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A New Exhibition Featuring The Art Of The Highwaymen

In the 1950s and 1960s, a group of self-taught African American artists known as the Highwaymen worked against segregation and oppressive Jim Crow laws to sell their Florida landscape paintings. Driving from town to town and offering their work from the trunks of their cars, the Highwaymen sold to a diverse audience of doctors, shop owners, and housewives.

In the 1990s, articles about their success in Folk Art, People Magazine, and the New York Times brought the Highwaymen new acclaim, and suddenly the public clamored for their paintings. Original works by the Highwaymen became extremely collectible. Surviving artists found themselves staging painting demonstrations and even contributing designs to ornaments for the White House Christmas tree.

The Orange County Regional History Center is showcasing fourteen paintings from its collection created by twelve of the original Highwaymen artists, including Mary Ann Carroll, the only female artist in the collective. In addition, on February 18, 2015 there will be five Highwaymen artists- Curtis Arnett, Mary Ann Carroll, James Gibson, Robert

Continued on page 8



A new exhibition featuring the art of Highwaymen will be shown at the Orange County Regional History Center in downtown Orlando this month.

Author Cheryl Strayed To Discuss Inspiration Behind New Movie "Wild"

Cheryl Strayed, New York Times best-selling author of "Wild," will discuss how a chance encounter with a book inspired her 1,100-mile hike on the Pacific Crest Trail. Strayed is the keynote speaker at the eighth annual Women's Leadership Luncheon, hosted by Heart of Florida United Way, to be held February 26 from

noon to 1:30 p.m. at Hyatt Regencv Orlando.

The movie version of "Wild" hit theatres in December and January, starring Reese Witherspoon as Strayed. The film has already won several honors, including a Hollywood Film Award and Witherspoon's performance is nominated for a Golden Globe and Screen

Continued on page 10



Cheryl Strayed



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Publisher's Message



Rick Cable

As we enter the second month of 2015, I want to take this opportunity to express how grateful I am to work with our elected officials and their staff as it relates to The Park Press each month. Commissioner Robert Stuart, Mayor Ken Bradley,

Mayor Howard Schieferdecker and Commissioner Ted Edwards make valuable contributions in being part of our team. Working together is one thing, however what's most important is that we've become close friends.

Well, it's with mixed emotions for me to know that we have an upcoming election next month on March 10 to elect a new mayor in Winter Park. Yes, since Mayor Bradley has decided not to seek a third term, I'm 100% sure that we will have a new mayor joining our team.

It has been my honor to work, and become friends with, Mayor Bradley during his six years in office. I'm thankful for his dedication and service, and the state of our city as he passes the torch to the next generation.

Like all who enter an office of public service, Mayor Bradley has his critics, but his legacy will forever be tied to these key highlights during his time in office:

- SunRail and a new train station
- A Super Bowl commercial

- The Alfond Inn
- Owning our electric, water and sewer utilities with undergrounding
- An important contribution to the region's Dr. P. Phillips Performing Arts Center
- Martin Luther King Jr., Park
- An urban forestry management plan
- Solar panels and electric car charging stations
- A new and improved Fairbanks Avenue, soon with underground utilities
- Trader Joe's
- Capen House move
- Heritage Park new office building where the former state office building stood
- The Peacock Fountain

Oh, and perhaps the most notable accomplishment is that he has not raised taxes during his six years in office. Mayor Bradley is certainly going to be a tough act to follow.

In closing, I strongly encourage everyone to learn about both the mayoral and commissioner seat candidates, and to vote in the upcoming election on March 10.

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

Rick

Rick Cable Founder/Owner

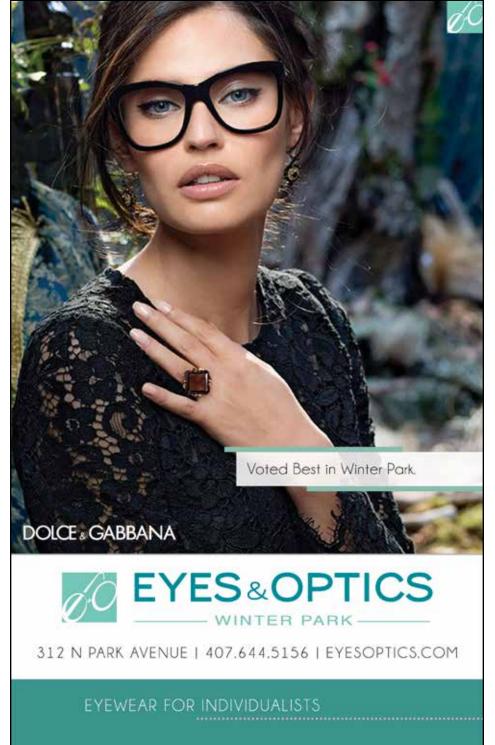
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Think Before You Speak By

By Tricia Cable

I am not a big New Year resolution person. I am a firm believer that the beginning of each month is the adult version of the school yard "do over." Maybe that has something to do with the fact that I have been in sales my entire professional life and at the end of the month, the board is wiped clean and we start all over again. I do, however, have a routine professionally at the end of each work year of goal setting and I include personal goals in that exercise. But setting specific New Year resolutions has never been something that I participate in.

This year, however, I was thinking back to the challenges we faced as a family in 2014 and I decided to implement a new policy, "think before you speak." Sounds simple and easy, and if everyone on the planet would follow the same rule, we would solve a great number of the world's problems. Listen, I love telling stories and I can fabricate with the best of them. The fish in my story gets bigger and bigger with every telling. But, one of our biggest time wasters last year, was a little game I like to call "fact or fiction." If there is one thing that I would like to focus on, this year, it would be proving to my children that not everything that they hear is the truth.

The real life middle school game of true or false was incredibly counterproductive and

sucked countless hours away from more relevant topics in our home. And I am not just referring to "mean girl" gossip. Thanks to social media and to some of the less-than-educated celebrities that my girls follow, I have been forced to prove that they would in fact not have any horrible accidents for not sharing or re-tweeting a post...the new and improved chain letter scam of the millennia.

The up side of the down side is this, we talk it out. We talk about the untruths that we have heard and the harm and hurt that it causes. We talk about why people gossip and what we can do to be better friends by not repeating or sharing what we know not to be factual. We have adopted the motto, "think before you speak."

T is it true?

H is it helpful?

I is it inspiring?

N is it necessary?

K is it kind?

Add that routine to the good old standard "if you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all" and on paper, we are good to go! Putting that philosophy into action takes a bit more time and commitment. But we are making the effort and have taken the first step in the right direction.

Being a parent is so much harder than I had

before you speck:
THINK

Think

I is it true?

H is it helpful?

I is it inspiring?

N is it necessary?

K is it kind?

ever expected. The generation of children that we are raising has an entire slew of issues that we never had to deal with in our teens. Communication is key. Keeping the lines of communication open, no matter how difficult, is a must. And, knowledge is power, so I admit when I am ill-prepared on a topic and do my research. I have said it before and I will say it again, I may have this job mastered before I drop them off at college....or not!



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City Commissioner's Message

Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, City of Orlando District 3



As many of you know, Orlando works hard to not only be the City Beautiful but to be a sustainable one as well. While we have many programs, such as single stream recycling of which Baldwin Park served as our pilot, we also have some good events this month that highlight our commitment.

On February 7th between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., bring your old electronics, clothes, shoes, and household fabrics to Festival Park (2911 E Robinson St) where they will be recycled, reused or repurposed by companies such as A1 Assets and American Textile Recycling Services.

Then on February 21st, join me for the 15th annual Orlando Wetlands Festival. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., come out and enjoy a great family day where you can hike, bird watch, enjoy a hay ride, listen to live music and learn about this working wetlands, as well as the history of its neighbor, Fort Christmas Historical Park. If you have never been to this unique, 1,650 acre city park, it is truly a place to relax and reconnect with nature. Check out cityoforlando.net/wetlands or orlandowetlands.org for more information.

On February 28th, from 6-9 p.m., head over to the Orlando Repertory Theatre in Loch Haven Park for Trash 2 Trends, An Evening of Recycled Fashion. Local designers will show off looks where every part of the ensemble is made from pieces that were headed to the landfill. It is a unique show that our fashion-forward residents won't want to miss.

Also in Loch Haven Park from February 20-22nd is the Orlando Museum of Art's and the Council of 101's formation about this impressive weekend.

If you are looking for a unique way to spend February 14th (and for my fellow husbands out there, a way to impress your spouse), check out Leu Garden's Valentine's Day Stroll, a special eve-

ning featuring three musical performances. Picnics, blankets or chairs are encouraged. Visit leugardens. org for more information.

As we circle back to sustainability, I wanted to remind everyone, as we enter leaf season here in Orlando, to "Bag it, Don't Blow It." As a typical guy, I like a leaf blower as much as the next man, but blowing leaves from your property onto our streets pushes them into our storm drains because our street sweepers can't pick up all of the debris. Then the leaves and fertilizer pollute our lakes with nitrogen and phosphorus. So please, blow your

www.paof.com

leaves. if you must, into a pile and bag them up and allow our Solid Waste Division to pick up your yard waste on your normal collection day. Please also pass this information along to your landscaping company if you utilize one for your home or office.

Commissioner Stuart along with Jody Buyas, the Manager of Keep Orlando Beautiful at the Orlando Wetlands Festival.

Finally, for those of you who utilize Bumby Avenue north of Colonial Drive, you are aware that the

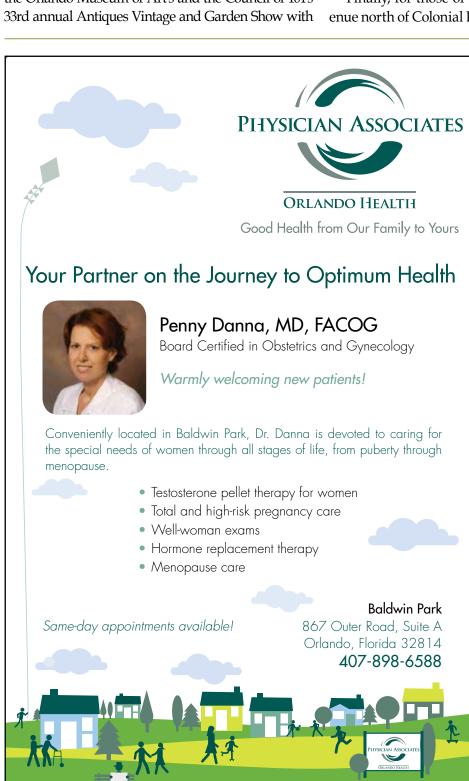
special guest, Jon Carloftis. Visit omart.org for more inthis is due to some structural problems with stormwater and potable water pipes underneath the road. I am excited to report that the North Bumby Drainage Improvement Project will begin this year and will not only bring a new driving surface, and an

improved drainage and collection system, it will also provide continuous sidewalks on both sides of the road plus more aesthetically-pleasing bus stops. Unfortunately, since the current configuration of the road can't be widened, bike lanes cannot be added at this time. Once construction begins, the project will take approximately 20 months and be done in two phases. To keep updated about the project's progress, visit the Capital Projects page on the city's website (cityoforlando.net).

Thank you for your continued support of our

shared community and I look forward to seeing you around town this month!

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 | FEBRUARY 2015

Winter Park Mayor's Message

Mayor Ken Bradley



Ken Bradley

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

On January 16, I presented my annual and final State of the City Address at The Alfond Inn, with the theme being "The Best is Yet to Come." I'd like to share with you the highlights of my speech that featured our city's great ac-

complishments, the lessons I have learned during my six years as your mayor, and my hopes for the future. A copy of my entire speech can be found at cityofwinterpark.org > Government > City Info > State of the City Addresses.

Winter Park is great because the people of Winter Park are great! The State of our City has never been better. Our finances are rock solid with substantial reserves—infinitely better than when I took office in March 2009. Our city is safe and secure. Development is appropriate and steady. Our parks and infrastructure have received smart, targeted investments. Our future has never been brighter. And yes, the best is yet to come!

WHAT I'VE LEARNED:

I've learned the employees of our city and government are dedicated, supportive and innovative. I've learned our form of government in this United States is still the best form of government in earth's history. The liberties entrusted to us by our forefathers remain solid and essential. And we should never forget how privileged we are to protect and defend our constitution and our form of government.

I've learned citizens and the marketplace often accomplish more and are better at many things than government is. I've also learned government needs to do what it does best.

I've learned our neighboring cities, our county, our state and federal governments are our friends. When Winter Park works closely with other elected officials and governments, great things happen.

I've learned before you throw out the first pitch for a little league game, practice!

BEST IS YET TO COME









Winter Park Chamber of Commerce annual State of the City Luncheon 2015 January 16 The Alfond Inn

I've learned great government can be very successful without raising taxes. I've learned great government can be successful by investing in what our citizens want and need. I've learned government is great when it lives within its means.

Winter Park has done this the past six years, during one of the worst economic periods in this nation's history. And we MUST continue to do this in the days and years ahead.

MY HOPES:

As I conclude my second term as mayor, I have many hopes for our city—and for you.

I hope our city's visioning process in 2015 will culminate in a vision for Winter Park for the next 50 years. I hope the citizens of Winter Park can in 10 years live 10 years longer and better on average than the nation.

I hope our city can continue to rationally balance our tax base with appropriate and new businesses. I hope the city's utilities can continue to provide outstanding service, reliability and lower the costs to our citizen customers.

I hope our city can become the region and ultimately the nation's example of civic engagement and civility. I hope our city can build or rebuild a new library, invest in institutions, new museums and truly be the region's center of arts and culture.

I hope our city can adopt rationale and substantive environmental policies and that our city can pass a new Historic ordinance and continue to improve Mead Gardens.

I hope SunRail continues to fulfill its promise, FDOT will paint the rail road bridge over 17-92, and fix a few of the railroad crossings. And quiet zones will become a reality.

I hope we can improve downtown parking and develop smart forms of traffic control. I hope the driverless car will be a reality allowing citizens to live their entire lives in their homes. I hope that Rauvadage will fulfill its original vision.

I hope we always remember Winter Park is an "oasis," not an island. I hope Winter Park continues to be recognized as one of the best places to live, work and play in Florida.

I hope we realize the people of Winter Park—those who live here, those who work here, those who play here and those who want to live, work and play here—are our most important differentiator. Winter Park's best days are truly yet to come, because the people of Winter Park's best days are yet to come!

I closed my speech with this blessing as it has been a true blessing to serve as your mayor:

May God continue to bless you abundantly with health and wealth. May God continue to watch over and protect those who keep us safe--our first responders, our fire, police and staff. And may God continue to bless this place we call home—Winter Park, Florida.

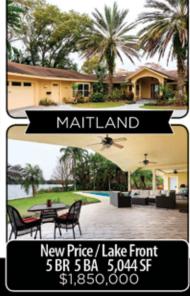
Sincerely,

Keneth W, Brulley Kenneth Bradley, Mayor

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Maitland Mayor's Message

Mayor Howard A. Schieferdecker



Howard A. Schieferdecker

Annual Testing Of Residential Backflow **Prevention Devices**

Effective January 1, 2015, employees of the City of Maitland Public Works Cross Connection Control Section will begin testing residential backflow preventers installed

at properties with an irrigation system, a well, or a swimming pool - sources of potential cross connections. Backflow preventers protect the public water supply from contaminants and pollutants that could backflow back into the City's water supply through cross connections.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection requires community water systems to implement a routine cross connection control program to detect and control cross connections and prevent backflow of contaminants into the water supply. In response to FDEP's rule, the City Council established the City's cross connection control program by adoption of City Ordinance 1283 in June 2013.

A fee of \$35.00 per device tested will be added to your utility bill. Additional costs

could be required if device fails test. For more information about the City of Maitland's Cross Connection Control program, please call 407-539-6246.



New Water, Wastewater, and Irrigation Rates Effective January 1, 2015

The City's water and wastewater utility system is self-supporting. Revenues collected from customers support the costs of operating, maintaining, repairing, and financing the utility. In 2014, City Council authorized a study to review the utility's financial requirements and redesign rates to recover costs. Similarly, staff has identified roughly \$14.8 million in capital improvement projects to be completed through fiscal year 2019. Capital improvements include necessary repairs and upgrades to utility infrastructure that is, for the most part, older than 30 years.

To fully fund much-needed infrastruc-

ture updates and the costs of providing utility service, authors of the study recommended that City Council increase water and wastewater rates by 14.9 percent. After holding three public meetings in September and October, City Council adopted the recommended rates on Oct. 13. The rate increase will fund the capital improvement projects, costs

associated with compliance with rules of national and state regulators, and the seamless service of the water and wastewater utility.

This adjustment is necessary so the City can continue to provide high-caliber water and wastewater service

residents. For the average residential customer, this will mean approximately \$6.34 more on your monthly utility bill. For more information or to review a copy of the utility rate study, please visit

the City's website at www.itsmymaitland.com.

I-4 Reconstruction Begins Soon

Interstate 4 is about to undergo the ultimate facelift. Crews plan to

> break ground next month on a 21-mile stretch of I-4 between the Kirkman Road area and State Road 434. Visit I4Ultimate. com to see planned improvements, sign up for personalized alerts, and ask questions.

Maitland Farmers' Market

Join us as the Maitland Farmers' Market on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Lake Lily Park. Commit to your New Year's resolution to be healthy by shopping for fruits and vegetables and walking around Lake Lily Park.



County Commissioner's Message

Commissioner Ted B. Edwards, Orange County, District 5



Orange County Government performs a wide variety functions on a daily basis. Many of these functionsroad construction and maintenance, zoning, code en-

forcement, solid waste disposal, or animal services- are well known to the public. However, Orange County Government has many lesser known programs and services available for both individuals and communities. This article will be the first of two highlighting some of these programs that may be of assistance to your community.

One such program is the Sustainable Communities Grant. This grant is designed for communities attempting to reduce pollution output. Grants are available for projects valued between \$500 and \$5,000. Grant funding can be used for projects such as lighting, watering, community gardens, electricity generation, and pollution reduction. Gated communities and condominium communities may use grant funds for entranceway improvements abutting major streets. Neighborhoods are encouraged to be creative in coming up with projects tailored to their specific community and resident participation is required to complete the project. Neighborhoods are also encouraged to host events educating community members about energy efficiency, pollution reduction, and green and sustainable practices.

Another program you may be interested in is the Crime Prevention Grant. These grants are available to neighborhood organizations, homeowners' associations, neighborhood councils, or non-profit organizations that partner with neighborhoods. The intent of the Crime Prevention Grant program is to provide funding for neighborhood-driven projects that reduce crime and increase safety. Grants are available for projects ranging in cost from \$500 to \$10,000. All grant recipients must provide a match of 10% of total project costs. The matching funds requirement will be waived if the application in-



cludes a letter of support from the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Examples of projects eligible for Crime Prevention Grant funding include senior safety, youth safety, volunteer patrol programs, National Night Out celebrations, security materials, and resident training.

A third program is the Orange County Neighborhood Entranceway Grant Program. This grant provides funding to neighborhood organizations and homeowner associations for physical and aesthetic improvements to their community. Grant funding is available for projects costing between \$500 and \$5,000. Projects receiving grant funding require a community contribution, which is equal to a percentage of the grant request. Total project costs must not exceed \$5,250. Grant funding may be used for projects such as entranceway signs and improvements, fence and wall pressure washing and painting, entrance features not classified as a perimeter wall, ground lighting repair, repairs to existing irrigation systems, and cosmetic repairs such as minor caulking and stucco work.

Orange County is dedicated to improving the quality of life for its residents. If you or your neighborhood has questions about eligibility for these grants or would like to apply, contact Orange County Neighborhood Services at 407-836-5606. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about any these county programs or any other issue facing Orange County, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff, Edgar Robinson and Lynette Rummel. We can be reached at 407-836-7350 or by email and district5@ocfl.net.





Protection And Service

The Winter Park Police Department

Several burglaries have been reported throughout Winter Park over the past few months. These reported burglaries have occurred to both vehicles and residences. The Winter Park Police Department would like you to consider the following tips to keep yourself and your property safe.

Should you be interested to see what crimes have occurred in your area, please visit our website www. wppd.org and click on the RAIDSON-LINE crime mapping icon. This site is updated every 24 hours and has the most up-to-date and accurate information available.

- Please be observant while in your neighborhoods for any vehicles and/ or people who "just don't fit in" or are suspicious.
- The subjects who have been seen are of various ages, weights, heights, genders and ethnicities, so just consider the situation not the person.
- Various types and color of vehicles have also been noted, so again, only consider the situation.

Below, you will find some helpful tips on what to make note of and what information is helpful for the police when calling in suspicious

people or incidents:

- DO NOT confront or make contact with any suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood. That is our job!
- You can utilize either 407-644-1313 or 911 when you call.
- You do not have to meet with any officer and you can call the information in anonymously by simply stating that you prefer not to leave your name.
- The dispatchers have specific questions that they will ask and are relaying that information in real time to the officers responding. As they are gathering the information you are giving, the call is simultaneously being dispatched. Please be patient and understand they are not wasting time, they are gathering the information the officers will request while en-route.

Take note of:

- vehicle description (i.e. color, model, two or four door, identifying dents or stickers)
 - direction of travel
- time lapse (just occurred or presently occurring is a 911 call)
- locations of any stops and whether people have gotten in and out of the
 - description of any persons to in-

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TO COME AND SEE.

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- any weapons or objects seen in the hands of the suspect
- observations regarding whether the person was seen coming in or going out of a residence (and where: door, window, patio, etc.) or vehicle
 - any injuries noted on suspect
- anything else that seems "suspicious" to you - the communications operator will ask you why it is suspicious to you (never seen the vehicle or person before, vehicle circled the block several times, etc.)

When to call:

- If you observe a vehicle that is being driven slowly through your area, whether it is occupied by just one person or more (male or female)
- If you observe a vehicle sitting with a person in the driver's seat with no apparent reason to be there or they are seen slouching down or looking around a lot
- If you observe a person going door-to-door, ringing doorbells and then leaving
- If you observe a person who does not belong looking over fences or entering backyards, sheds and/or carports

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- If you observe a person carrying items from a residence and you know the neighbor and they are not moving (This is a 911 call!)
- The subjects are watching for an opportunity that seems "right" for them (i.e. you leave, they knock and you don't answer, you are diligently working in your garden or doing yard work).
- If you hear any suspicious noises such as glass breaking (even if it's just once) or any house/vehicle alarms.

If you return home and realize you have been burglarized please call 911 immediately and DO NOT ENTER THE HOME and put your safety at

On behalf of the Winter Park Police Department, we want to thank you for your diligence and commitment to keeping Winter Park and your specific neighborhood as safe as possible. "See something say something."

If you are interested in receiving a FREE home security survey or thinking of reactivating your neighborhood watch group, please call Officer Javier Rodriguez at 407-599-3301.



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Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department Receives Second Accreditation

The Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department (WPFD) has received accredited status with the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS). This award completes the department's second independent accreditation process. Being conferred an "accredited agency" with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) since 2001, and now most recently with the CAAS, makes Winter Park only the second fire department in the United States to achieve these two independent accreditations and hold an Insurance Service Office Class 1 rating. The accreditation was presented to the City Commission Monday, January 26.

According to Fire Chief Jim White, "The agency's

achievement of continued accredited agency status demonstrates the commitment of the city and agency to provide the highest quality of service to our community."

The CAAS was established to encourage and promote quality patient care in America's medical transportation system. CAAS accreditation signifies that WPFD has met the "gold standard" as determined by the ambulance industry as essential to a modern, emergency medical service provider.

These standards, which often ex-

ceed those established by state or local regulation, are designed to increase operational efficiency and clinical quality, while decreasing risk and liability to the city. The accreditation process includes a comprehensive self-assessment and an independent

dependent process provides verification that quality patient care is provided to the community. All ambulance systems including private, public, fire department and hospital-based systems are eligible for the three-year award of accreditation.

external review of the organization. The in-

For more information regarding the City of Winter Park, please visit the city's official website at cityofwinterpark.org.

Rollins Earns National Recognition For Community Engagement

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has selected Rollins College



to receive the 2015 Community Engagement Classification, a national recognition that highlights the college's longtime commitment to community engagement.

Rollins was originally awarded the designation in 2008 and is one of only 361 institutions so designated worldwide. It is one of only 157 that received re-classification this year. In selecting Rollins, the Carnegie Foundation noted that the college has demonstrated "excellent alignment among campus mission, culture, leadership, resources and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement."

"It is wonderful that Rollins' longstanding efforts in community engagement have been recognized again through this announcement by the Carnegie Foundation," said the vice president for Academic Affairs, Provost Carol Bresnahan. "Rollins' commitment to engagement is vital to our identity as a college."

The classification is voluntary, and colleges and universities are invited to apply. This is the first time the foundation has offered re-certification since first offering the classification in 2006.

"The importance of this elective classification is borne out by the response of so many campuses that have demonstrated their deep engagement with local, regional, national and global communities," said John Saltmarsh, director of the New England Resource Center for Higher Education. "These are campuses that are improving teaching and learning, producing research that makes a difference in communities and revitalizing their civic and academic missions."

This classification is valid until 2025, when the College will need to reapply in order to retain its status.

ADVERTISER SPOTLIGHT

Residents Of The Mayflower Embrace "New Year, New You"



Wellness coordinator Sarah Burke gives Mel Taylor a tutorial on the pneumatics equipment at The Mayflower's new Fitness Center.

With 2015 underway, residents of The Mayflower Retirement Community are fulfilling their New Year's resolutions in the community's recently opened Fitness Center.

The new 1,250-square-foot complex – which is two and a half times larger than the former area – features two treadmills; a recumbent bike; a NuStep rowing machine; and eight Keiser pneumatic weight training machines, which use air resistance for less impact on the joints. It also features retractable glass doors that open to accommodate indoor/outdoor parties and three retractable awnings that extend over the patio to provide a shaded seating area.

Resident Mel Taylor exercises in the Fitness Center four times a week. "I've always enjoyed working out, but the new Fitness Center is larger, better-equipped and simply beautiful," Taylor said. "Plus, with the pneumatic machines, I can set the resistance with a push of a button instead of having to adjust the weights on my own."

The addition of the Fitness Center is part of an ongoing master plan to update and improve

The Mayflower. "We are never satisfied with status quo – we're always looking toward the future," said Jana Ricci, the community's marketing director. "Our new Fitness Center was a critical step in that direction."

"Since opening, we've seen a significant increase in usage – with an average of 25 to 30 residents working out daily while enjoying beautiful, panoramic views," said wellness coordinator Sarah Burke, a certified senior personal trainer and group exercise instructor.

Fitness programs include core and strength training, with focuses on flexibility and balance – as well as water aerobics in the community's heated pool. The Mayflower also recently began offering a Zumba course.

The benefits of exercise go beyond managing weight and maintaining cardiovascular health. According to the Division of Geriatrics at the University of California Los Angeles, staying in shape also improves overall health, reduces the risk of cognitive impairment, builds stronger bones, lowers the risk of falling and improves conflict resolution skills.





Lewis, and Roy McLendon- onsite at the History Center sharing stories and bringing more artwork exclusively for the event.

Art of the Highwaymen is currently open and runs through March 22, 2015. Visit our website at www.thehistorycenter.org for more information and programs in conjunction with the exhibit, or call 407-836-7010.



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The Park Press | FEBRUARY 2015 NEWS 9

First Star Central Florida Academy Offers Bright Future For Teens In Foster Care By Karla Radka

For children who turn 18 in foster care, the statistics are hard to ignore: By the age of 26, only three percent have a college degree. Half are unemployed.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

Community Based Care of Central Florida – the region's leading provider of child welfare services – has collaborated with national nonprofit First Star Inc. to give children in foster care a solid

foundation to defy the odds. Launched in 2014, First Star Central Florida Academy is a prime example of how Community Based Care helps abandoned and neglected children prepare for college and adulthood.

Starting in eighth grade and continuing through high school

graduation, select students in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties attend free monthly workshops to improve their academic proficiency, personal and social development, and self-sufficiency skills. Each summer, they live on campus for four weeks at the University of Central Florida, where they receive math and literacy tutoring, attend field trips to other colleges and cultural centers, and enjoy career-oriented workshops taught by UCF faculty.

Child welfare means more than just keeping kids safe, and First Star aligns with Community Based Care's mission to "protect and inspire" vulnerable children of all ages. With newfound empowerment, knowledge and self-esteem, these students are on the road to good jobs, personal well-being, economic independence and responsible citizenship.

Thanks to UCF's partnership, a dedicated team of volunteers, and a \$25,000 donation from our first corporate investor, the SunTrust Foundation, First Star and Community Based Care are aiming

to rewrite the statistics. As we enter 2015, we're optimistic that additional sponsors will step up and join us, filling young lives with purpose and potential.

Through community support, the Academy model is flourishing at schools like UCLA, the University of Connecti-

cut, the University of Rhode Island and George Washington University. New chapters were also started last year at Pepperdine, Loyola Chicago and Rowan.

It's easy to see why so much national excitement surrounds this innovative solution to restore hope and provide a bright new future for children in foster care. On behalf of Community Based Care and child advocates across the greater Orlando area, we're glad to be part of the momentum here in Central Florida.

To learn more about the national organization, visit www.FirstStar.org. For more information on

the local program, search for "First Star Central Florida Academy" at Community Based Care's website, www.ProtectAndInspire.org.

Karla Radka (below), is vice president of community impact and leadership development for Community Based Care of Central Florida. She helps shape a brighter future for children in foster care by overseeing fund development, community relations, communications, volunteer recruitment and enrichment programs.





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From page 1

Actors Guild award.

"Heart of Florida United Way and the Women's Leadership Council look forward to this luncheon every year because of the caliber of speakers and the impact on our community," said Karen Dee, chair of the Women's Leadership Council. "We are thrilled to have Cheryl Strayed as our guest this year to discuss how her life influenced her recent book."

All proceeds from the luncheon will go toward educational opportunities focused on increasing literacy in local schools. Supporters include gold sponsor Tupperware Brands Corporation and silver sponsors Fifth Third Bank, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Massey Services, Inc., Orlando Health, Publix Super Markets, Sorensen Moving & Storing, University of Central Florida Community Relations and Wells Fargo Financial.

For more information about the Women's Leadership Luncheon, visit www.HFUW.org. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$1,000 for a corporate table of 10. To RSVP or for more information, email WomensLeadership@HFUW.org.



Orlando Shakespeare Theater Presents "Henry V"

Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Partnership with UCF presents Henry V from February 18 -March 22, 2015 in the Goldman Theater. Under the direction of Artistic Director Jim Helsinger, Shakespeare's history play tells the story of King Henry

V of England during the Hundred Years' War. Also part of the Theater's Classic Repertory Series, To Kill a Mockingbird (January 21 - March 8) and The Merry Wives of Windsor (February 4 - March 7) will play concurrently. Tickets to all three productions are available by calling (407) 447-1700 ext. 1, visiting www. orlandoshakes.org, or in person at the John and Rita Lowndes Shakespeare Center (812 East Rollins Street).

Young and brash King Henry V of England sets out to repair his broken nation after a bloody civil war, and discovers the challenges of Headshot courtesy of John P. Keller. leadership are greater than

he ever imagined. From Henry's rousing battle speeches to courting the Princess of France, Shakespeare's Henry V explores what makes a man a king... and a king a man.

"In this production, eight modern 'actors' present a period style Henry V, performing Shakespeare's gripping battle scenes on a circular wooden platform," said Helsinger. "Aided by dramatic lighting and actor-created sound effects, audiences will lend their imaginations to put together the final pieces of the show."

The production features Orlando Shakes favorite John P. Keller (title roles in Nicholas Nickleby and Dracula: The Journal of Jonathan Harker) as

Henry. Geoffrey Kent (Petruchio in 2013's The Taming of the Shrew) takes on the roles of Exeter/Nym, and Richard B. Watson (C.P. Ellis in this fall's acclaimed production of The Best of Enemies) returns as Constable/Fluellen. Long-time Orlando Shakes actor, Brad DePlanche (Grumio in The Taming of the Shrew), appears as Ely/Bardolph.

Additional casting includes local actors Kate Ingram (as Quickly/Gower), Stephen Paul Johnson (as Canterbury/Pistol), and Sarah Caroline Billings (as Katherine). Final cast member to be announced at a later date.

The Orlando Shakes ar-

tistic team includes Set Designer Bob Philips, Lighting Designer Eric T. Haugen, Costume Designer Lisa Zinni, and Sound Designer Britt Sandusky.

Henry V is sponsored by OUC with additional support from Foley & Lardner LLP and Jack Lord. This project is also funded in part by Orange County Government through the Arts & Cultural Affairs Program.





Foster-Parenting Course Now Offered In Spanish

For the first time in Central Florida, prospective foster parents seeking licensure from Community Based Care of Central Florida - the region's leading nonprofit organization overseeing foster care, adoption and other child welfare services - can now take the 11-week orientation and training course in Spanish.

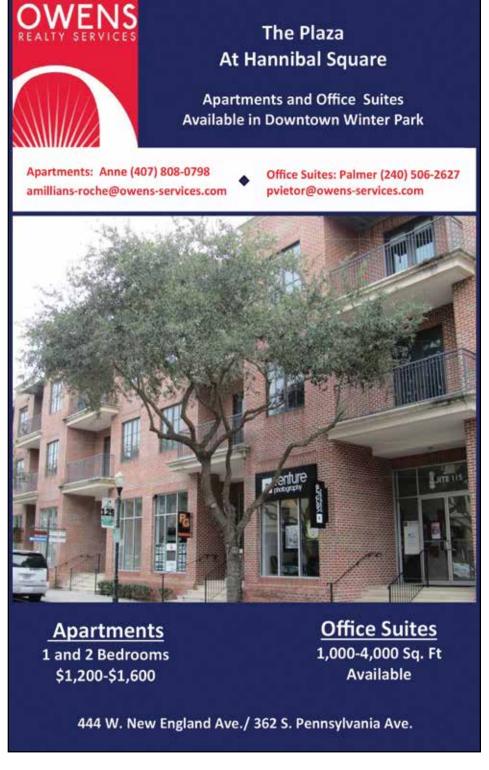
"There is always a critical need for more Spanish-speaking foster parents," said Beth Batten, director of licensing at Community Based Care of Central Florida. "When children who speak little to no English enter the foster care system, it provides a unique set of challenges. We hope the Spanishlanguage PRIDE course will encourage more bilingual individuals and families to step up and help vulnerable children."

The next PRIDE (Parent Resource for Information, Development and Education) course begins February 16 and occurs each Monday from 6 to 9 p.m.

Although the course will be taught in Spanish, all homework will be assigned in English, and at least one person in each parenting family unit needs to read, write and speak English fluently.

Participants can register any time between now and Feb.16 by calling 1-866-90-CHILD to be prescreened and enroll in the PRIDE training course.





11

A Valentine Concert In Central Park

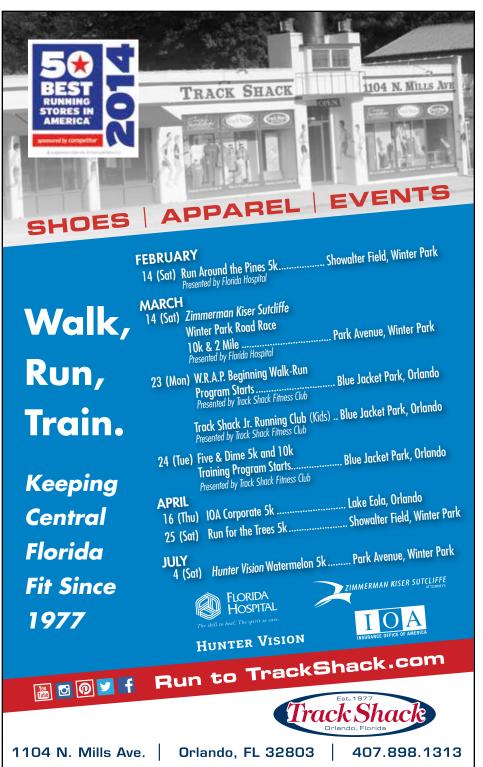


On Sunday, February 8, the Park Avenue Merchants Association will host "The Sweetest Sounds: A Valentine Concert in Central Park." From 4 - 6:30 p.m. attendees will be able to enjoy an afternoon of music and romance. In honor of the Bach Festival Society's 80th annual Bach Festival, members of the Bach Festival Choir will join Michael Andrew and Swingerhead for a first-of-its-kind performance.

"For many couples, Park Avenue holds a special place in their hearts as the location of their first date, a memorable meal, or even, where they tied the knot," explained Patrick Chapin, President/CEO of the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce. "This event is a Valentine's gift to the community for its continued support of our merchants throughout the year."

Chapin encourages attendees to bring a picnic basket, spread a blanket and enjoy these sweet sounds with your sweetheart at this free event. For additional information please call 407-644-8281.

To advertise your business, and cost-effectively reach over 60,000 readers in the next issue of The Park Press, please contact Jan at 321-422-8974, or email jan@theparkpress.com.



2015 Winners Of The Metropolitan **Opera National Council Auditions/ Vocal Competition In Florida**

Winners Award in the amount of \$1200:

Anthony Ciaramitaro, Tenor Sarah Payne, Soprano Christine Suits, Soprano

These singers will proceed to the Regional Auditions in Atlanta, GA on February 15, 2015.

Encouragement Awards in the amount of \$300:

Ana Collado, Soprano Richard Coleman, Baritone Allison Lonstein, Soprano

For more information please visit www.metauditionsflorida.org.



Pictured above (Winners Award recipients), Anthony Ciaramitaro, Tenor; Sarah Payne, Soprano; Christine Suits, Soprano. Pictured below (Encouragement Awards recipients), Ana Collado, Soprano; Richard Coleman, Baritone; Allison Lonstein, Soprano.



OCPS Announces New Downtown PS8 School

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) announced a first-of-its-kind school to be built in the Parramore neighborhood of downtown Orlando. OCPS and community partners will collaborate on the Downtown PS8 School that addresses the needs of preschool to middle school students at one campus.

The yet unnamed school, to be built in the southwest quadrant of the Parramore Avenue and Amelia Street intersection, combines the enriching talents and treasures of OCPS, the Rosen Foundation, University of Central Florida, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida, Valencia College, and the City of Orlando.

"This unique partnership will transform the lives of hundreds of children attending the new Preschool K8 each year," said Orange County Public Schools Chairman Bill Sublette. "The involvement of these community and education institutions demonstrates their commitment to the children and families of the Parramore neighborhood. We

Continued on page 12



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UCF Business Hall Of Fame Alumni Weekend By Erin Oglethorpe

The University of Central Florida (UCF) College Partnership Awards of Business Administration will host its 16th Annual Business Hall of Fame Banquet on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015 as part of the 2015 UCF College of Business Alumni Weekend.

An expected 500 attendees comprised of College of Business Administration alumni, corporate partners, and friends of the nation's second-largest university will gather from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. to celebrate in style with a V.I.P. Cocktail Party and Red Carpet Reception followed by the Business Hall of Fame Banquet and awards ceremony. This "Hollywood" themed soiree, complete with the famous hills, paparazzi and Walk of Fame, will honor our most distinguished alumni and partners.

UCF Business Hall of Fame Inductees

UCF Business alumni who have demonstrated exceptional professional successes in their fields. This highest honor given by the college to business graduates is awarded to those who have been in the industry for at least 20 years and have brought notoriety to the university through their professional achievements.

- Therese Gearhart, '85 President Southern Africa, The Coca-Cola Company
- Mitch Less, '86 Partner, Grant Thornton LLP
- John Schmid, '92 President, Schmid Construction

Organizations that have initiated a successful partnerships with, or on behalf of, the UCF College of Business Administration, resulting in the advancement of the college's academic offerings or public outreach. These organizations embody the spirit of collaboration and are recognized for their initiative, leadership and involvement in the betterment of business education.

- TJNG Partners, Jennifer Kennedy & Ashleigh Pfluger

Entrepreneurial Alumni Awards

UCF Business alumni from any discipline who exemplify commitment, vision, calculated risktaking, and growth potential. In their professional careers, these alumni demonstrate perseverance in the face of adversity and overcome obstacles.

- Dean Caravelis, '02, '03 Founder/CMO, Blezoo Promotional Products
- Vito Scutero, '92 CEO, TekPartners & Med **Partners**

Notable Knight Awards

UCF Business alumni who have displayed promise and excellence early in their respective career paths.

• Jason Feig, '02 – Corporate Controller, Elliott Management Corporation

- Cristina Calvet-Harrold, '01, '03 Principal, CCH marketing + public relations
- Alex Gramatikas, '12 Founder, ALTR
- Brian Iversen, '04 CEO, AG Global LLC/ AG Global Canada, L.P.

Individual event tickets are \$60/person or guests may purchase a table of 10 for \$850 which includes 10 passes to the V.I.P. Cocktail Party. Discounted hotel rooms of \$99/night are available for our guests at Rosen Shingle Creek, valid Thursday, Feb. 26 through Saturday, Feb. 28. For reservations, please call 866.996.6338 and mention you are with the UCF Business Alumni Weekend.

Join us on the links the following morning on Friday, Feb. 27, for the 17th Annual Business Alumni Endowed Scholarship Golf Tournament hosted by the UCF College of Business Administration Alumni Chapter. Participants will enjoy a friendly round of golf followed by an awards luncheon. Individual player registration is \$150 or foursomes are available for \$550 and include a hole sponsorship. Breakfast and lunch included. All proceeds support business student scholarships and business alumni initiatives.

For more information regarding the UCF College of Business Alumni Weekend, visit https:// www.ucfknightsnetwork.com/businesshalloffame or email business@ucfalumni.com.

For more information regarding the University of Central Florida please visit www.today.ucf.edu.

From page 11



expect real change in children's lives as

school program for two to three-yearold children funded by hotelier Harris

Rosen's Rosen Foundation. The founda-

tion will also pay to send any Jones High

School graduate living in the Parramore

neighborhood to a two-year college,

four-year college, or technical or voca-

tional college in Florida. This mirrors the

successful program Rosen started in the

Tangelo Park neighborhood more than

20 years ago where 280 students have re-

ceived scholarships to college and tech-

a result of our program in Tangelo Park," said hotelier Harris Rosen. "We're excited

about duplicating it in Parramore and get-

ting great results. This is something that

should be happening across our country

children and families of Parramore,"

said the Orange County School Board

Vice Chair and District 5 School Board

member, Kathleen "Kat" Gordon,

whose district encompasses the Parra-

more neighborhood. "Having the school

right in the neighborhood increases the

opportunity for parents to be involved

in their children's education. I'm thrilled

for these families and can't wait for the

Valencia College plan a teacher internship

program for their education students, but

there's more. UCF will provide tuition and

fees for a four-year scholarship to the UCF

Medical School to any Jones High School

graduate who grows up in the Parramore

area and meets criteria, including admis-

sion to the medical school.

The University of Central Florida and

first day of school," said Gordon.

"What an incredible blessing for the

to make education equality a reality."

"We've seen young lives changed as

nical or career training schools.

The school will provide a quality pre-

Photo Caption:

(L. to R): School Board Member Nancy Robbinson, School Board Member Linda Kobert, School Board Chair Bill Sublette, School Board Vice Chair Kathleen

"Kat" Gordon, State Rep. Bruce Antone, Superintendent Barbara Jenkins, Hotelier/Philanthropist Harris Rosen, and School Board Member Joie Cadle)

"This groundbreaking for a national model school signifies a landmark event for Parramore, for Orlando, and for public education in Orange County," with the Parramore community, Orange County Public Schools, and philanthropist Harris Rosen to foster a dynamic

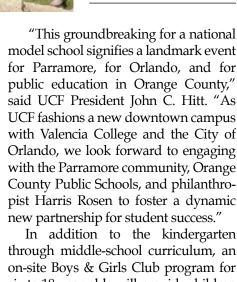
six to 18-year-olds will provide children with after-school youth development

Additionally, OCPS and the City of Orlando are discussing other services that could be provided to community

bara Jenkins, OCPS Superintendent. "From the voters who approved the half-cent sales tax to build this school, to the community philanthropists whose donations will provide valuable experiences on this campus, we are so lucky to live in a community that truly values and supports public education."

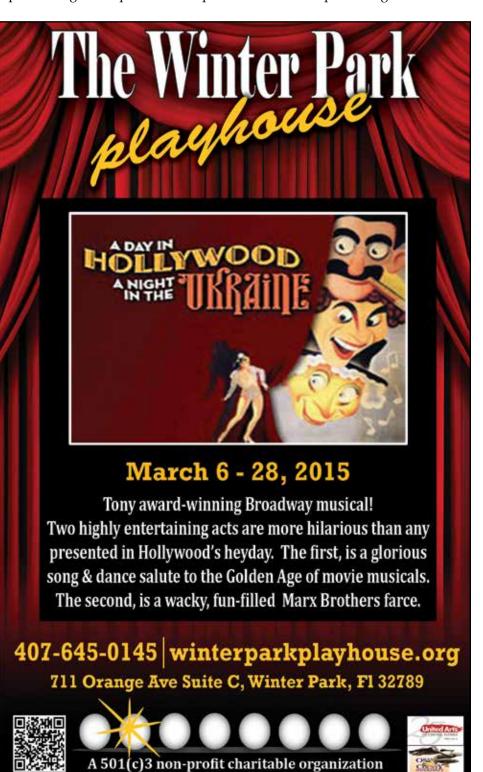
While the school design is in preliminary stages, the vision is to have a separate wing for the preschool and prekindergarten programs, dedicated office and activity space for the Boys & Girls Club, and outdoor space suitable for community events.

The approved budget is \$41.3 million. The architecture team is Baker Barrios and HKS Architects. The school is scheduled to open in August 2017.

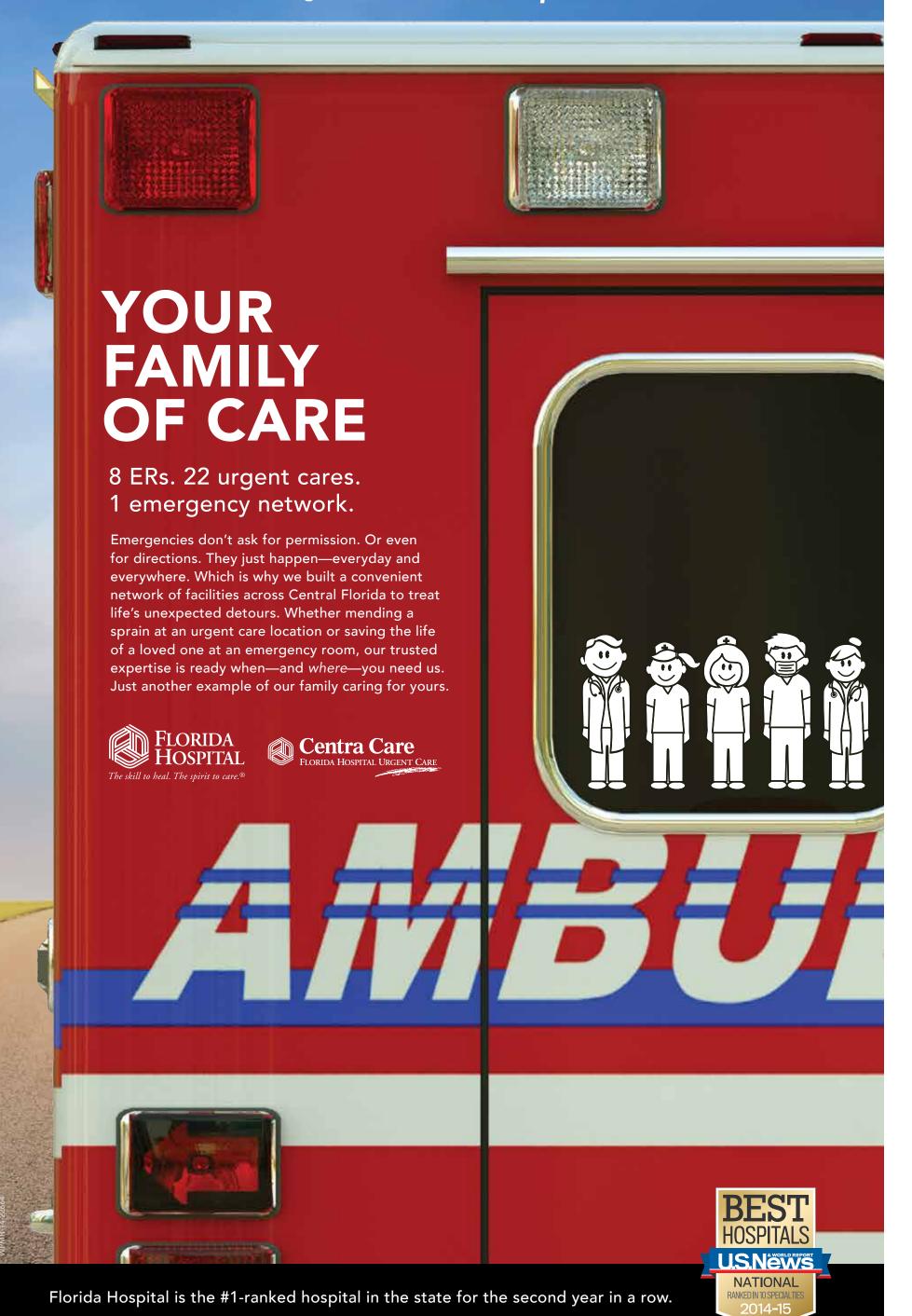


"This partnership with OCPS, the Hughes family, our donors, and the funding community will provide great futures for thousands of youth in the area who may never have had the opportunity to reach their full potential," said Gary Cain, president of Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida. "Evidence clearly demonstrates that when children have a safe place like a Boys & Girls Club, their academics improve, they avoid risky behaviors, and they grow up to become productive and caring citizens. We're excited about this partnership and look forward to this new club positively impacting young lives for years to come."

members on-site after school hours. "We are grateful to the community for making this a reality," said Dr. Bar-



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fiscal fitness by John Gill

John Gill

Oil – Is The Price Too Low?

Okay, of course that is a dumb title, right?

To begin, let's

understand the price decrease of oil and gasoline and then we'll discuss the factors contributing to the price decline of oil. Then we will decide if the price of oil is too low.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, on January 16, 2014 the price of a barrel of West Texas Intermediate, (WTI) crude oil was \$93.54. WTI is the oil quality benchmark in the United States. On January 12, 2015 the price of the same barrel of oil was \$46.04, a drop of 51%. That led to a price decrease for a gallon of regular gasoline during the same period in metropolitan Orlando of 39.4% from \$3.30 per gallon in January 2014 to \$2.00 per gallon in January of 2015.

There are several factors contributing to the decrease in the price of oil. The two major factors are falling worldwide demand and increased oil production in the U.S.

Although the American economy has been showing sustained strength, that has not been true of the economies in Europe and Japan.

In Europe many of the economies are sluggish and several are close to recession. The uncertainty created by high unemployment and falling economic output are reducing oil demand from European economies. Japan is still dealing with deflation and weak economic output. These factors are reducing demand for oil. Another factor to add from the economic perspective is that China's economy is not growing as fast as it has in the past. This situation reduces oil demand.

The other factor affecting the price of oil is American oil production. The increase in American oil production is being driven by shale oil production and fracking technology. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, oil production in the United States has increased 62% from 5.6 million barrels per day in October 2010 to 9.1 million barrels per day in October 2014. The United States is now the leading producer of crude oil, surpassing Saudi Arabia in oil production in 2014. So, considering the influence on oil prices by the global economic weakness outside of the U.S. and the increasing oil production inside the



U.S., what are the negatives of lower oil prices?

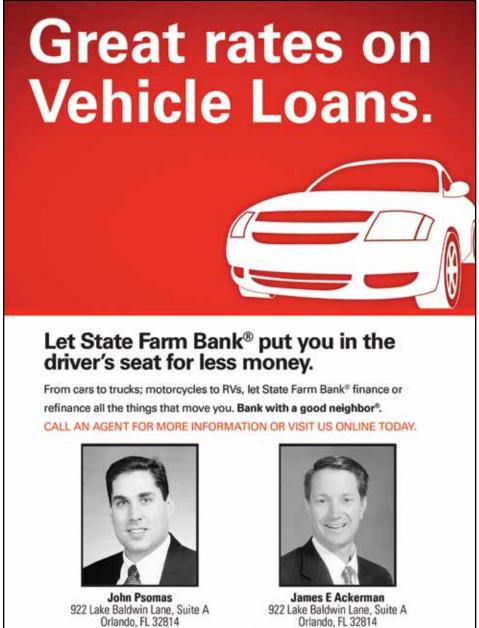
There are several items to be considered. First, with increasing production, falling demand and falling prices, oil exploration activities will decline. Searching for oil is an expensive activity and when oil falls below \$50 to \$70 per barrel, some production fields and exploration of other fields becomes unprofitable. This impacts oil services firms and large integrated oil companies like Exxon Mobil and Royal Dutch Shell. This situation results in lost jobs and lost investment.

Another negative consequence of inexpensive oil is geopolitical. Russia, Venezuela, Libya, and other countries not friendly to the U.S. have economies built on budgets based on \$90 to \$100 per barrel oil.

The low oil prices are hurting those countries. To distract from the pain they face at home, they may engage in mischief globally which is a threat to the U.S. Low oil prices also reduce investment and jobs in the alternate fuel technology industry. This industry is important to meet the long term goal of reducing the country's dependence on fossil fuel and to reduce carbon related emissions.

So, back to the original question, is the price of oil too low? The answer for most is no, especially for most consumers and businesses. The average consumer in the metropolitan Orlando area filling up with 20 gallons of regular per week is on track to save about \$1,300 per year. For most, that is real money that can be used to enhance that household's fiscal fitness.

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. Follow John on Twitter, @john_gill1.



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Business In The Parks

ShuffieldLowman law firm recently announced that veteran local government law and land use attorney **Dana L. Crosby-Collier**



Dana L. Crosby-Collier

has joined the firm. Crosby-Collier, of-counsel, brings more than 19 years of experience to the firm's real estate section. Crosby-Collier, formerly an assistant county attorney with Orange County for the past eight and half years, is an active member of the Florida Bar, serving as the 2014-2015 chair of the City, County and Local Government Law Section. Crosby-Collier is a graduate of the University of Tampa, magna cum laude, with a

B.A. in political science and Florida State University College of Law with a J.D., where she completed comparative law studies in Barbados and Ireland and served as a College of Law representative to the Congress of Graduate Studies.

Winston James Development has a new tenant at its Aloma Business Center on Aloma Avenue in Winter Park. Winston Schwartz, president of Winston James Development said the new tenant is Citrus America, Inc., which has leased 2,814 square feet at the center. Schwartz said the citrus fruit juicer equipment company will locate a distribution center, warehouse and showroom to the Aloma Business Center.

Owens Realty Capital purchased both 3500 & 3626 Quadrangle Blvd, Orlando, FL. The property consists of two buildings totaling 82,175 RSF, which were built between 2001-2002. The buildings are currently 100% leased by three total tenants, with Siemens being the anchor tenant. The property was purchased for \$13,570,000 or \$165/SF. The purchaser, Owens Realty Capital, was represented by Palmer Vietor of Owens Realty

Services; and the seller, Wells Real Estate Funds, was represented by Ron Rogg of CBRE. The purchase represents the second asset owned in the Quadrangle business park for Owens Realty Capital. Owens Realty Capital also purchased the Palladium building at 12124 High Tech Ave a year ago for \$9,150,000. Owens Realty Capital CEO Robert Owens said, "Owens Realty Capital is very excited about the future of the greater Orlando commercial real estate market, and we are continuously looking to expand our investments here."

Orlando Health has named David W. Strong president and chief executive officer of the \$2.1 billion healthcare system. His appointment will become effective in early April. Mr. Strong currently serves



David W. Strong

as president of Rex Healthcare, in Raleigh, NC, an affiliate of UNC Health Care, and chief operating officer for system affiliations at the University of North Carolina Health Care System in Chapel Hill. Mr. Strong received his Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, OK and a Master of Hospital and Health Administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH. He has been actively involved in his local communities and within the healthcare industry throughout his career. He is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. He and his wife, Grace, are the proud parents of four children.

Meritage Homes has opened Lakeside, a gated community of single-family homes located on Dodd Rd. off Howell Branch in Winter Park. Brian Kittle, division vice president for Meritage Homes, said the homebuilder's new Lakeside community offers just 39 home sites – several that are lakefront – for new four, five and six-bedroom homes priced from \$454,990 to \$514,990. New Meritage homes at Lakeside will range from approximately 3,082 square feet of living area to 5,111 square feet with four

distinctive floor plans to choose. One model is now underway at Lakeside and will be ready for viewing early next year, Kittle said.

NAI Realvest recently negotiated the sale of a downtown Orlando area office building and negotiated two new office leases totaling 3,430 Orlando and Winter Park. Tom R. Kelley II, CCIM, a principal at NAI Realvest and associate Chris Adams negotiated a \$275,000 sale price for the 3,126 square foot office building at 2511 W. Church Street in Orlando on behalf of the seller, Apex Mortgage Corp. of Fort Washington, Pa. The local buyer, Guardian Care, Inc. was represented by George A. Vogt, Inc. In other business Kelley and Adams negotiated a new office lease at 2277 Lee Rd. for 1,600 square feet in the Lee Road Office Center representing Landlord Dipasqua Real **Estate Investments, Inc.** The new tenant is Seychelle Media, LLC a digital marketing agency. Kelley also brokered a new office lease at 8600 Commodity Circle for Unit 124 with 1,830 square feet in the South Park Business Center representing Miami-based Landlord **South Park, LLC.** The tenant is **King** of Leaks, LLC a roofing firm out of Winter Park.

Community Health Centers, Inc.'s (CHC) board of directors has announced the hiring of Margaret Brennan, RN, MSSL as president/ CEO. Brennan brings over 25 years



Margaret Brennan

of experience in the public and private healthcare sectors. For the last 12 years, she has worked in a dual role as division manager of Orange County Government's Health Services and as administrator for Orange County's Primary Care Access Network (PCAN).





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real estate in the parks by Scott Hillman



Scott Hillman

2015 Forecast: A Year Of Steady Growth In Existing Home Market

We're coming off a year of positive growth in the residential real estate market in Orange and Seminole counties, and all the important economic indicators point to

another year of gradual improvement. While nobody knows for certain what will happen in the 2015 existing home market, here's a brief look at what I see statistical trends pointing toward in the new year.

Home Values: Although 2014 existing home prices increased 21.4% over 2013, I expect we'll see a more conservative uptick in 2015, probably in the neighborhood of 4-6%. The median price of homes, which is the most accurate measure of tracking housing market values over a period of time, was \$173,290 last year, more than \$18,000 over 2013.

Home Sales: Sales in 2014 inched up just .7% over 2013 and should remain relatively constant in 2015. Based on the way things have tracked over the past 36 months, I think we can expect to see sales up perhaps one to two percent over those in 2014 as more prop-

We're coming off a year of erties come on the market and a larger number of sitive growth in the resipending sales close.

market right now with a 4.01-month supply of homes as of January 9, 2015. This supply level

Mortgage Rates: Despite signs that mortgage rates might reach 5% in 2014, they actually tumbled as we entered the new year with the average rate for a 30-year fixed-rate for borrowers with excellent credit at 3.73%, the lowest it's been in 40 years. Rates can't get much lower and may creep up as the year goes on, but not enough to dampen the recovery we're undergoing.

Inventory: We're in a healthy and balanced



market right now with a 4.01-month supply of homes as of January 9, 2015. This supply level will keep prices relatively stable depending on location. Should inventory dip below a 3-month supply, prices will likely increase.

Pending Sales: On January 9, 2015, there were 4,402 pending sales which is down from a high of 9,400 in June 2012. Distressed properties represented 61 percent of pending sales, down from a high of 83 percent in April 2012. The number of pending sales and short sales should continue to shrink

as market conditions continue to improve.

Distressed Properties: Foreclosures and short sales, which stood at 35% of available properties in May 2012, ranged between 25-28% in 2014. The good news is distressed properties accounted for only 23.9% of homes on the market January 9, thanks to banks streamlining the closing process of backlogged contracts and expediting closings of newer contracts.

There remains work to be done, but the overall health of the local existing home market continues to improve and there is every reason to be optimistic about what's in store in 2015.

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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in the garden by Stephen and Kristin Pategas

More Cool Plants

When an is well-placed in a design it

Stephen & Kristin Pategas really attracts attention. We find these plants at trade shows, wholesale nurseries, plant shows, and sometimes garden centers. We use all of these in our garden and/or have seen them successfully grown in gardens we designed in Central Florida (Zone 9b).

• *Agave geminiflora*/Twin flowered agave - This low-water use agave forms a ball of not-too-sharp spines that grows to about 2 to 3-feet in diameter. Over time it develops a short trunk and has a strong textured foliage look.

• Aloe arborescens/Torch aloe unusual plant Flowers are cylindrical in shape and are a vibrant red/orange color. It shares similar medicinal properties with the well-known Aloe vera and has been used to treat burns or wounds. This succulent can mound to over 6-foot in height but ours are easily kept at 3 to 4 feet.

• Bauhinia galpinii (formerly B. punctata)/Red orchid shrub - This large shrub reaches 8 to 10-feet in height and spread, but can be kept smaller. This shrub can also be trained up onto a trellis or pergola. It provides an intense red bloom from autumn to winter that contrasts well with the green leaves.

• Callaeum (formerly Mascagnia)

macropterum/Yellow butterfly vine - This evergreen vine clothes two arches in our garden and never fails to knock the socks off of visitors of all ages. It provides year-round visual interest and starting in May sprouts sprays of delicate yellow blossoms that form leathery, chartreuse colored seed pods. As the seed pods age they become papery while turning a rusty brown and persist through most of the year. Payoff number one: this vine blooms into October and all three of these colorful phases (yellow/chartreuse/rusty) occur at once for about six months. Payoff number two: the seeds sprout to form seedlings that easily transplant into pots. Payoff number three: the seedpods resemble

butterflies that always bring a smile when placed onto open palms. Oh, those seedlings you potted up? Everyone will want one.

• Nassella (formerly Stipa) tenuissima/Mexican feather grass - You'll find an incredibly fine texture to the blades and blooms of this low growing (12 to 24-inch height) and low-water use ornamental grass. We find volunteers popping up nearby and then pot them up. That saves us trips to the garden center. Use rubber gloves to lightly groom this grass and gently pull out the old foliage.

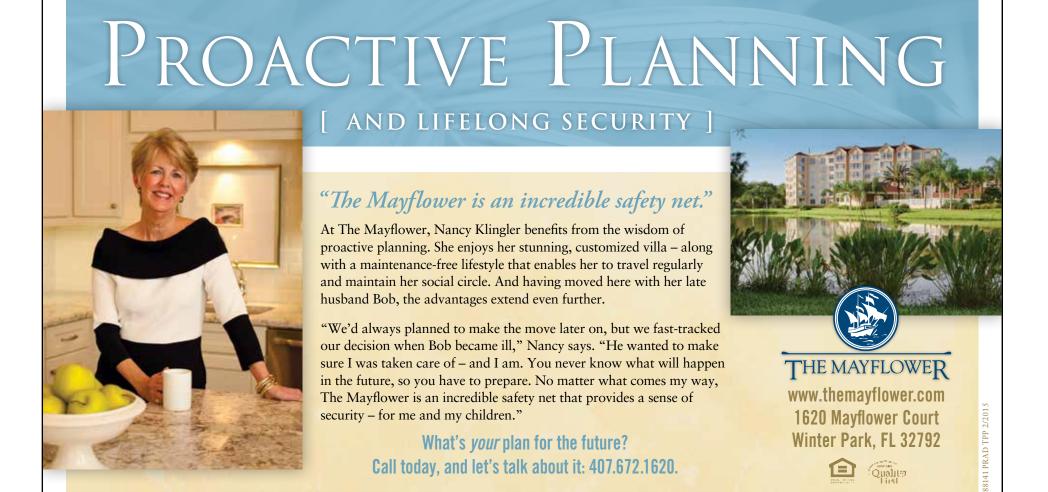
If you think you have an unusual plant, send us a picture. We may add it to our next installment of cool plants.







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



Call today, and let's talk about it: 407.672.1620.

18 **FOOD** The Park Press | FEBRUARY 2015

the educated palate by Scott Richardson

Scott Richardson

Santiago's Bodega Tapas For A Great Price Santiago's

Bodega

The Place:

There is really nothing better than enjoying a

lazy early afternoon lunch dining al fresco, especially when the temperatures are in the low 70's, and the restaurant has a great vibe and plenty of inside and outdoor seating. Santiago's Bodega (802 Virginia Drive) is a gem of a restaurant located closer to 17-92, serving what I would call fusion Spanish Tapas cuisine. Inside is split into two seating areas; one side seemed to be fairly dimly lit which also was the area where the weekend brunch is served.



The Food:

For a restaurant that serves small plates, you can also enjoy their \$39.95 brunch on the weekends in case you are so inclined to fill up on prime rib, crab legs, and a plethora of sides. If you choose the brunch, you also get

to order a few items from the kitchen such as French toast and omelets, which I thought was a nice twist from the typical "all-you-can-eat" buffets. My dining companion took a peek at the set up, but wasn't tempted, although many guests sitting around us participated in the brunch challenge.

After looking at the extensive menu, we decided to order a couple of cold tapas and a couple of hot tapas items. From the cold tapas menu, Tuna Ceviche.



we chose the Yellowfin Tuna Ceviche (\$14). Several large chunks of Yellowfin tuna marinated in citrus juice (classically lime juice is used) were served in a bowl with rough-cut mango, avocado, and red onion, with some micro greens for garnish. The menu

> has "spicy" on it, but my palate did not detect spicy at all. My companion and I both thought this dish needed a little salt to season, but the dish was refreshing, with powerful cilantro flavors. The other cold tapas dish was the Charcuterie Board (\$12). Be sure to ask the server for the week's selection of meats. Our server

did not know, so he had to ask, but came back quickly with "forest deer" pate, wild boar sausage, and spicy Capicola ham. This is served with grain mustard and Dijon, one small sourdough roll, toasted crostini, and a few water crackers and what looked





Above, Saganaki. Below, Lamb Patties. Photos of food are by Scott Richardson.



to be sour Mexican gherkins. The pate was amazing -- savory, herby, and seasoned perfectly. The wild boar sausage was not my favorite as it lacked the trademark gaminess I enjoy. Additionally, I have had some great Capicolas before, but this Capicola was not spicy and was overly fatty. For our hot tapas we chose the Lamb Patties (\$10) and the Saganaki (\$12). The lamb patties were reminiscent of lamb I tried from a Greek family friend locally, this version has sherry in the ground lamb mixture ... deliciously savory, seasoned well with thyme accompanied with diced cucumbers and feta cheese. The Saganaki has three slices of Haloumi cheese, generously sprinkled with oregano, and the server pours brandy over the dish and flambés it in front of you. It was a lovely experience, which the guests around us enjoyed watching, and I am sure they wished they had ordered it!

The Service:

As you might have guessed by now, there were a few hiccups in service during our visit. Although not ruining our experience, these were little issues that need to be improved on. Notably, and in my professional experience, plates need to be brought to the table either prior to the dish coming out, or when the dish comes out. We had to ask for plates a couple of times and eventually, our server brought out a couple extra for each dish. We know our hot tapas was taking too long because our server was surprised that we were still waiting for the dishes to come out. When the lamb arrived, I remarked that we had been waiting a while. The food runner responded: "Really? Well we make it fresh and cooked to order." While this information might be important, from a guest point of view, this is something I did not need to hear. Instead, perhaps apologize for the longer than normal wait times.

Regardless of these small challenges, our experience overall was pleasurable. I would revisit Santiago's Bodega again in the future. I would also recommend calling the restaurant at (407) 412-6979 for a reservation on the weekend.

Cheers!





The Park Press | FEBRUARY 2015

HEALTH

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

February Is For Lovers...

"Laughter is timeless. Imagination has no age.
And dreams are forever."
-Walt Disney

Ayesha G. Bulloc

... And, by lovers, I mean those with a passion for life and a love for others.

Though Hallmark may fill February with candy hearts and chocolate kisses, it doesn't eclipse the generally universal experience of what love truly is. Perhaps, as Corinthians would have us conceptualize love, it is patient and it is kind; it is true and it perseveres. Or, perhaps as the Everly Brothers or Nazareth would have us believe – love hurts.

According to Philippa Perry (psychotherapist and author of Couch Fiction) "Love has many Guises."*

"Unlike us, the ancients did not lump all the various emotions that we label "love" under the one word. They had several variations, including:

Philia which they saw as a deep but usually non-sexual intimacy between close friends and family members or as a deep bond forged by soldiers as they fought alongside each other in battle.

Ludus describes a more playful affection found in fooling around or flirting. Pragma is the mature love that develops over a long period of time between long-term couples and involves actively practising goodwill, commitment, compromise and understanding.

Agape is a more generalised love, it's not about exclusivity but about love for all of humanity.

Philautia is self love, which isn't as selfish as it sounds. As Aristotle discovered and as any psychotherapist will tell you, in order to care for others you need to be able to care about yourself.

Last, and probably least even though it causes the most trouble, eros is about sexual passion and desire. Unless it morphs into philia and/or pragma, eros will burn itself out. Love is all of the above. But is it possibly unrealistic to expect to experience all six types with only one person. This is why family and community are important."

Maybe... love is a far more enduring and more forgiving force in the nature of humanity than we give it credit. Maybe love is about who we are at a truly base level. Maybe it is the ultimate truth, the universal currency and the most redeeming part of who we are.

Perhaps, even, love is everywhere.

Whether in the crossing guard helping a child across the street, the long-time lovers caring for one another in old age, the stranger holding the door open for another, the parent caring for a child or the flush of new love as she looks into his eyes... love is one of the most widely experienced and witnessed phenomena, yet we have a lamentable inability to grasp it long enough or fully enough to try to adequately express it.

At times, we are barely even able to appreciate or identify it while feeling it ourselves.

It's beautiful and simple, yet confounded and overwhelming. It's elusive and yet ubiquitous. It's the most fulfilling experience we have and yet, at times, responsible for the greatest emptiness we may feel. It is everything... all at once.

We encounter, we connect, we see some of ourselves in another, we trust, we believe, we hope, we love. We are an ever-hopeful species. Love is the force that connects us, the passion that ignites us, the flame that fuels us, and the dream that inspires us.

February could be about candy hearts – or this year it could be about enacting that which lies within... It could be about harnessing our goodwill in the name of others. It could be about honoring and sharing the force within us which is whole and true and abiding.

Instead of stopping at making a reservation or picking up chocolates this year - to where may your love adventure? Extend yourself. Who in your life and in your community is in need of great love? Where may you enact it and allow it to grow? In your family... in your community... in those around you – both near and far.

May your February be full of the sweetest kinds of things.

May your heart be open to give love.

And, may your life be open to receive it.

Be kind; be true; love with your whole heart... at least for today.

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

* Jim Al-Khalili, Philippa Perry, Julian Baggini, Jojo Moyes and Catherine Wybourne.

The Guardian, "What is love? Five theories on the greatest emotion of all." Online.

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.

Canopy Café

Winter Park's Hidden Treasure!

Want a delicious, fresh-cooked meal at a reasonable price, in a beautiful, comfortable setting, right in the heart of Winter Park? Then you need to "come on in" to Canopy Café, 240 N. Pennsylvania Ave., in the former Tolla's location. Canopy Café offers Breakfast served all day, Lunch, and Champagne Sunday Brunch. The Café was opened last September by Carrie Wilson, who worked at a popular College Park restaurant for many years. Wilson wanted to open a restaurant that was "comfortable like home, in a warm friendly, casual atmosphere with a touch of class." She wanted to "serve quality, home-made, fresh food, in proper portions at reasonable prices."

The food is made from scratch with all fresh ingredients – nothing canned, packaged or frozen. They even make sauces and soups from their own special recipes. You can definitely taste the difference! Some scrumptious breakfast and brunch favorites include Smoked Salmon Benedict, Steak & Eggs, Chicken and Biscuits smothered with homemade gravy, a unique Cinnamon & Bacon Waffle topped with rich cream cheese frosting. They also serve a variety of tasty pancakes and omelettes. For those who want a light breakfast, they offer an Early Bird menu for \$5.99, including a beverage, served from 7-9:30 am.

Well, I hope you saved room for lunch because there are some delightfully mouth-watering options there as well! These include a juicy 100% Angus burger, Chicken Parmesan with homemade sauce, and Pulled Pork. They also feature Daily Specials usually pairing ½ sandwiches with homemade soups and a side of fresh fruit.

The welcoming décor is reminiscent of a quaint, rustic European café. There are 3 seating options: the inside dining room, outside front tables with umbrellas, and an inviting all-weather, climate-controlled brick porch. They have space to accommodate large parties such as Birthdays and Bridal Showers – just call ahead 1st. Also, the entire restaurant can be rented out for your private party such as Office Parties or Rehearsal Dinners. Free Wi-Fi and plenty of easy and free parking and make this an easy choice for a Business lunch and nearby offices can take advantage of their delivery service as well.

So "come on in" to Canopy Café for delicious fresh, made-fromscratch Breakfast, Lunch or Brunch and relax and stay a while!

- REVIEWS -

★★★★ "Wow! What a fantastic hidden treasure! Food was fresh and homemade. Great friendly service!"

Anne P., Yelp review

** * * * "The steak & eggs were the best I've ever had & cooked perfectly. This will become a Sunday tradition. Finally, a restaurant in Winter Park with good food, friendly staff, & reasonable prices!" – Tony R., Facebook review



pop culture detours by George McGowan

For A Short Month, A Short Quiz And Some Short Recommendations

It's February and time for a quiz on obscure lyrics from George's Spotify playlist. See if you can guess the artist and song from the following opening lyrics. Hint: all of the songs are from the 80's. Answers will be shown at the end of the column (but HEY - no cheating!).

1) Oh, I can't take another heartache Though you say you're my friend I'm at my wit's end.

2) She bathes me in sweetness I cannot reveal. For sharing dreams I need my woman.

3) Give me time to realize my crime Let me love and steal I have danced inside your eyes How can I be real?

4) Who took the money? Who took the money away? It's always show time Here at the edge of the stage

5) When I'm in trouble or out of step If my balance has been upset Oh, there's a feeling I can't accept There's one thing that helps me to forget

6) Joseph's face was black as night The pale yellow moon shone in his eyes His path was marked By the stars of the Southern Hemisphere

7) I could feel at the time There was no way of knowing Fallen leaves in the night Who can say where they're blowing Bonus) She floats like a swan Grace on the water

Now, just a few words on some recommendations from the pop culture world. Best New Album of 2015 – Sleater-Kinney –"No Cities to Love." I almost don't want to tell you about this album since the minute after you listen to it, you will want to see if this awesome band is coming to Florida to promote their album and contribute some Riot Grrl pizzazz to our area. But no, they aren't. Which is a shame because our crazy state needs a dose of whatever Sleater-Kinney are taking to make such riveting punk and deliver it with such energy and artistry.

Another album (actually two) to recommend are the two latest from country, soul, swing, and blues everyman, Justin Townes Earle. He released "Single Mothers" last year and an accompanying album "Absent Fathers" early this year and both combine to be a powerful statement from someone who should know of what he sings. Justin Townes Earle is the son of roots country singer Steve Earle, who left Justin and his mother when Justin was only 2 years old. These albums express so many feelings for the life (or lack thereof) left to Justin that they simply must be heard. I guarantee, his music will affect you.

On the TV (via the Internet) front, "Black Mirror" is a TV series available on Netflix (for now, I hope when you read this that Netflix

and the BBC have worked out a deal for this show and others to continue to be available for streaming). This show will freak you out, make you think, and did I say – freak you out? Think a modern-day "Twilight Zone" with better acting, stories with more modern themes, and higher production values. Absolutely worth a look.

Gotta go! My Fit Bit (or whatever it's called) has just started flashing at me to get up and MOVF!

ANSWERS:

1) Nick Lowe – "Cruel to be Kind"; 2) Steve Winwood – "Arc of a Diver"; 3) Culture Club – "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?"; 4) Talking Heads-"Girlfriend is Better"; 5) Fine Young Cannibals – "Not the Man I Use to Be; 6) Paul Simon – "Under African Skies"; 7) Roxy Music – "More Than This"; Bonus) Echo and the Bunnymen – "Lips Like Sugar"

If you answered 8 correctly – get out of my head!

5-7 – We need to meet to compare notes sometime

1-4 – Hey, you have good taste!

theater in the parks by Barbara Solomon

Nostalgia Reigns In Winter Park

THE RAT PACK LOUNGE
WRITTEN BY JAMES HINDMAN AND RAY RODERICK
DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY ROB ANDERSON
STARRING SARAH-LEE DOBBS, KEVIN KELLY, TODD MUMMERT,
CHRISTOPHER ALAN NORTON, AND DEEJAY YOUNG

Suspend belief for one night and enjoy one of the best musicals The Winter Park Playhouse has ever mounted. Frank Sinatra (Kevin Kelly), Sammy Davis Jr.(Deejay Young) and Dean Martin (Christopher Alan Norton) are sent to earth for one evening to save the life of a depressed Vic (Todd Mummert) before he does himself in. It seems as though he is still upset about a long ago night when Frank told him he really couldn't sing well. The boys need to make him into a great singer so he will want to live; if they don't succeed, they go to that dreaded place below instead of flying back to the angels. That's the story, folks. A silly story, but who cares, because the real story is the 30 songs the Rat Pack revives in this fabulous show. And there were also some cute jokes along the way: "a great sense of humor comes standard with Catholic guilt" for one.

Roy Alan, the artistic director of the Playhouse, did a fantastic job in casting this musical. All the voices were great, and they really imitate their Rat Pack counterparts. Particularly outstanding was Deejay, new to our Winter Park scene. Roy imported him from Tampa to play Sammy, and wow, what a job he did! I can't wait to see him in another production. My favorite number of his was "

Bye Bye Blackbird." Wait--I also adored his

panache in "Something's Gotta Give" from "Daddy Long Legs." Kevin always does a marvelous job as Frank, he's got that nice and easy manner down pat, as well as the voice for Frank's standards--my favorite "One For My Baby." Todd was amazing--I don't know how such a great voice could have sounded so bad at the beginning of the show, but that proves what a good actor he is. When he sang "My Way," I

wanted it to go on forever. Christopher played a funny drunk but sang sober in "Everybody Loves Somebody Sometime." And last, but never least, Sarah-lee as Angie played the bombshell to the hilt. Her strong belt-it out voice and sexy delivery were perfect for "Too Close For Comfort."

I had "High Hopes" for this show, and my hopes were exceed-

Cotto Civa" from "Doddy, and By the way that's one of my all time favor

ed. By the way, that's one of my all-time favorite songs, done by the Rat Pack as their second number. I'd tell you not to miss this wonderful musical, but it seems as though they may already be sold out. Try to get a ticket somehow, you will thank me! Playing through Valentine's Day at The Winter Park Playhouse: 407-645-0145 or visit winterparkplayhouse.org.



BARB'S BEST BETS FOR FEBRUARY: "DOUBT" AT THE GARDEN THEATRE, "CABARET" AT THE ABBEY, AND "TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD" AT ORLANDO SHAKES.

The Park Press | FEBRUARY 2015 SCHOOLS 21

theater in the parks by Barbara Solomon

Theatre's Great, **But So Is Art**

REVIVING THE ANCIENTS CITY ARTS FACTORY. **DOWNTOWN ORLANDO**

Brad Biggs has outdone himself in putting together this show. The theme he came up with this year is brilliant, and all of the participating artists said it motivated them to do their best work. I always take my good friend Fernandez Zanotti, the renowned European painter, with me to all art openings, since he is so much more knowledgeable about techniques than I. I just know what appeals to my senses.

And we both agreed on some outstanding works by the talented people exhibiting in this wonderful show. Marsha de Broske uses a powertex fabric to construct her flow-

ing sculptures. The "Three Graces" shows off her fabulous compostion to perfection. Linda Brant's work is the most interactive in the exhibit. She uses a wheel reminiscent of TV shows, yet entirely artistic, to provide the spinner with a word that pairs with her drawn images; my

word was honored and my image an elephant. Her art is totally cool and totally different from all others. Both Ricard Munster and Saulius Jankauskas use recycled glass in their works, one of which was "Primal Ooze." It's always interesting to see art that is in a different medium and out of the box, and this

show certainly has much of that.

The painters are so talented that I was in awe. Parker Sketch's "Saint

Cat Lady" was a splash of color, with color dripping, reminiscent of Jackson Pollock. Donna Frank's "The Mandala" was a huge circle of layering, showing complexity of reflections, iridescent color, with an interference medium. Judy Batterson, always one of my favorites, painted

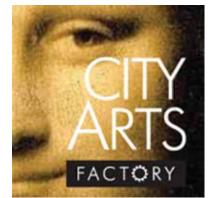
> "Methuselah Date Palm" and relayed the story behind the work. It is the oldest living tree from germination, its seeds from the Masada 2000 years ago. Jason Hunt's "Megrado" was comprised of the most wonderful colors, displaying

the afternoon pinkish light. Bonnie Sprung used mixed media, an extremely colorful Kabala numerology

painting. Ken Austin's watercolors of female nudes in "Before the Bash" and "Lavender Dream" were some of the best works in the show. We really enjoyed Kirma Kirveliene's "Neringa II," a very dreamy story of a Lithuanian fishing town--one of my favorite pieces in the show and reasonably priced as well. Doris Smarts's "Nebula" showers us with a burst of colors and light.

The theme of "Reviving the Ancients" was evident in all the works, but in such a wide variety that it was never boring. The individuality of each artist came out in their respective pieces. We felt it was a paradox--the show was based on tradition but each artist had a different take on the tradition, from the religious to the secular. A must-see for all art aficionados!

Showing through Valentine's Day at City Arts Factory, corner of Orange and Pine.



schools



Audubon Park Elementary is excited to announce our new chapter in the National Elementary Honor Society. On Thursday, January 15, 2015 forty-seven students in 4th and 5th grade participated in an induction ceremony to become members. The NEHS recognizes students for their outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated personal responsibility. The honored students will participate in meaningful service activities for the remainder of the year in the school and community while continuing to develop essential leadership skills. Students were selected based on teacher recommendation, community service, and academic achievement. Bethany Merrill, second grade teacher, is chairing the Honor Society and is just thrilled to be working with these scholars. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

Dommerich Elementary PRINCIPAL DR. JUNELLA HANDLEY KREIL

January 20th marked the official start to our third marking period, and the beginning of our celebration of 50 years of learning together at Dommerich! Dommerich first opened in March 1965. Please save the date for our 50th Anniversary event at our school - May 1, 2015 at 5 p.m.

Please also mark your calendar and plan to join us for the following events in February. Get ready, get set... go! Run with our Dommerich Chiefs on the Run 5K and Dommerich One-mile Dash on February 7th. Dommerich Chiefs will be skating at Semoran Skateway on February 5th and Walking n' Rolling to school on February 11th. There is no school for students on Feb. 16th as we celebrate Presidents Day. On February 24th, join us for our first Arts and Culture Night, starting at 6:30p.m.



Killarney Elementary PRINCIPAL KELLY STEINKE

Our PTA is sponsoring several fun events during February! Killarney students, their parents, and grandparents will be invited to a special breakfast to dine together. Muffins with Mom and Donuts with Dad are being held February 19th and 20th, and on February 13th, our Kids of Killarney Chorus will perform the National Anthem at the Orlando Solar Bears game in front of all the fans! Please come out and show your support at the game!

As we wrapped up the second grading period, we recognized all the hard work our students are doing every day! On January 23rd, our students participated in the second "Killarney Kash" celebration to reward them for being good citizens during the second grading period. These students were treated to a movie and popcorn in our Media Center! Report Cards went home with students at the end of the month, and the following week, our students will be honored at our quarterly Report Card Awards Ceremony for making good grades, having perfect attendance, and for being the "shining star" in their classes!

Celebrate Literacy Week took place January 26-30, and Killarney students participated in several fun activities to encourage reading. Reading is achieving!

Finally, we would like to thank our amazing Partners in Education: Hollieanna McDonald's, Yogurtland of Winter Park, and the Winter Park Rotary Club. Thank you for all that you do for us and our students!

Lake Silver Elementary 📝 PRINCIPAL SARA BIGALKE

January was full of exciting events! We held our official dedication ceremony for our new school. Attendees were Mayor Buddy Dyer, Superintendent Barbara Jenkins, School Board memberNancy Rob-

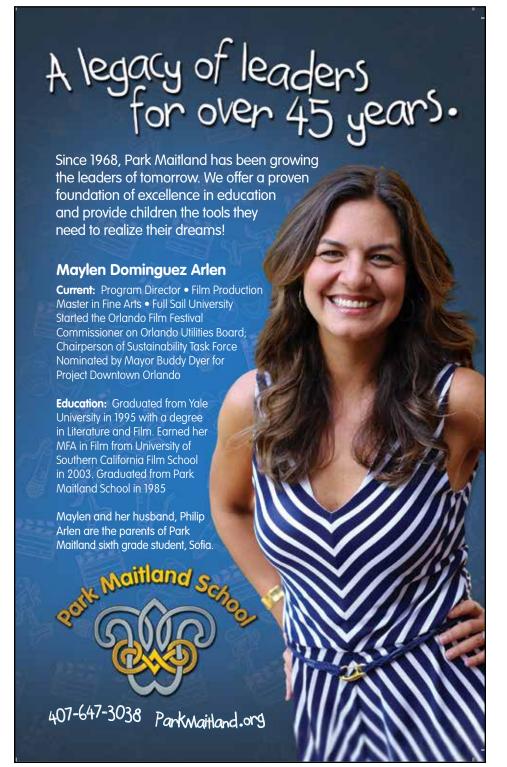
binson, Orlando City Commissioner Robert Stuart, OCPS representatives, and many former Lake Silver administrators and staff members. The dedication was a tribute to the Lake Silver community and highlighted the 60 plus years of teaching and learning at Lake Silver!

We held our Family Literacy Night, PTA, SAC and MPLC meetings off campus in January at the Heart of Mercy Church. It was a

great family event where the Literacy Leadership Team shared reading activities to do at home and also gave away books. Thank you, PTA, for your help that night.

We are now entering game time! Our intense focus on student achievement will continue as we look toward the Florida Standards Assessment. Fourth and fifth-grade students will take the writing por-

Continued on page 22.



schools

tion of the FSA in early March with the remainder of the tests to be given in April. We are working diligently to ensure success.

Thank you for your support! Go Tigers!



Lake Sybelia Elementary PRINCIPAL DR. JULIE PARADISE

Our first semester has come to a close, our report cards for the second nine weeks have gone home, and we are off and running with our second semester. Our fourth-grade students will be taking the Florida Writing Assessment on Tuesday, February 25. Our teachers and students have been preparing for this opportunity to show off their writing skills. We know each student will do his/her best to meet the challenges of this test and the rest of us are all wishing them well.

We are all working to get fit. Many of our students participated in the Fast Start Track Meet on January 24th at Showalter Field. The students had a great time with all of the events. Some of our students are starting their day the healthy way every Wednesday morning as they join our Walking School Bus and walk with their friends to school. We are so thankful for our parents who walk with these students and help them develop a healthy lifestyle.

February is Black History Month and we have many planned activities for the students and the staff. Our Black History Committee makes this an educational experience for all of us. It is always an event to remember.

This is the time of year that we celebrate our Support Person of the Year, Vickie Field, and our Teacher of the Year, Mel Soto. It is an honor and a privilege to be working with these dedicated professionals.



Happy New Year! We're starting the New Year off with a renewed concentration on achieving academic excellence. Our teachers and students will continue to focus on achieving benchmark standards in all core subject areas, and also enjoy the benefits of participating in our outstanding special area classes. Our after-school enrichment clubs will continue, too, as we move into the second half of our school year.

In order to help all of our students achieve grade-level standards, all of our students have been participating in STEM activities which integrate science, technology, engineering and math. Our students are really using their critical thinking skills, deepening their knowledge, and developing necessary skills for college and career readiness. Also, we have been having students participate in In-School Tutoring during their scheduled special area time. One full-time and two part-time teacher are working with targeted students on reading comprehension and reading strategies, or on basic mathematical concepts and fact fluency.

Beginning soon, we will add a Saturday School for targeted students in grades three through five. Again, we will be working on both reading and mathematical skills, to help these scholars reach gradelevel expectations prior to our state testing in April.

Parents, please continue to assist your child at home and keep in close communication with school. We need to work together to reach our Orange County Public School Mission: To be the top producer of successful students in the nation." We appreciate the continued support of our great Lakemont Leopard families and Winter Park community.

Maitland Middle School PRINCIPAL DR. STEFANIE C. SHAMES

Thanks to the generous funding of PTA and SAC, Maitland Middle School recently purchased new computers to establish an additional computer lab that will be used by students and teachers regularly and during testing. We are so proud to announce that Mrs. Lainie Clowers, science teacher, is a finalist for the Orange County Teacher of the Year. Lastly, we are excited for our basketball season; which recently began on January 28.

Rob Graham, a senior at Winter Park High School and a former MMS student, completed his Eagle Scout project by adding benches and mulch and beautifying the area around the tree planted in memory of Mr. Stephen Kufrovich. Affectionately known as "Mr. K," a beloved teacher at Maitland Middle School who passed away in 2013, he taught both science and exceptional education at Maitland Middle School. Mr. Kufrovich inspired students with his love of science. He had a wonderful way of connecting science to everyday life which made science relevant in the lives of his students. His great sense of humor and down-to-earth personality endeared him to both his students and those he met. After his passing, a beautiful tree dedication ceremony was held in our school courtyard in remembrance of Mr. Kufrovich. Thank you to Rob (and Mrs. Ashcraft who helped him) for creating such a beautiful area in our courtyard that will be enjoyed by students for many years to come.



The start of a new year is always special. There is a feeling of renewal as we look to a new year as a new beginning. There is a sense of excitement for making changes or adopting new habits. It's also a time for reflection. We all know that to be successful in life we need to form good habits. Setting personal goals and following through on them is one habit that builds self-



Rob Graham completed his Eagle Scout project by beautifying the area around a tree planted in memory of Maitland Middle School teacher Mr. Stephen Kufrovich. Kudos to Mrs. Ashcraft who also helped in the project.

confidence and resilience.

The reason Park Maitland adopted the 7 Habits - Leader in Me program was because it aligned with our founding principles. As a matter of fact, this program presents an approach to being effective in attaining goals by aligning oneself to what Stephen Covey calls "true north" principles of a character ethic that he presents as universal and timeless. The principles that we try to instill through this program are not new to Park Maitland. The school was founded on such ideas, and the 7 Habits are simply one way for us to communicate/teach/practice these universal principles through a common language. That is our true goal.

"The Community," a publication published by the Stephen R Covey Foundation, shares the following insight on the importance of teaching and practicing goal setting:

Providing a Focus...

When you help a child set goals, you give him or her a vision of the future. Whether he or she wants to save an allowance to buy a new toy, improve grades, or go to a friend's birthday party, goal-setting gives him or her a positive focus that will encourage him to make better decisions. This focus encourages a child to think ahead about activities or behaviors that might get him or her closer or farther away from achieving his goal. As a parent, you can help your child develop this focus. For example, if the goal is to get better grades in science, have him or her think of different ways he or she can achieve this goal and write down the ideas. The ideas serve as smaller goals and may include double-checking homework, handing in homework on time, and completing extra-credit assignments. Always help your child focus on the "process" -- working hard, practicing, etc. instead of simply the outcome... the grade.



The theme of Catholic Schools Week was "Catholic Schools are Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service" and it was evident at St. James Cathedral School. The students, faculty, parents, parishioners, and the community united together to celebrate the high quality Catholic education provided by our school. The week began on Sunday, January 25th with Mass where our students served as Lectors, Ushers and Altar Servers followed by Open House at the school for both existing and prospective families.

At the beginning of the week our school community participated in an outside prayer service and a performance from the Bishop Moore Catholic High School Choir. It was wonderful to observe the students rejoice with each other as they celebrated their faith!

Our Panther Parent Association (PPA) sponsored a Food Truck Night for parishioners, families, adults and children. We gathered as a Family and celebrated Catholic Schools Week. Admission was free and we collected toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, wash cloths, bandages and small bottles of hand sanitizer which were all donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Catholic Charities of Central Florida!

SJCS parents and members from the Young Adult Ministry shared how they use their God-given talents in their daily lives. Catholic Schools Week culminated with everyone together and celebrates the many ways St. James Cathedral School is a "Community of Faith, Knowledge and Service."



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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.

First Mondays of Every Month Story Time – 10:00 to 10:15 a.m. infants to 18 months, 10:20 to 10:35 a.m. toddlers, and 10:40 to 11:00 a.m. preschoolers at Leu Gardens located at 1920 N. Forest Ave. For more information please at 407-246-2620 or visit www.leugardens.org.

Now - March 31 A.J. Cobb's Ribbit the Exhibit at Leu Gardens – The exhibit will feature over 20 large scale, copper frog sculptures located throughout the gardens. The sculptures are made from flat sheets of copper that are cut, hammered and folded in a three dimensional image. Leu Gardens is located at 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando, Florida 32803. 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 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 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.

Every Second Saturday Through May 2015 Vintage Flea Market - 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 2000 Alden Rd. For more information please visit www.thecarouselemporium.net

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.

Now Through May 9, 2015 - Vintage Flea Market - 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at 2000 Alden Road. For more information please visit www.thecarouselemporium.net.

February 7 Out of Darkness Walk - 7:30 a.m. near Baldwin Park Village Center located at 2420 Lakemont Ave. Proceeds benefit the Central Florida Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. To register, donate or to learn more please visit www. outofdarkness.org.

February 8 The Orange County Retired Educators Meeting - 11:30 a.m. at College Park United Methodist Church, 644 W. Princeton St. for Pot Luck Luncheon. Anyone who has worked in education is invited to attend. For more information, please visit www.ocrea-fl-org., or call 407-677-0446.

February 20 "Florida's Native Plants" - Doors open at 10:00 a.m. with presentation by Jacqueline Rolly of the Tarflower Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society starting at 10:300 a.m. This event will be held at the Orlando Garden Club located at 710 East Rollins St. For more information please call 321-287-6880 or visit www.orlandogardenclub.org.

February 21 Orlando Wetlands Park Festival - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Fort Christmas located at 1300 North Fort

Christmas Rd. Free admission and free door prizes. For more information, call Orlando Wetlands Park, 407-568-1706 or visit www.cityoforlando.net/wetlands.

March 5 The Orange County Retired Educators Meeting - 11:30 a.m. at College Park United Methodist Church, 644 W. Princeton St. for a program on "Everything You Want To Know About The Orlando Museum of Art." Anyone who has worked in eduction is invited to attend. For more information please visit www. ocrea-fl.org. or call 407-677-0446.

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.

March 7 The J Ball - 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Rosen Plaza Hotel located at 9700 International Dr. This event is the largest fundraiser for the Roth Family Jewish Community Center of Greater Orlando, featuring entertainment, food stations, open bar and silent auction. This event also honors community leaders, Susie and Ed Kleiman, Pearl and Howard Lefkowitz, and their families. For more information and tickets please call 407-621-4042.

Winter Park Events

Ongoing Events

Every Monday "Sit-to-Be-Fit" Chair Exercise Class – 10:15 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 & 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 Wednesday through February 25 Free Innovative Chair Yoga and Meditation - 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. at the Crosby YMCA Wellness Center. This free program is designed for people in the early stages of dementia and their care partners. RSVP is required by calling 1-800-272-3900.

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 Tuesday and Thursday Curator Tours of Louis Comfort Tiffany's Laurelton Hall – From 11:00 a.m. to 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 Friday in February Friday Brown Bag Matinee - Noon at the Hugh F. and Jeannette G. McKean Pavilion located at 161 West Canton Ave. (just behind the Museum). For more information regarding this free event, please visit www.morsemuseum.org.

Every Friday through April Friday Nights at the Morse - 4 - 8 p.m. at the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art located at 445 N. Park Ave. This event offers free admission to the galleries. For more information please visit www.morsemuseum.org.

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHT



A.J. Cobb's Ribbit the Exhibit at Leu Gardens will feature 20 large scale, copper frog sculptures from now until March 31 at Leu Gardens, located at 1920 N. Forest Ave., Orlando, FL 32803. For more information, please visit www.leugardens.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 are asked to come at 9:30 a.m. to learn the basic steps. 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.

February 8 A Valentine Concert Featuring the Bach Festival Choir and Michael Andrew and Swingerhead - 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. in Central Park. For more information regarding this free event please call 407-644-8281.

February 13 Mayor and City Commission Candidate Forum - 8:00 a.m. at the Winter Park Welcome Center located at 151 W. Lyman Ave. For more information please call 407-644-8281.

February 14 Run Aroud the Pines 5K Presented by Florida Hospital - 7:30 a.m. at Showalter Field located at 2525 Cady Way. This hometown favorite Run/Walk 5K also includes a free kids run, and offers schools a chance to earn \$500 for participating in the 5K. Proceeds benefit the Track Shack Foundation. To register online please visit www.trackshack.com or call 407-896-1160.

February 19 Winter Park Chamber "Business After Hours" - 5:30 p.m. at the Winter Park Farmers' Market located at 200 W. New England Ave. Appetizers and beverages are served, and the event is hosted by Orlando Health. Cost: \$5 for Members, \$15 for Nonmembers. For more information please visit www. winterpark.org.

February 25 Chili for Charity hosted by the Rotary Club of Winter Park - 5:30 ap.m. at the Winter Park Farmers' Market located at 200 W. New England Ave. This annula fundraiser helps the Rotary make grants to over 30 local charities each year, and live entertainment, drinks, dessert and a live auction. Cost is \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. For more information and tickets please visit www.chiliforcharity.org.

March 11 Free Lecture at the Morse - 2:30 p.m. featuring "19th-Century Eclecticism: Creating Victorian Modern" by Richard Guy Wilson. The Morse Museum, 445 N. Park Ave., is home to the world's most comprehensive collection of works by American artist and designer Louis Comfort Tiffany. For more information please visit www.morsemuseum.org.

March 14 Zimmerman Kiser Sutcliffe Winter Park Road Race 10K and 2 Mile Presented by Florida Hospital - 7:00 a.m. at 251 Park Ave. South. This event includes a Run/Walk 10K, Run/Walk 2 Mile and a free kids run. Earn a medal for taking on the Distance Dare with 8.2 miles. VIP Area, Souvenir swag, 10K Finisher's Medal and more. Proceeds benefit the Meridian Club of Winter Park Scholarship Fund. To register online please visit www.trackshack.com, or call 407-1160.

