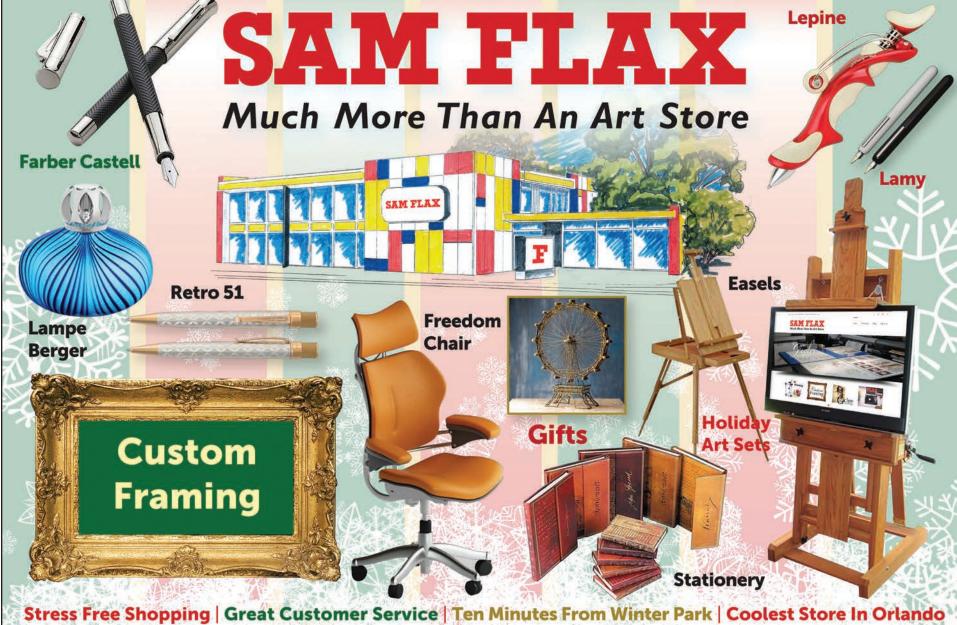
The Garden District

there. Then, I would sim-

ply stroll along to see what

wedding in the garden. But beware, a stroll through the gardens may entice you to stop

else caught my eye along the way to enter my number one place for a cold beer -Redlight Redlight. The number of choices of refreshment offered there is innumerable



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theater in the parks by Barbara Solomon

Two Wonderful Plays From Two Wonderful Novels

THE SECRET GARDEN **DIRECTED BY ARADHANA TIWARI**

18

MY NAME IS ASHER LEV **DIRECTED BY MARK EDWARD SMITH**

How lucky we are to have two such different shows at the same theatre. And how different they are. "The Secret Garden" is a mystical musi-

cal about Mary (Kennedy Joy Foristall) and her magical garden. Mary goes to the wilds of Yorkshire to live with her uncle after being orphaned in India during a cholera epidemic. The house is foreboding, and the only one who befriends Mary is the maid (Sara Barnes). When she discovers the secret garden, she makes two more friends in Dickon and Ben. The work on the garden takes her out of her funk and when she discovers her cousin, Colin (Will Gavigan), and she has a second purpose in life, to use the garden to make him well. As Shakespeare would say, all's well that ends

Pictured at right: Cole NeSmith as Dickon, Kennedy Joy Foristall as Mary Lennox, and Will Gavigan as Colin Craven.

well, even if it brought several of us in the audience to tears.

Not only is the story lovely, the music is as well. The melodies written by Lucy Simon and performed by a superb cast made the evening a joy. Particularly entrancing





Pictured above: Brian Brightman as the Men and Michael Frishman as Asher Lev. Photos by Tom Hurst.

were the songs "I Heard Someone Crying" and "A Bit of Earth." The younger of two outstanding performers was Kennedy Joy Foristall as the orphaned Mary. She was absolutely charming, with the added bonus of a sweet voice. Sara Barnes' voice was strong and vibrant, as were her acting skills. I wish I could individually praise the cast, but space does not allow. Suffice it to say they were fantastic! As was Ardhana's direction!

You don't often see children in the audience at Mad Cow. This musical is the exception, since it's based on a children's novel and the central character is a young girl. If you want to take your children to a worthwhile production

this holiday season, this is it!

At the same time, Mad Cow's black box is showing "My Name Is Asher Lev." I can't find adequate words to praise it. All three actors were perfect in their roles, and I should know, having grown up in the environment in which this play was set--an apartment house in Brooklyn. Asher Lev is a young talented artist, born with a gift. There's only one problem--he is born into a very religious Jewish family that objects to his art,

especially the nudes and crucifixions. As he develops his artistic skills, Asher tries to reconcile these two halves of his life, but he is conflicted. So well-written as a novel by Chaim Potok and a stage play by Aaron Posner, it features the skillful acting of Brian Brightman as the father, Sara Oliva as the mother, and the marvelous Michael Frishman as Asher Lev.. For a goy, Mark Edward Smith certainly got a handle on the Hassidic nuances. A must see!

Playing through December 20 and 6 respectively at Mad Cow Theatre, 54 West Church Street. For more information call 407-297-8788 or visit madcowtheatre.com.

theater in the parks by Barbara Solomon

There's No Place Like Winter Park For The Holidays!

FOREVER PLAID; PLAID TIDINGS WRITTEN BY STUART ROSS **DIRECTED BY STEVEN FLAA** STARRING KEVIN KELLY, TODD ALLEN LONG, MICHAEL SWICKARD, AND BRIAN WETTSTEIN

Well folks, it's that time of year again - Christmas craziness. Every theatre in town has its own version of a Christmas show, and the Winter Park Playhouse is no exception. The nice thing about this musical is that it combines regular songs we grew up

with and traditional Inever non-religious Christmas ditties. They began with the lovely "Stranger in Paradise" from "Kismet." The further into the show we get, the more Christmassy it becomes, and Act II decks the halls. There's not much of a story line here, but it's cute. The four guys come

back from heaven to do their Christmas special that never aired. But Act I had some songs I have always loved, like "Hey There" from "The Pajama Game." They end the first act with a fun audience participa-

tion song, and any time I get to sing out loud, I am a happy camper!

All four "boys" have very pleasant voices. The highlight of the evening was a hysterically funny takeoff of the "Ed Sullivan Show." Todd played Ed Sullivan wonderfully well, and the others ran around imitating all sorts of acts from the show, like Señor Wences and The Flying Wallendas. My only wish for the show was that either Michael Edwards or Roy Alan had directed it. There would have

> been less slapstick and more dancing.

but if you want a great holiday show, this is it! It will get you in the right m o o d with standards such as "Let It Snow" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." And the adorable Ned Wilkerson, a valuable member of the band, gets to

play his dream role, "Uncle Bernie." Playing through December 19

at The Winter Park Playhouse, 711 North Orange Avenue. For more information call 407-645-0145 or visit winterparkplayhouse.org.

BARB'S BEST BETS FOR DECEMBER: THEATRE DOWNTOWN'S "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" AT CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT LAKE IVANHOE, "PETER AND THE STAR CATCHER" AT ORLANDO SHAKES, AND PBJ'S "SLEIGH" AT ROLLINS COLLEGE.



in the

in the garden by Stephen and Kristin Pategas

Stephen & Kristin Pategas

Agave Diversity

Agaves are low wateruse plants that are strikingly sculptural and usually adorned with spines. There

is a great diversity in this species with a wide range in cold hardiness, sizes, leaf shapes, and colors. In Mexico, the leaves of *Agave tequiliana* are used to make tequila and the fermented sap of other agaves provide the drink pulque.

You may remember that in the May 2015 issue there was an article in this space about two huge century plants (*Agave americana*) in front of our home. In mid-April the bloom stalks were 20 feet in height. They topped out with 38 foot-tall spikes and then as expected, the plants withered and they were removed. The words admirable, noble, and splendid are good descriptors for how they grew to a large size and ended their lives after flowering. That is not a coincidence since the word agave derives from the Greek word agavos which means admirable, noble, or splendid.

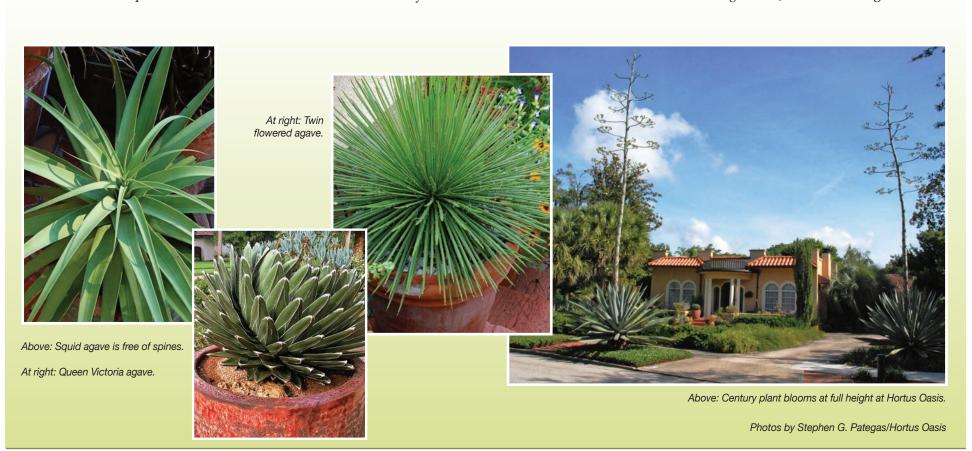
In our gardens, we grow about a dozen different agaves either in the ground or in containers. While many are "traditional" in look with thick wide leaves with spines on the end, some are surprisingly different. In our collection there is one with thin round leaves and one with spineless rubbery leaves that looks like a squid. The foliage colors vary and include silvery gray, shades of green, and variegated foliage. The colorful variegated foliage includes shades of white, cream, and red. When the blue-green leaves like those on Blue Glow agave are backlit by the sun, the red margins edged with yellow do indeed glow.

Agaves require full to mostly-full sun and well-drained soil. When planting in a container, make sure a well-draining soil mix (perlite is a good additive) is used. If planting in the ground, confirm the area does not hold water for more than about thirty minutes after a rainfall. Meanwhile, creating a planting mound will aid in drainage. Some are more susceptible to wet weather during the winter. Make sure they receive minimal irrigation or none at all once they are established.

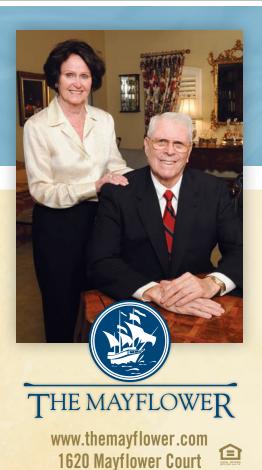
Select the right spiny agave to plant under a window and you can pretty much guarantee no one - whether burglar or daughter's boyfriend, will try to enter there. If planted in an area where spines are a concern, snip the sharp tips off with pruners.

These agaves grow successfully at Hortus Oasis: *Agave americana* - century plant

- A. (americana x scabra) 'Gainesville Blue' Gainesville Blue agave
- A. angustifolia 'Marginata' Caribbean agave
- A. (attenuata x ocahui) 'Blue Glow' blue glow agave
- A. bracteosa squid agave
- A. geminiflora twin flower Gemini agave
- A. lopantha 'Splendida' Splendida agave
- A. potatorum butterfly agave
- A. salmiana var. ferox 'Green Goblet' Green Goblet agave
- A. victoria-reginae Queen Victoria agave



Hortus Oasis (FL26000315) in Winter Park is a boutique garden design company specializing in residential, commercial and specialty gardens. Stephen is a registered landscape architect and Kristin is a certified landscape designer. Contact them at 407-622-4886/garden@hortusoasis.com



Winter Park, FL 32792

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live meaningfully by Ayesha G. Bullock, M.A.

More Than Just A "Frozen" Refrain...



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deadline looms, I find myself curating my thoughts for in-

spiration and organizational purposes. This Monday morn-

ing was just such a morning and as I finished getting ready I found one familiar song playing on the soundtrack of my mind. Closing my makeup drawer, pushing 'brew' on the Keurig, giving Bodhi (my white Labrador) a treat, and getting my purse together to walk out the door, there it was over and over again...

Come on let it go... Just let it be.... Why don't you be you... And I'll be me.

James Bay's "Let it Go"

It got me thinking... it's December. It's the end of a year. It's the season in which all of Nature sheds its oldest constructs and hunkers down to create new growth, change, and life again in the new year. It's the end of 2015. And though I truly hope that it's been a kind and abundant year for each of you, we do seem to also often acquire things, patterns, people and behaviors in the course of a year that may not truly serve us... or at least not serve the

Whenever an editorial highest and best versions of us.

What would it be like to deftly leave behind that which is weighing you down?

What kind of hurt, pain, fear, doubt, mistrust, anger, or disappointment could

GUILT

DEPRESSION

you choose to 'let go'? We have the tendency to get so consumed by the Mirth and the Merry that we don't realize that in the chaos bubble-wrapping those cherished family ornaments, perhaps we are also delicately preserving some of the less beautiful, useful, or orthoughts/ namental beliefs/resentments/ contentions for the next

year as well.

Bay's album is aptly entitled "Chaos and the Calm" and it conjures in my mind's eye the ebb and flow of the ocean of emotion in each of our lives. Life is good, life is hard. People are extraordinary and they are also human... So are you.

2015 may have brought you and yours many ornaments of the human condition; you, no doubt, experienced both highs and lows and processed them as best you could. What will 2016 bring? What are you still hanging on to that may not allow for something new in the clutter of that which is old and untrue? Have you cleaned out your proverbial emotional closet enough to allow for the wealth of yet another year of personal miracles? Do it now.

Let it go this December and look forward to the new growth of another year. Let it go and take a leap. The very worst thing that can hap-

pen is that you'll be a little lighter when you fly.

So come on let it go Just let it be Why don't you be you And I'll be me

Everything that's broke Leave it to the breeze Why don't you be you And I'll be me

Merry Christmas to you and to all of those whom you hold dear. May the Santa in each of you be generous of spirit and may God's grace be abundant now and into 2016. Wishing you each a holiday season full of life, laughter, forgiveness and love that effervescently bubbles over the rim of your flute, your lens and your life.

Be well; Live Meaningfully. Till the next time, Ayesha

Ayesha G. Bullock, M.A. practices at 2150 Park Avenue North as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and can be reached at ayesha@livemeaningfully.net or 407-796-2959.

nature in the parks

Photos by Richard Johnson



When Is A Duck Not A Duck?

If you ever walk the path of the New Broad street pond you will no doubt see a bird with a gray body. darker head and neck, and white chicken-like bill. You might think this is a duck but it's actually not. What you are looking at is an American Coot. American Coots are in fact part of the rail family which is in the same avian order as cranes. These

birds are only distantly related to waterfowl. The American Coot is a good runner on land but is not as good at flight as a duck. In fact, when an American Coot takes flight, he or she will often have to run on top of the water for a good length of time before getting airborne.

Photograph taken at the New Broad Street pond.

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schools



Great things are happening at Aloma this fall. This past month we held our second Principal's Book Club meeting where students who read and pass the AR test for Sunshine State Books are invited to be a part of special book club events. Each book club includes rigorous book discussion and a fun activity. The next upcoming title is "The Hyponotists" by bestselling author Gordon Korman. This book would be a great gift for your child to unwrap during this holiday season!

On December 4th Aloma will host its second annual Multicultural Fair where students, families, and community members come together to celebrate and learn about cultures across the globe.

Winter Break for students runs from December 21st - January 1st.

Audubon Park Elementary PRINCIPAL ANNA FERRATUSCO

Audubon Park Elementary has some shining third- grade writers this month! One of our third- grade classrooms participated in a district writing competition and three students won the top three places. The contest was the Orange County Week of the Family Essay Contest presented by the City of Orlando. Thirty four different Orange County schools participated. Three of our students won for the 3rd-5th grade division. The prompt was "What Makes a Family Strong!" The entire class worked for three weeks brainstorming, planning, and organizing their essays.

The director of the contest shared that the judges were looking for the essays that had the most heart in them and that our students really exemplified that. Isabella Wallace won first place, Hatcher Nordquist won second place, and Emma Brightman won Honorable Mention. All three students are in Mrs. Cravey's third- grade class. The students were awarded during a ceremony celebrating The Week of the Family. We couldn't be more proud of our shining stars!



Brookshire held its annual Veteran's Day celebration last week. We were honored to have so many past and current service members attend this special event. Guests were particularly touched by the personal story shared by Ms. Rios, a former Army Medic and current Brookshire fifth-grade teacher, about a promise she made to a fallen brother to live her life to the fullest. The ceremony was taped and shared with the entire school. It is experiences like these that we hope will instill a sense of patriotism in each student at Brookshire.



Happy December! This is a time to count our blessings and our children are at the top of my list! In November, we had such a successful and wellattended Report Card Conference Night. Thank you to all of the parents who were able to attend.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who were able to present to our students at Teach-In! What a great opportunity for our students to get to hear from members of our community and to learn about so many interesting professions. Thank you Volunteers!

I want to encourage you to become involved in our School Advisory Council (SAC). Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 9th beginning at 5:30 p.m. Our SAC committee helps develop and implement our School Improvement Plan. We also develop and approve the Parent Involvement Plan. Please try to make these informative monthly meetings as we value your ideas and input!

Last month, we mixed it up and held our PTA meeting off campus. Thank you to all who were able to attend. Our next PTA meeting will on Tuesday, December 15th following our Holiday Choir and Guitar Performance.

We also held our monthly Family Curriculum Night off campus at Evans High School. The focus was resources for families and the exhibitors included representatives from the Orange County Public Library, Boys Town of Central Florida, The Wellness Cottage, Lake Silver staff with reading, ELL and guidance resources, and the United Way. Thank you, Ms. Moran, Lake Silver School counselor, for arranging this special event for our families.

Good times were had at our Read-A-Thon Celebration held at The Abbey on November 13th. Many thanks to our outstanding Lake Silver Foundation for running this amazing fundraiser! Our teachers and students are so lucky to have such a wonderful Foundation who works so tirelessly to raise money that goes directly into our classrooms!

Happy Holidays! Here is to a Happy and Healthy 2016! Go Tigers!

Lakemont Elementary PRINCIPAL DR. BRENDA CUNNINGHAM

I can't believe that we are now onefourth of the way through our school year! Lakemont Leopards have been keeping busy with all sorts of assignments and activities to finish up our first nine weeks.

We had a wonderful STEM night in mid-November, and many students and parents came out to attend literacy workshops, shop at our book fair, and have a wonderful dinner from one of our Partners in Education, Outback Steakhouse. It was a great evening of family fun!

We would like to congratulate these students who had the highest points in Accelerated Reader for the first nine weeks:

Lillian Smith 5th grade.....(202.1 points)

Pacience Sims 4th grade.....(128.9 points)

Nikolas Polsinelli

3rd grade(230.6 points)

Madison Malaret

2nd grade (58.3 points)

Ellie Huynh

1st grade (9.2 points)

Brayden Auffant

Kindergarten (6.6 points)

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season!

Maitland Middle School ANNES PRINCIPAL DR. STEFANIE C. SHAMES

Maitland Middle School has had a successful start to the school year and it is hard to believe the first marking period is already behind us! All students should now wear their student IDs every day and we have begun enforcing this. Our new visitor system is also in place. Please be prepared to show your driver's license when signing in at the front office. The AD-Ditions sign-in is now linked to the visitor system and the badges will be printed for you at the front desk. All of these measures will enhance the security of our campus.

This year we began Hawk Haven and have used the time to address bullying, respect, Hispanic Heritage month, and most recently, creating personalized plans for students with setting SMART goals. All students recently wrote their own goals for the current quarter. Students in grades six and seven will now start a new program that will not only show students how to use essential digital tools, like word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations, but will also encourage them to earn a digital certificated that will stay with them as they move to high school and beyond. The coursework is embedded in student's language arts and/or math class.

Thank you to all of the families who participated in the PTA fundraiser. The funds will benefit our students throughout the upcoming year. Under a \$10,000 grant from Lockheed Martin, Maitland Middle School will offer hands-on, project-based STEM curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving. PLTW Gateway for middle school provides engineering and biomedical science curricula. Through topics like robotics, flight and space, and DNA and crime scene analysis we will build a strong foundation for further STEM learning in high school and beyond. The program does require PCs and thanks to "I'm Invested!" Maitland Middle will be able to make the transition to offer Project Lead the Way next school year.

Finally, congratulations to Ms. Emily Smith, our Support Person of the Year, and Mr. Robert Privitera, Teacher of the Year!

We are beginning to launch our COMPACT Mentoring program here at Maitland Middle School. If you are interested in helping with this program, please make sure you are an ADDitions approved volunteer. There is an opportunity to select mentor at Maitland Middle School on the application. If you are not, you may go to:

https://www.ocps.net/es/cr/resources/Pages/ADDitions.aspx

The COMPACT Mentor program is a program where positive role models are provided to students who are in need of a helping hand or additional guidance beyond the classroom. In previous years, students have been able to learn valuable social skills, conflict resolution skills, and get academic guidance, among other essential skills that are not necessarily taught in the classroom. Ideally, we would like mentors to volunteer approximately 30 minutes a week with their assigned student.

If you would like to be a mentor, please contact Amy Orseno at amy. orseno@ocps.net or 407-623-1462 ext. 5172316.

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schools



In October Maitland Montessori celebrated Fire Prevention Month by having the Maitland Fire Department visit us. We saw the fire rescue people dressed in their rescue equipment and took a tour of the fire truck.

The Butterfly Man brought caterpillars, chrysalides, butterflies, and plants to tell us the life cycle of the beautiful insects we all like to observe. A few butterflies got loose in the classroom, which caused great excitement! He gave us several plants to add to our own flourishing butterfly garden.

Students got to enjoy writing and sending thank-you notes to the fire rescue workers and to The Butterfly Man, which included the names of the chrysalides that are now the temporary class mascots.

Students have planted spinach, beets, and herbs in the garden for a winter crop that has just started growing. Students from age three years through 8th grade are digging in the dirt to pull out weeds, plant seeds, and water emerging crops.

Our PTA hosted our annual Chili Cook-Off and Halloween Party where parents and children had a fantastic time tasting chili and other goodies while admiring each other's costumes. The chili was all delicious and the judges awarded Chili Master to Jason Froemming for Abes Famous Chili. The People's Choice Award was given to Varsha and Chirag Patel for Vegan Thai Chili, with second place to Jason Froemming and third place to Bonnie Borniea.

Middle school students sold pink ribbons that they made for Pinktober Month. Proceeds went to Breast Cancer Awareness.

Maitland Montessori middle school students took SunRail to the Orlando Rep to see "Orphie and the Book of Heroes."

St. James Cathedral School PRINCIPAL MRS. GERRI GENDALL

St. James Cathedral School believes in expanding the classroom curriculum by including long distance learning opportunities. This year a group of faculty, students, and parents embarked on a "Boston Area Adventure!"

Students had an educational experience that they could not have had in the classroom. After landing in Boston, MA, the group headed to historical Faneuil Hall Marketplace to enjoy Bostonian cuisine. History lessons came alive during the tour of the U.S.S. Constitution Ship and Museum. History museums are fun to visit at any age, but they are especially exciting for young adults in middle school. Students are learning about the Great Depression, The Civil War, and the world wars. Visiting the U.S.S. Constitution Ship and

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Museum with exhibits that contain artifacts from these events, such as cannons, flags, and muskets, was an excellent way to spark interest and bring history to life.

Favorite parts of the trip were touring Fenway Park, the home of the Boston Celtics, and walking the Freedom Trail. Stops along the Freedom Trail really caused everyone to think about what the individuals before us did to insure that Americans live and enjoy freedom. Students enjoyed the visit to the Pilgrim Village at Plimoth Plantation and seeing Plymouth Rock as well as seeing and understanding of how the Pilgrims lived.

The three-day excursion required significant planning and coordination from Mrs. Merry Harrison, our guidance counselor. She said, "Parents and students were immersed in a total experience, walking the grounds of Plimoth Plantation in the blinding rain and whipping winds. We certainly gained a new appreciation of what our forefathers experienced in the early days of our country. What a wonderful way to learn! I hope that we can have many more experiences like this as both children and adults agree that there is nothing quite seeing in person what they learned in school."

For further information about our PreK-8th grade school, please call 407-841-4432 or visit our web site www.stjcs.com.



In October, a tremendous accomplishment was achieved by the Winter Park High School Girls Cross Country Team. They won the 4A State Championship trophy with an impressive performance. Having won the same title last year, the team now has achieved back-to-back State Championships! The team worked hard all year to defend their State Championship and brought home the top prize. Congratulations Wildcats!



We've had a wonderful November at Christian Education @ Woodruff Academy! Our daily chapel talks were written and presented by our students and staff, and these spiritual experiences on campus draw us nearer to God and they build the self-worth of the students and staff. This was capped off by our 1st semester Student Awards Assembly on November 20th, where Pre-K through 12th grades were recognized for each of their unique academic and character successes. The cheers from the whole school boosted each child's confidence in all grades. They are such a supportive, close-knit group of kids! Congratulations, also, to several of our High School students who took the PERT test and are now dual-enrolled in college courses! To those families fleeing the public school Common Core curriculum and wanting to learn more about our family centered school, you are welcome to attend the Academy's Open House on Saturday, December 12 @ 11:00am. You may also register on our website at www.ce-wa.org . We love our dedicated parents and students at Woodruff Academy. Have a GREAT month!

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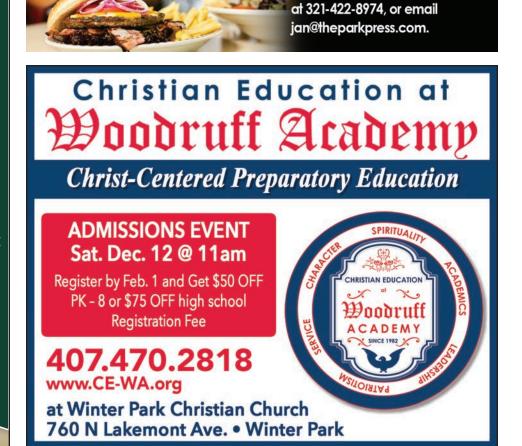
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The Park Press | DECEMBER 2015 CALENDAR 23

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Audubon Park Garden District Events

Ongoing Events

Every Monday night Community Market – 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Stardust Coffee parking lot located at 1842 E. Winter Park Rd. For information call 407-590-8776.

January 15-April 15 Harry P. Leu Gardens presents David Rogers' Big Bugs – The exhibit will feature 10 larger than life insects made from all natural materials such as wood, bark and twigs. Harry P. Leu Gardens is located at 1920 N. Forest Avenue. For more information please contact the Leu Gardens at 407-246-2620 or visit www.leugardens.org.

Baldwin Park, College Park and Orlando Area Events

Ongoing Events

Every Monday Smarty Pants - 10:15 a.m. Storytime for children ages birth-5 years old at the Edgewater Branch Library located at 5049 Edgewater Dr. For more information call 407-835-7323.

Every Tuesday and Thursday Crazy 8's - 1:00 p.m. at the Edgewater Branch Library located at 5049 Edgewater Dr. Crazy 8's is a mathematical development series that introduce hands-on games that get kids fired up about math. For more information please call 407-835-7306.

Every Wednesday Belles and Beaus Dance Club has dances every Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Marks Street Recreation Complex located at 99 E. Marks Street. Join in for an evening of fun and dancing to music by the Soft Touch band. Refreshments are available. Singles and couples are welcome. Cost: \$5.00 per person. For more information please call 407-277-7008.

Every Thursday College Park Farmers' Market – 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. located at 1600 Edgewater Dr. For information call 407-999-5251.

Every Friday Professional Presenters Entertain, Educate and Inspire Kids - 11:00 a.m. at the Edgewater Branch Library located at 5049 Edgewater Dr. Activities include: Rainforest animals, magic shows, clowns, kids concerts and more. For more information please call 407-835-7306.

Every Sunday Downtown Orlando Farmers' Market – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Lake Eola. For more information call 407-246-3625.

Monday - Friday Each Week Seniors' Program in College Park — 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the College Park Community Center located at 2393 Elizabeth St. For information call 407-246-4361.

First Friday of Each Month The Art Stroll of Ivanhoe Village – 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Orange Ave. between Princeton and New Hampshire.

Third Thursday of Each Month Eunice's Healthy Cooking and Baking Workshop – 10:30 a.m. at the Edgewater Branch Libary located at 5049 Edgewater Dr. Food samples will be provided. For more information and to register please call 407-835-7323.

January 7 The Orange County Retired Educators Meeting - 10:00 a.m. at College Park United Methodist Church, 644 W. Princeton St. Anyone who has worked in education is invited to join. For more information please call 407-677-0446.

February 16 Out of Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk - 7:30 a.m. across from 2400 Lakemont Ave. in Baldwin Park. To join in a nationwide effort that supports the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention please visit www. outofthedarkness.org, or call 407-646-2227.

Maitland Events

Ongoing Events

Every Sunday Maitland Farmers' Market at Lake Lily

Every Tuesday Preschool Stories 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Maitland Public Library located at 501 S. Maitland Ave.

Every Thursday Healthy Maitland Walk 6:30 a.m.; Babytime 10:30 to -11:30 a.m. and Adventures w/Books Club 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Maitland Public Library.

December 19 SnowFest at RDV - 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For more information please visit www.mvpsportsclubs.com.

January 23 8th Annual Princess Ball - 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 pm. at the Roth Family JCC. Come one, come all to this magical evening for princessess (ages 3+)! Dance with your princess to pop hots, channel your inner artist, and nosh on some yummy cake. We will be dressed in royal attire and hope you are too! For more information please visit www.orlandojcc.org.

Winter Park Events

Ongoing Events

Every Monday "Sit-to-Be-Fit" Chair Exercise Class – 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the Winter Park Community Center. This free class is designed for all ability levels and sponsored by the City of Winter Park. For more information please call 407-754-6190.

Monday - Friday "Art in Chambers" exhibit – Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This free exhibit is on display at the City Hall Commission Chambers located at 401 Park Avenue South.

Every Tuesday and Thursday "Hands-on Gardening" – 9:30 a.m. – noon at the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens. For more information regarding this free year-round event please call 407-647-6294.

Every Tuesday and Thursday Beginning Pilates Class – 5:15 p.m. at the Winter Park Community Center. For more information please call 407-671-9599.

Every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday Winter Park Benefit Shop – The shop is located at 140 West Lyman Avenue and is open from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, and from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Donate or purchase clothing, bedding, jewelry, kitchenware and more. Proceeds benefit various children's programs and the local branch of Orlando Blind. For more information please call 407-647-8276.

Every Tuesday and Thursday Curator Tours of Louis Comfort Tiffany's Laurelton Hall – At 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. at the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art located at 445 N. Park Ave. Space is limited and free with museum admission. To learn more about this event with Curator Donna Climenhage please call 407-645-5311 or visit www.morsemuseum.org.

Every Wednesday Mills50 MidWeek Group Runs – 6:00 p.m. at Track Shack located at 1104 N. Mills Ave. This event is free to runners of all abilities. For more information please visit www.TrackShack.com.

Every Thursday Walk With A Doc – Enjoy a rejuvenating 30-minute walk with Florida Hospital physicians. This free event is held at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Crosby YMCA. For more information, or to reserve your spot, please call 407-303-1700.

Every Friday - Now through April Friday Nights At The Morse - Free admission 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art located at 445 N. Park Ave. For more information please visit www.morsemuseum.org.

Every Saturday Winter Park Farmers' Market – 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Every Saturday Line Dance Class – 10:00 a.m. at the Winter Park Community Center. Beginners welcome! Enjoy music, make new friends and get exercise at the same time! For more information please call 407-592-7835.

Every Sunday Music at the Casa – This free event featuring professional musicians and performers is hosted at Casa Feliz every Sunday from noon – 3:00 p.m. For more information call 407-628-8200 ext. 3 or visit www.casafeliz.us.

November 20-January 10 Winter In The Park - Holiday ice skating in Central Park's West Meadow. Monday-Thursday, 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Friday 3:00 to 10:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Sunday noon to 8:00 p.m. For more information please visit www.cityofwinterpark.org.

December 3 37th Annual Christmas in the Park - 6:15 to 8:00 p.m. featuring the annual lighting of century-old Tiffany windows and a free outdoor concert by the Bach Festival Society and Brass Ensemble. For more information please visit www.morsemuseum.org.

Park located at 251 S. Park Avenue. The Winter Park Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the City of Winter Park, Park Avenue Merchants Association, Enzian theater, and Central Florida Community Arts to kick off the holidays in Winter Park. Be part of this new tradition as Park Avenue is transformed into a winter wonderland for a holiday street party. Bring the entire family to this free event for an evening of holiday cheer. For more information, please visit www.winterpark.org.

HIGHLIGHTS



SNOWFEST AT RDV - Saturday, Dec. 19, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Join us for ice skating, real snow, snow slides, bounce houses, train rides, and fun for the whole family! Cost is \$16 for children (ages 3-17) and \$10 for adults, includes admission, skate rental and tax. For more info, visit www.mvpsportsclubs.com.

December 4 Popcorn Flicks In The Park – 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. featuring the showing of "Home Alone" in Central Park. For more information please call 407-629-0054.

December 5 Leadership Winter Park Pancake Breakfast – 7:00 a.m. at the Main Stage in Central Park located at 251 S. Park Avenue. Cost is \$6 per adult and \$4 per child. Proceeds benefit the Winter Park Improvement Foundation. For more information please visit www.winterpark.org.

December 5 63rd Annual "Ye Old Hometown" Christmas Parade – 9:00 a.m. along Park Avenue. For more information please visit www.winterpark.org.

December 10 Leadership Winter Park Holiday Luncheon - 11:30 a.m. at the Winter Park Farmer's Market located at 200 W. New England Avenue. Join Leadership Winter Park alumni and members of Class XXVI for a holiday luncheon featuring Mark Brewer, president and CEO of the Central Florida Foundation, as a keynote speaker. For more information, please visit www.winterpark.org.

December 11 Good Morning Winter Park - 7:45 a.m. at the Winter Park Welcome Center located at 151 W. Lyman Avenue. For more information please visit www. winterpark.org.

January 16 2016 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions/
Vocal Competition - Florida District - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Trinity Prep located at 5700 Trinity Prep Lane. Up to 40 young, classically trained singers will compete for the opportunity to sing on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera in New York. This event is free and open to the public, however donations are welcome. For more information please visit www. metauditionsflorida.org, or call 407-922-4688.

January 23 Seasons 52 Park Ave. 5.2k Presented by Florida Hospital - 7:30 a.m. at Central Park located at 251 N. Park Avenue. This event also includes a free kids' run. Proceeds benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida and the Track Shack Foundation. For more information please visit www.trackshack.com or call 407-896-1160.

February 13 Run 4 Love 4 Mile Presented by Florida Hospital - 7:30 a.m. at Showalter Field located at 2525 Cady Way. This event includes a free kids' run, best outfit contest, and SoulMate Challenge. For more information please visit www.trackshack.com or call 407-896-1160.





Mentor Magnetism

Growing up in a neighborhood challenged by crime and poverty, Phillip Gordon found sanctuary in a city youth program where mentors steered him away from trouble.

"Nobody around me went to college. I felt proud that they told me, 'You're a good kid. You have to leave here and go to college.' It stuck with me." On that advice, Gordon went away to college, but homesick, returned a few weeks later. Determined to pursue his dream, he enrolled at Valencia College and registered for the DirectConnect to UCF program. "Going to UCF was the best thing for me." Now, he is a mentor and teacher inspiring children in the same neighborhood where he grew up.

"If you want to see change, you have to work at it and you have to be patient. My ultimate goal is to make an impact on lives, children's lives."

- Phillip Gordon, '13, teacher and mentor

