The Park Press



DECEMBER 2016

~ Posítive news that matters ~

FREE

Winter Park | Baldwin Park | College Park | Audubon Park | Maitlan



Family Business Perspective



Live Meaningfully REFLECTIONS
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& center for skin care
Where great skin begin

12

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

Annual Winter Park Running Group Food Drive

Continuing a nine-year tradition of reaching out to the needy in our community, the Winter Park Sunday Running Group will be collecting food for The Second Harvest Food Bank. The main collection effort will take place in Winter Park on Sunday, December 11th, beginning at 6:30 a.m. at the corner of Park Avenue & Welbourne, prior to the Sunday Running Group's usual 7:00 a.m. run. All runners and walkers are encouraged to join us that morning to demon-

strate our solidarity with the needy in our community. Participants also are invited to join the group for breakfast at the Park Avenue Panera afterwards. For more information, please call 407 647-3521.

407-895-8818 reflectionsdermatology.com

Here's A List Of What Second Harvest Most Needs:

Canned Meats/Poultry
Nonfat Dry Milk
Oatmeal
Dry Beans

Evaporated Milk
Drinks
Canned Tuna
Nutritional Drinks

Canned Vegetables
Canned Soup
Pasta/Macaroni
Canned & Dried Fruits

Rice Baby Food Stew







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Publisher's Message



Rick Cable

What's "Black Friday?" Well, since you're reading this you've obviously survived another one. You know it's that day that most, if not all, of the big retailers open early, the day after Thanksgiving, and offer ridiculous deals on a

few hot items at limited quantities to kick off the holiday shopping season. Other than working in retail back in the day and having to pull a shift on the Friday following Thanksgiving, I've never participated in Black Friday. I'm a "need" versus "want" type of guy and believe shopping on that day is strictly for the "wants."

Quite frankly, there is nothing I want to shop that hard for.

So why do they call it Black Friday, anyway? During my ad agency days, I would have tossed this branding campaign on the cutting room floor. Although there are many perceived meanings, the term was originally used to describe a financial crisis that occurred in 1869, also known as the Fisk/Gould scandal. Two speculators' efforts to corner the gold market on the New York Gold Exchange created financial panic in the United States.

Then, in January of 1966, the Philadelphia Police Department used the term to describe the mayhem that ensued on the day after Thanksgiv-

ing. In a publication, the term Black Friday was coined to define the massive traffic jams, over-crowded sidewalks, and mobbed downtown stores; a definition obviously not welcomed by most retailers.

By the 1980s a more positive spin surfaced, thanks to a common accounting practice.

Traditionally retailers operate at a loss (red ink) during January through November and realize their profits (black ink) during December, therefore, the "black" in Black Friday signifies closing out the year on a positive note...in the black.

Ok, so the last one makes a little sense, but like I said, cutting room floor in my opinion.

Nothing about the label is endearing to the consumers, but thanks to the media it is commonly recognized as the start of the holiday shopping season.

December is an all-important month for all our local retailers, and shopping locally at independent businesses generates more revenue directly to the local economy and generates more wealth for the community we live in. Please give them consideration for your business whenever possible and have a safe and happy holiday season.

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

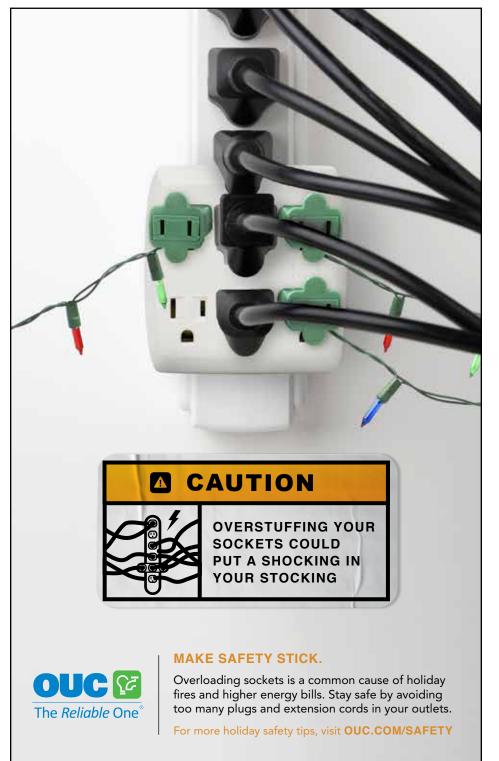
Rick Cable Founder/Owner

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OF THE SUPPORT OF
OUR ADVERTISERS.

WE THANK THEM FOR SUPPORTING US AND ASK THAT YOU PLEASE KINDLY GIVE THEIR PRODUCTS OR SERVICES CONSIDERATION FOR YOUR BUSINESS.







'Twas The Night Before Christmas! By Tricia Cable

I spent a few years of my childhood living in Germany. My dad was stationed at Bitburg Air Force Base during the late 1960s and although we eventually moved onto the base with the other servicemen and their families, my parents wanted us to fully immerse ourselves in the culture and soak up as much of the local customs as

possible. So, we initially lived in the very quaint town of Seffern in Western Germany.

We rented an apartment above a butcher house from Nick Hines, the owner of the local gasthaus. The town was incredibly picturesque and very reminiscent of a few scenes straight out of "The Sound of Music." I swear I could almost hear Julie Andrews singing "The Hills Are Alive" when we would venture out to play in the beautiful countryside.

I shared the apartment with my older brother and sisters, my mom and dad, my nana, and a standard female dachshund appropriately named Madchen, which means "girl" in German.

It was in that apartment, one cold and snowy Christmas Eve, that I had my first of many encounters with Ol' Saint Nick. We were all settled in for the night- stockings hung, children nestled- when I heard some rustling at the end of the hallway. From my bed, I opened my eyes just enough to see the outline of a large figure. I was too afraid to open my eyes completely, so I strained to see what little I could through my squinting eyes. I remember gasping a bit when I realized just what I was seeing and who I believed to be in my house-yep, it was Santa Claus!



I watched in amazement as he put presents under our tree one by one. At one point, I could have sworn he saw me and headed down the hall in the direction of my room. I remember squeezing my eyes closed so tightly that when I finally had the nerve to open them, I was momentarily blinded. I couldn't see anything but spots, and once my eyes focused, he was gone.

As you can imagine, I had a very difficult time

going to sleep that night. Every time I closed my eyes, the images of what I had seen kept playing over and over in my head.

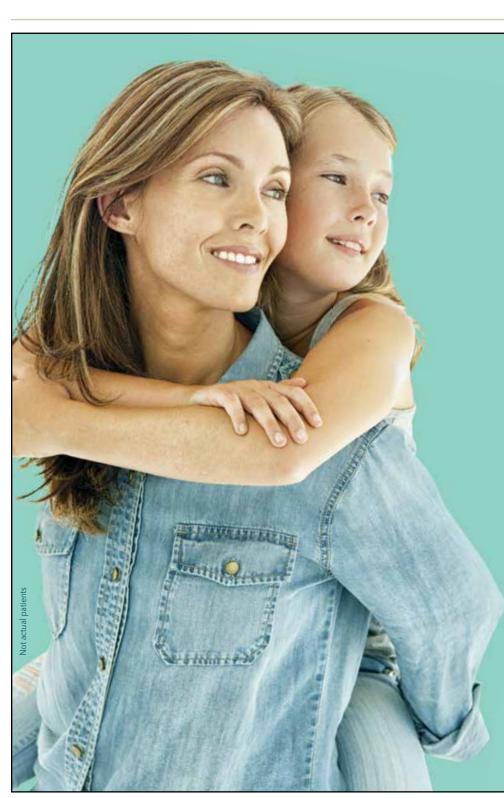
Fast-forward 45 years, and I can almost remember every detail as if it had happened just this year. That memory has stayed with me for all these years and I have shared the story with

my children many times. I was the butt of jokes from time to time growing up because my beliefs in the events of that evening were called into question on many occasions. The question to believe or not believe has never been one that I spend much time pondering- I believe!

I guess one of my girls summed it up the best just last year when she was being teased at school for still believing in Santa. Her response to the ques-

tion "Why do you still believe?" was priceless and in my opinion, quite perfect: "I believe in Santa Claus because it makes me happy!"

So to that I say, choose 'happy' this holiday season. Be kind and compassionate to one another in the spirit of the season. Lend a helping hand to those less fortunate. Forgive someone who deserves a second chance and hold those you love near and dear to your heart... and happy Christmas to all and to all a good night!



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Pediatrics Stuart Janousky, MD

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To schedule an appointment with one of our physicians, please call **407.389.5482**, or visit **OrlandoHealth.com/BaldwinPark**

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Physician Associates

City Commissioner's Message Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, City of Orlando District 3



As we all focus on different facets of our holiday preparation, I wanted to tell you about a wonderful new tool that may be able to help you find local restaurants, shops, and services that will help simplify your season.

The new app, DistrX, is free for consumers and is available for iPhone and Android. It will

allow you to browse commercial districts here in Orlando, and when you are traveling, to find out about upcoming events and current merchant offers. You can set alerts on the app to send a notification when you enter a Main Street district. It also allows you to personalize your interests and receive notifications when things you like are happening. As many have studies have shown, when you spend \$100 at a national chain, \$43 stays in the local economy; when you spend \$100 at a local business, \$73 stays right here. Check out distrx.com for more information about the application and the program itself.

I love Orlando year-round, but I really love our Great City around the holidays. There is a certain spirit of giving and unity that permeates the air. It is a wonderful time to enjoy great events as well.

Lake Eola will be bustling with activity, including Friday night holiday movies throughout the month of December. With classics like Elf and A Christmas Story, these movies are sure to get you in to a festive spirit. Enjoy a great festival and parade at the Winter Spark in Baldwin Park on December 10th from 4-9 p.m. Also, enjoy a special free performance of The Nutcracker by the Russian Ballet at the Walt Disney

World Amphitheater at Lake Eola on Saturday, December 17th at 7:30 p.m. For more information on all of the great holiday happenings, visit cityoforlando.net.

While most of us are enjoying this friendly atmosphere, there are some who might see the holidays as an opportunity to take advantage of our trust. Everyone is especially busy during the holidays, but please continue to be prepared and be aware of your surroundings. Like me, how many times have you come out of a store after a successful holiday shopping trip, only to set your bags down to search your pocket or purse for your keys? Or you come out of the mall and forget exactly where you parked? Or had to do some last-minute shopping during the late evening hours and parked in a not-well-lit area? Or left your shopping bags clearly visible on the front or back seat of your car while you ran one last errand? Or for the moms and dads out there, have you ever left your car door open with your bags or purse on the seat while you fold up the stroller or strap your children into their car seats?

Every year, OPD sees a slight uptick in crimes of opportunity, residential break-ins, vehicle break-ins and robberies near shopping areas during the holiday season. Our Orlando Police Department works hard to combat this with specific holiday tactical squads, but we need your partnership to help prevent these crimes by taking common sense precautions AND by SAYING SOMETHING if you SEE SOMETHING. The scenarios I outlined are good examples of ones we can easily avoid with a little preparation before we go in search of the holy grail of gifts for our loved ones.

Many of us also tend to carry more cash on our person during this time of year and utilize more ATMs. Try to carry with you only the amount of cash you

need, and if you must use an ATM, try to use one that is inside or in a very well-lighted area. Please never throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location in order to avoid identity theft.

At home, you may want to reconsider putting a tree with gifts underneath on display through your front window. And when putting your trash curbside after the holidays, break down any boxes from high-end items so as not to advertise what type of property is in your home. And if you do purchase or receive any bigticket items, such as a computer, iPad, or big screen t.v.,

be sure to record all serial numbers and put them in a safe place. If you are going out of town, ask a neighbor to pick up your mail and/or newspaper. Put a few indoor and outdoor lights on an automatic timer so that the house looks occupied.

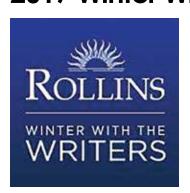
Lastly, keep the OPD nonemergency number (321-235-5300) stored in your cell phone and please call, call, call!

As we are poised to ring in the New Year, let me express my personal thanks for your support of our District 3 staff, our city professionals, our local neighborhood and homeowner groups. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and best wishes to you and your family for a prosperous 2017!



Robert F. Stuart, Commissioner, District 3, City of Orlando • 400 S. Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32801 • 407-246-1003 • Robert.Stuart@CityOfOrlando.net

2017 Winter With The Writers



Rollins College will again partner with the National Book Foundation as part of the 2017 Winter With the Writers literary festival. As the Southeast's sole representative of the National Book Awards on Campus program, Rollins will host the two 2016 finalists who will teach master classes, give a joint reading and interview, and sign books.

Since 1927 Rollins College has hosted worldclass writers for this event, which is free and

open to the public. This year's authors include Susan Orlean, David Kirby, Peter Meinke, and Chris Abani.

Susan Orlean – February 1-2, 2017

Susan Orlean has worked as a staff writer for The New York Times, a contributing editor at Rolling Stone and Vogue, a writer for Outside, Esquire, The Boston Globe, and more. Among her many books is The Orchid Thief, a national bestseller about a charming conniver who was once convicted of attempting to steal endangered orchids. Orlean's elegant personal journalism inspired Adaptation, an Academy Award-winning film.

Wednesday, February 1:

6:15 p.m.: Screening of Adaptation - Enzian Theatre

Thursday, February 2:

4 p.m.: Master Class - SunTrust Auditorium

 $7\!:\!30$ p.m.: Reading, On-stage Interview, and Signing – Bush Auditorium

David Kirby – February 9

David Kirby's collection The House on Boulevard St.: New and Selected Poems was a finalist for the National Book Award in 2007. Kirby is the author of Little Richard: The Birth of Rock 'n' Roll. His latest poetry collection is Get Up, Please. He teaches at Florida State University, where he is the Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of English. Kirby's honors include fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation; in 2016, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Humanities Council.

Peter Meinke – February 9

Peter Meinke is Poet Laureate of Florida. His work has received many national awards, among them are 2 NEA Fellowships, a Fulbright Professorship, and 3 awards from the Poetry Society of America. His most recent books are The Expert Witness (2016), a collection of short stories; The Elf Poem (2015), a children's book (both illustrated by his wife Jeanne Clark); and Lucky Bones (2014), his 8th collection in the prestigious Pitt Poetry series. Last year he received the SunLit Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award for "his outstanding contribution to Letters."

Thursday, February 9, 2017

2 p.m.: Master Class (Peter Meinke) - SunTrust Auditorium

4 p.m.: Master Class (David Kirby) – SunTrust Auditorium

7:30 p.m.: Joint Reading, On-stage Interview, and Signing – Bush Auditorium

Chris Abani – February 16

Chris Abani is an acclaimed novelist, screenwriter, poet, essayist, and playwright. Currently residing in Chicago, he was born in Nigeria. His most recent work of fiction, The Secret History of Las Vegas (2014), was nominated for the Hurston/Wright 2015 Legacy Award. A few other works of fiction include Song for Night (2007), Becoming Abigail (2006), and Masters of the Board (1985). His poetry collections include Sanctificum (2010), There Are No Names for Red (2010), Feed Me The Sun – Collected Long Poems (2010), and more. He has received many awards and honors including the PEN USA Freedom-to-Write Award, a Lannan Literary Fellowship, a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and the PEN Hemingway Book Prize, just to name a few.

Thursday, February 16, 2017:

4 p.m.: Master Class – SunTrust Auditorium

7:30 p.m.:Reading, On-stage Interview, and Signing - Bush Auditorium

(Chris Abani, as the 2017 Irving Bacheller Chair, will also teach a one-credit class, Writing Life, during his stay in Winter Park.)

National Book Award Finalists (TBA) – February 23

2 p.m.: Master Class - SunTrust Auditorium

4 p.m.: Master Class – SunTrust Auditorium

7:30 p.m.: Joint Reading, On-stage Interview, Signing – Bush Auditorium

For more information on Winter With the Writers at Rollins College, please visit: http://www.rollins.edu/winter-with-the-writers/

Winter Park Mayor's Message Mayor Steve Leary



The last few months have been challenging for our city with occasions to celebrate as well as mourn. In the month of October alone, we opened new facilities, but also prepared for Hurricane Matthew, and mourned the tragic loss of Winter Park High School student, Roger Trindade. How-

ever, witnessing firsthand our community coming together to mourn, to pay tribute, and to celebrate

makes me grateful to be a Winter Park resident.

The wounds from the passing of Roger Trindade are still fresh. As I write this, many questions are as of yet unanswered. However, by the time you read this, more information will probably have become available. Currently, the investigation is ongoing and we need to be respectful of the process, the privacy of the Trindade family, and the memory of Roger. A young, promising life was ended far too early and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the Trindade family.

As to Hurricane Matthew, the initial forecasts had it coming our

way and perhaps being more impactful than 2004's Hurricane Charley. We were all better prepared this time around as your city staff and elected officials worked around the clock, behind the scenes, to ensure the safety of residents, facilities and infrastructure. We cleared drains, secured buildings, lowered

lakes, scheduled extra electric, water, forestry, fire-rescue and police crews. Our residents prepared their homes, picked up sandbags, and sheltered in place. We fully activated our Emergency Operations Center to answer calls, share information and work together to restore and recover. We all breathed a sigh of Hurricane Matthew caused destruction to Central Florida in early October. relief as Matthew veered slightly to the east,

preventing the hurricane force winds from blowing through our city.

Winter Park was the first municipality in Central Florida to restore 100 percent of its electric custom-

> ers' power by 10:15 a.m. Saturday, the morning after Matthew blew by us. This is in large part due to our electric undergrounding efforts over the past 10 years, coupled with the implementation of the Urban Forestry Management Plan. As we drove around the city, I saw neighbors helping neighbors clean their yards and pick up branches and debris. That is the best of Winter Park.

> The balance of life can at times seem frail. Yet this past month we came together to celebrate two new beginnings as well. On October 1, we celebrated the grand reopening of the Winter Park Golf Course to what continues to receive rave reviews

from the community and the golf world. And on October 28, we cut the ribbon for the official opening of the newly-renovated Showalter Field.

While each of these was a celebration, we as a community took time to honor lives lost. During the golf course reopening, I shared a proclamation in



honor of Arnold Palmer, whose impact in Central Florida -primarily through the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and the Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies- will be felt for generations. As well, Roger Trindade and his entire family were an integral part of both the October 26 Winter Park Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally and the October 28 Showalter Field ribbon cutting. At each of these very different occasions, the people of Winter Park came together to celebrate, pay tribute, and support one another.

As we continue through the holiday season, please embrace this spirit of remembrance, celebration, and most importantly, camaraderie. Let's show the best of Winter Park. On behalf of the City Commission, I wish you, your loved ones, and friends a very safe and happy holiday season.



Ribbon cutting ceremoney at the Winter Park Golf Course.



Memorial for Roger Trindade.

Second Harvest Food Bank is working to feed hope. Each week, an average of 72,000 people need help getting food - kids, seniors, working families, the homeless and others. And, though we provided enough food for 50 million meals last year alone, it simply wasn't enough. Because until everyone can eat, we still have work to do. Our neighbors in need continue to need your caring, and your help. Remember: a dollar donated can provide up to \$9 in groceries.





Maitland Mayor's Message

Mayor Dale McDonald

The Next Screen On The Green Is On December 17

Thank you for joining us for Screen on the Green on November 5. The next Screen on the Green event is a double feature with an encore presentation of Frozen and The Good Dinosaur on Saturday, December 17, at 6:00 p.m. Bring your blankets and chairs to the Maitland Middle School Soccer Field at 1901 Choctaw Trail and we'll give you the stars.

Save the Date – Season of Light

The City of Maitland is pleased to announce Season of Light, a Maitland holiday tradition. The celebration will take place at Lake Lily Park on Saturday, December 3, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Join us for fun, music, a snow slide, and fireworks.

Santa's Parade Will Take Place on December 10

Each year, the Maitland Police Department produces the Santa's Parade event. Santa will make his first of two visits to Maitland two weeks before December 25 on Saturday, December 10. The time and route have not yet been published. Both will be posted on www.itsmymaitland.com when

MPD will post Santa's whereabouts low the City's Facebook page at www. facebook.com/itsmymaitland.

Donations Scam

The City has been informed that individuals have been making solicitation calls identifying themselves as representatives of the Maitland Police or Fire Rescue Department. These parties are soliciting residents for donations for firefighters and police officers. This is clearly a fraudulent attempt to acquire private personal financial information. Please be aware that the Maitland Fire Rescue Department and Maitland Police Department will never solicit donations from anyone.



Spotted on Palmetto Street, a duck with 13 ducklinas.

available.

during the parade on Facebook. Fol-

Holiday Cheer

The U.S. Postal Service announced it is ready to deliver a lot of cheer in the form of roughly 16 billion cards, letters and packages — this holiday season.

Postal Service Ready To Deliver

The Postal Service, the largest e-commerce deliverer, is projecting about 750 million packages will be delivered this holiday season, a 12-percent increase in volume compared to last year. The Postal Service is hiring more than 35,000 seasonal employees to help process and deliver increased volumes and meet the needs of its customers.

While the Postal Service already delivers packages on Sunday in most major cities, following the success of past holiday seasons, it will expand Sunday delivery operations to all locations with high package volumes beginning Nov. 27. More than five million packages are expected to be delivered each Sunday in December. Mail carriers will also deliver packages on Christmas Day in select locations.

Busiest Mailing and Delivery Days

The Postal Service predicts that Monday, December 19, will be the busiest mailing and shipping day for holiday packages, letters and cards. Thursday, December 22 is expected to be the busiest delivery day for holiday packages, cards and letters. The Postal Service anticipates nearly 30 million packages will be delivered on the peak delivery day alone.

Skip the Trip and Ship Online

December 19 will also be the Postal Service's busiest day online with more than seven million customers predicted to visit usps.com that day **alone.** Customers can avoid holiday hassles by visiting usps.com — the Postal Service's website intended to make mailing and shipping easier. Customers can skip the trip to the Post Office and take advantage of online shipping this holiday season. Click-N-Ship and other online services allow customers to order free Priority Mail boxes, print shipping labels, purchase postage, and request free next-day Package Pickup from the mail carrier.

2016 Christmas Shipping Deadlines

The Postal Service recommends the following mailing and shipping deadlines:

- Dec. 9 APO/FPO/DPO Priority Mail & First Class Mail
- Dec. 15 USPS Retail Ground
- Dec. 20 First Class Mail
- Dec. 21 Priority Mail
- Dec. 23 Priority Mail Express

Additional news and information, including all domestic, international and military mailing and shipping deadlines, as well as Santa mail, can be found at the Postal Service Holiday Newsroom at usps.com/holidaynews.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.







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Equality Florida Pays Tribute To Company

Mayor Teresa Jacobs of Orange County and Mayor Buddy Dyer of Orlando were recognized with the Service and Leadership Award at the ninth annual Equality Florida Greater Orlando Gala held in November at the Orlando Museum of Art. The theme of the gala was Honor Them with Action. Equality Florida Greater Orlando and the Central Florida community paid tribute to those whose compassion, courage, and leadership united the region in the aftermath of the tragic Pulse Orlando nightclub shooting on June 12, when a gunman killed 49 people and injured 53 others.

During the gala, Equality Florida also recognized Commissioner Patty Sheehan, City of Orlando District 4; and several organizations, including the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando, MBA Orlando, Proyecto Somos Orlando, The GLBT Center of Central Florida, Two Spirit Health Services, Inc., Pulse of Orlando, Zebra Coalition, and Orlando Health.

"Our community's response to the Pulse tragedy was the greatest example of compassion and unity that I have ever witnessed," Mayor Jacobs said. "The outpouring of love and support toward the LBGTQ community locally and from all over the world was simply incredible. Our citizens and first responders served as beacons of light to the world, showcasing what truly makes Orlando the City Beautiful."

From an elementary school student who planned a bake sale to benefit victims, to the medical and mental health professionals who rushed to the scene and continue to help in the healing process, to the small business owners across the city who donated food and other goods, to the elected leaders who stood united in their response, the Central Florida community truly came together to help the Pulse victims, their families, friends and the community respond and heal.

Actor Wilson Cruz, known for his role as Rickie Vasquez on My So-Called Life and Angel in the Broadway production of *Rent*, was the gala emcee. A relative of Cruz's was among one of the 49 victims of the Pulse tragedy. In tribute to his loved one and all who were affected by the tragedy, Cruz joined dozens of other Broadway performers to



participate in "From Broadway With Love: A Benefit Concert For Orlando," which took place on July 25 at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

Equality Florida's CEO, Nadine Smith, also delivered

the organization's State of the State address, which reflected upon the past year and outlined future goals of the organization.

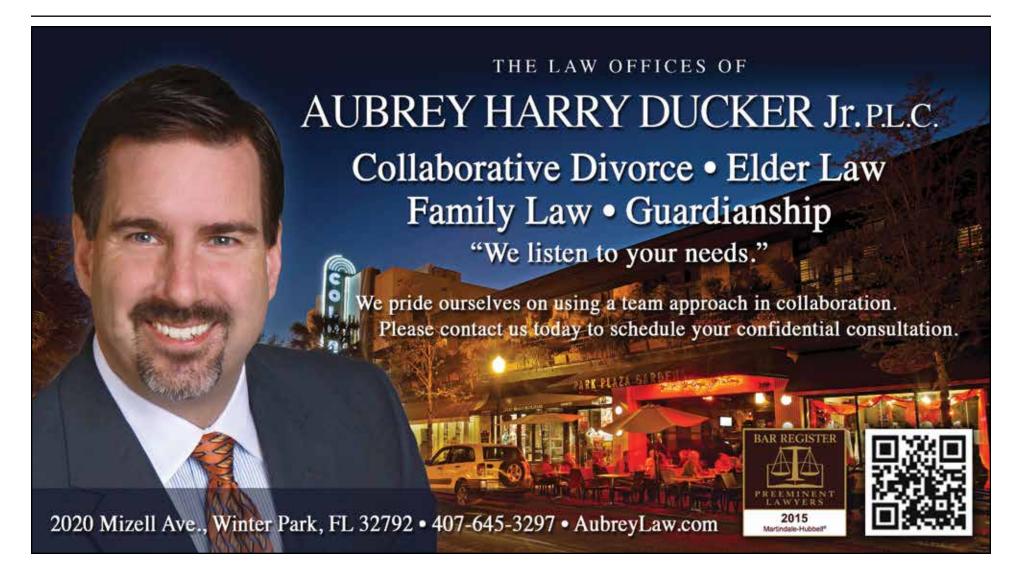
Actor Wilson Cruz.

"We made two promises in the aftermath of Pulse," said Smith. "The first was to do everything we could to take care of the survivors and the

families left behind by this heinous act of hate. We fulfilled that promise by raising more than \$9.5 million for those affected by the tragedy. The second promise was to ensure that the lasting memorial to this tragedy is the real change of uprooting anti-LGBT hatred, discrimination and violence in our culture." All proceeds from the Greater Orlando Gala will be used to further that goal.

Equality Florida is a civil rights organization dedicated to securing full equality

for Florida's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Through education, grassroots organizing, coalition building and lobbying, Equality Florida works to ensure that no one suffers harassment or discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.



Tax Collector Returns \$21.7 Million To Orange County Government

Scott Randolph, Orange County tax collector, announced the Tax Collector's Office distributed more than \$21.7 million in revenue- including nearly \$19.5 million for the General Revenue Fund- to Orange County Government for fiscal year 2015-16. This is an increase of more than \$3.2 million, or 17.6%, over the previous fiscal year. Under State law, tax collector offices return revenues, which derive from unused fees collected by the office, to their home counties and local taxing authorities.

Orange County will receive nearly \$4.5 million more, or 30% above, the \$15 million it budgeted for its General Revenue Fund. "With this increase, I am hopeful that the county will reinvest in the services that make our community such a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family, including the Orlando Science Center, and the Orange County Animal Shelter, which desperately needs an air conditioning system," said Randolph. He explained the increase in revenue is the result of several factors, including an increase in assessed values of real estate in Orange County and efficiencies achieved by the Tax Collector's Office.

In a letter to Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs announcing the revenue increase, Randolph said his office successfully collected 98% of the tax roll before delinquency in fiscal year 201516, conducted 1.9 million transactions, and worked to eliminate a years-long backlog of County-held tax certificates.

The Florida Department of Revenue ranks the Orange County Tax Collector's Office as the third most efficient tax collector office in Florida, and the most efficient of any of the large counties. The Tax Collector's Office is fee-based, meaning its operations are funded through the fees it collects. At the end of each fiscal year, after its budget is funded, the Tax Collector distributes all unused fees to Orange County government and several other local authorities, including the Orange County Library System, which support public education, public safety and other services residents enjoy in Orange County.

For Fiscal Year 2015-16, the Tax Collector's Office collected \$41.7 million in revenue; the Office's budget was \$19.2 million, leaving a balance of \$22.4 million in unused fees. Of those unused fees, \$21.7 million was distributed to Orange County, including nearly \$19.5 million for the General Revenue Fund, and more than \$357,000 was distributed to the Orange County Library System.

By The Numbers

Tax Collector's Budget (FY 2015-16)

Revenue \$41,795,490 Expenditures \$19,297,944 Unused Fees \$22,497,546

DIFFERENCE NAME OF AGENCY FY 2015-16 FY 2014-15 **DIFFERENCE (%) Orange County** General Revenue \$19,469,930.07 \$16,638,709.25 \$2,831,220.82 17.0% Unincorporated Taxing District \$983,655.48 \$801,778.78 \$181,876.70 22.7% **County Fire** \$1,223,127.12 \$996,960.35 \$226,166.77 22.7% \$1,957.87 Apopka/Vineland Rd \$1,705.39 \$252.48 14.8% Orange Blossom Tr. Corridor \$3,450.83 \$2,884.53 \$566.30 19.6% **Orange Blossom** Trail Neighborhood \$3,291.96 \$2,736.02 \$555.94 20.3% Orlando \$8,235.39 \$6,928.01 \$1,307.38 18.9% Central Park \$15,981,36 \$4,210.72 I-Dr. Master Transit \$20,192.08 26.3% \$35,133.79 \$27,794.76 I-Dr. Bus Service \$7,339.03 26.4% North I-Dr. \$249.34 \$1,296.93 \$1,047.59 Improvement 23.8% \$157.00 \$20.91 Bass Lake \$177.91 13.3% \$1,532.67 Big Sand Lake \$1,850.43 \$317.76 20.7% Lake Pickett \$453.26 \$348.23 \$105.03 30.2% Lake Holden \$2,007.66 \$340.52 \$1,667.14 20.4% Lake Jessamine \$1,058.64 \$927.31 \$131.33 14.2% Lake Killarney \$232.56 17.8% \$273.91 \$41.35 Lake Price \$235.17 \$270.72 \$35.55 15.1% Lake Ola \$494.96 \$434.01 \$60.95 14.0% Lake Mary \$308.51 \$128.26 \$180.25 140.5% Lake Irma \$292.61 \$240.56 \$52.05 21.6% \$271.03 \$45.05 Lake Jean \$316.08 16.6% Little Lake Fairview \$138.57 \$120.07 \$18.50 15.4% \$42.49 South Lake Fairview \$47.10 \$4.61 10.8% **Orange County Total** \$21,757,961.88 \$18,502,862.58 \$3,255,099.30 17.6% Orange County \$357,507.42 \$290,130.51 \$67,376.91 23.2% Library — Operating Ranger Drainage \$6,950.79 \$6,222.09 \$728.70 11.7% District S. FL Water **Mnamnt District** \$191,453.74 \$166,758.47 \$24,695.27 14.8% St. Johns District \$157,331.03 \$135,617.59 \$21,713.44 16.0% Valencia Water **Control District** \$2,420.14 \$2,110.97 \$309.17 14.6% Orlando Downtown \$23,921.06 \$18,992.83 \$4,928.23 25.9% Improvement **Authorities Total** \$739,584.18 \$619,832.46 \$119,751.72 19.3% **UNUSED FEES TOTAL** \$22,497,546.06 \$19,122,695.04 \$3,374,851.02 17.6%

10th Annual Orlando Out Of The Darkness Community Walk

Support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention by participating in the 10th annual Orlando Out of the Darkness Community Walk on Saturday, February 4, 2017 in Baldwin Park. Once again, WESH 2 News anchor Jim Payne and singer/songwriter Matt Shenk join the event.

Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in this country. It touches millions of lives—people of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds—but the research is clear: suicide is preventable, and the more people who stand up for suicide prevention and mental health, the more lives we can save.

If you've lost someone to suicide, or you or someone you know suffers from a mental health condition like depression or anxiety, please join us for the

Out of the Darkness Walk. These walks are truly uplifting experiences, and they grow every year. Funds raised support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and its bold goal to reduce the annual suicide rate in

the United States 20 percent by 2025 through research, education, advocacy, and support.

SUICIDE CAN BE PREVENTED. YOU CAN HELP. JOIN THE MOVEMENT.

To register, donate or to learn more please logon to www.outofthedarkness. org and click "events" or contact the walk coordinator, Vicki Long, at vlong.afsp@ yahoo.com. On-site registration will be held across from 2420 Lakemont Avenue, by the roundabout, starting at 7:30 a.m. on day of the walk. The opening ceremony starts at 9 a.m. and the walk will begin immediately after. Free parking is available behind the Traveler's Building. Visit AFSP-Central Florida Chapter online at www.afsp.org/cfl.





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fiscal fitness by John Gill

The Holidays And The Power Of Compound Interest

As you are reading this I am sure that in the back of your mind you may be contemplating some aspect of the holiday season. Whether Christmas, Hanukkah, or some other celebration, there

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

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

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

Simply put, compound interest is when interest earns interest. Say you have \$1,000 and you are paid 4% annual interest. At the end of twelve months the total in your account would be \$1,040. At the end

of twenty-four months the total would be \$1,081.60, not \$1,080 as many would have guessed. The extra \$1.60 in our example is from the compounding effect. Compounding works for you on the investment side, but works against you on the debt or borrowing side.

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

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

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

Revolving Debt (Credit Card) Fixed Debt (Car Loan)

Amount Borowed: \$15,000 @ 15/%* \$15,000 @ 15%** **Total Monthly** \$525 per month \$525 per month Payments: Years To Payoff: 15 years 3 years **Interest Paid:** \$8,156 \$3,674 **Total Cost:** \$23,156 \$18,674

Source - Equifax

*Assumes revolving payment (minimum) of 3.5% of the remaining balance or \$20, whichever is greater. First month's payment is shown and term assumed continued payment of minimum amount. No additional debt incurred and payments decrease over time period.

**Assumes payment of 3.5% of initial loan amount, no additional debt incurred and payment amount remains fixed throughout the term of the loan. This illustration is hypothetical only. Each debt situation will vary.

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

To combat the need for debt, set a budget for the holidays, for food, gifts, anything that is required for the season. Discuss with the family and adhere to it. For next year's holiday season, set aside a certain amount each pay period or month between now and then. When December 2017 arrives, you will have cash ready to go, and can start the 2018 New Year in a truly festive mood and maybe debt free.

If you have questions, comments, or an area of financial interest you would like to see discussed in The Park Press, please call John at 407-353-0594 or send email to FiscalFitness@ymail.com. Follow John on Twitter, @john_gill1.

family business perspective by Jeff Bannon

Where Do You Fall In Your Business – Flintstones Or Jetsons

how technology has influenced our everyday lives. Do you remember what the business environment was like?

In the last 10 years we have grown used to having immediate access to information, and absorbing everything digitally in the moment. But when you look at the timeline of technological advances, it is shocking to realize that it has only been nine years,

(yes, I said nine!), since the iPhone was released, revolutionizing the way we interact and find information. Even more of a shocker is that it was not until 2010 (only SIX years ago) that Apple released their first iPad, moving consumers from digital readers to full functioning tablets. Now think, how prevalent are

phones and tablets in our daily business and personal lives now? How have these devices changed the way you and your team conduct business? How does it impact the way your customers find and interact with you?

So you may be thinking, what the heck does all of

Think back to 2006. Think specifically about this have to do with succession planning? It's pretty simple, the speed of communication, absorption of data, access to information and the ability to share, all influence the sustainability of your business. Are you taking time to step away from the daily grind to think strategically about how your business is impacted by technology advancements? How your business is impacted by economic, political and generational changes?



If you have had any exposure to the strategic planning process, a critical step is walking through the SWOT Analysis - Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats. Often times there is a substantial amount of time spent working through how to leverage strengths and overcome weaknesses, while

opportunities and threats are brushed over with less strategic thought or follow through.

Strengths and weaknesses are real, we can feel and measure them, but since opportunities and threats consider how outside influences impact your business, the discussion generally feels lofty and hypothetical. However, more than ever, we are in an age of constant change, and if someone can dream it, it will likely happen, and faster than you expected.

> Confirming mission, vision, and core values are also tried and true concepts of strategic planning. If you drive these philosophies throughout your organization, they shape culture, and give your people direction to focus on the right things critical to the success of your business. Defining your mission

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and vision also creates clarity towards the business you are in - keeping you focused on what is important no matter the outside influences. Whatever you identify as your vision and mission, you can then better determine how you want to approach opportunities and threats impacting your organization.

Jeff Bannon is a partner of The Rawls Group which has helped business owners with their succession planning since 1973. Well-respected in his field, Jeff is a highly requested speaker and has published numerous articles on this subject.







real estate in the parks by Scott Hillman and Sam Hillman

Housing Market Shows Signs Of Sustainability

Central Florida's real estate

market continues to ride a wave of robust home prices and rising sales. The upward momentum in the housing market has been building nationwide over the last three years, setting records in several top cities. The 2016 3rd quarter U.S. Home Sales Report confirms that home prices hit a new all-time high, surpassing the pre-recession peaks.

Our area has seen substantial growth in the housing sector over the past year, ranking Orlando among the top five hottest home markets in the country. In September, the overall median home price rose 12% year-to-year to \$205,000, while sales increased 3%. According to the Orlando Regional Realtors Association, median home prices have now experienced year-over-year increases for the past 62 consecutive months.

In addition to higher prices and sales, home value has appreciated and the affordability index remains below the national average. That combination of factors remains the key for our housing market to keep progressing in a positive direction. But the question is: can Orlando sustain this vibrant level?

First, let's look at pricing. When we analyzed the region's figures during the third quarter of 2016, as compared to the same period one-year ago, this is what we found:

- In Orange County, median single-family home and condominium/townhome prices are up 10.9% and 13.1%, respectively.
- In Winter Park (32789), median single-family home and condominium/townhome prices are up 17.7% and 53.3%, respectively.

While those figures seem impressive, keep in mind our area's home prices are primarily still below pre-recession highs. If you compare these numbers to the third quarter results from 2006, we see home prices still have room to grow.

- In Orange County, median single-family home and condominium/townhome prices are 11.4% and 30.3% below pre-recession highs.
- In Winter Park, median single-family home and condominium/townhome prices are 1.9% above and 16.0% below pre-recession highs.

Sellers have capitalized on the robust pricing with listings closing quickly, many with all-cash offers. But will Orlando's home prices continue to impress? Sam Hillman, Realtor and Market Analyst with Fannie Hillman + Associates says sustainability is key. "Prices should continue to rise through the end of the year and into 2017, but at a more sustainable rate than we've seen over the last 3-4 years."

Existing home sales of all types also continue to show an upward momentum. September real estate figures for our region showed a year-toyear increase of 2.59% with single-family homes increasing 1.43% and condo sales increasing 6.51%, respectively. Buyers are benefiting from the persistent low-interest rates, averaging around 3.49%. I expect this trend to continue over the next few months with solid economic and population expansion across our region as the drivers in both sales and pricing.

Another factor in the market's sustained growth is the affordability index. Orlando still ranks lower than the national average, allowing more first-time buyers to enter the real estate market. The downward trend in the index will be a considerable factor as more millennials expected to dip their toes into the housing market in 2017 and choose to buy.

Scott Hillman is president of Fannie Hillman + Associates, a 35-year-old Winter Park-based real estate company specializing in residential real estate sales. Sam Hillman is a realtor and Market Analyst at Fannie Hillman + Associates. Together, they produce Hillman Homes, a customized quarterly publication showcasing local luxury listings, editorial features, and The Hillman Report, a semiannual look at residential real estate in Orange and Seminole counties. Read the latest issue 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

The Power Of Water In The Garden

Just what is it about water that causes the head to swivel,

the pace to slow, and the pulse to quicken? Water has power. It's an element that is often left out when designing a garden, but never overlooked when it is present. Water has seduced us many times in both the most intimate, and the grandest of gardens.

Seduction by water is not a recent phenomenon. As early as the 26th century B.C., Egyptians grew reeds and papyrus around a central pool near their homes. Ornamental canals, cascading fountains, and streaming pools enlivened Roman gardens. Even during the Middle Ages, medieval gardens often contained a fountain or a pond. Moorish gardens of the 13th century were comprised of enclosed courtyards with overflowing basins and channels of running water. These inspirational water courses not only provided compelling focal points at each axis, they also symbolized water's sacredness to early garden makers.

Water stimulates all of our senses. Murmur, babble, drizzle, gurgle, crash, roar, reverberate. These sounds pull us into the garden – then through it. We search around corners, beyond walls, down winding pathways for the source of such potent and primeval sounds. Visually, water is just as powerful. Dewy, glistening, mirror-like, luminous – the sight of it holds the eye and stills the feet. It serenely reflects the sky and tracery of branches in a still pool. A seat near water, or one with a view of it, allows us to linger and absorb these pleasures.

Sensed by our skin and the sensitive passages of the nose, water is atmospheric. The humid mist of fine droplets refreshes us on a hot day. Is it the sight, the sound, or the feel of water that rejuvenates the body and the mind?

While we humans are likely to groan about transporting loads down an incline, water never complains. It trickles, gurgles, and cascades down a slope. In a garden with elevation, gravity is a gardener's ally and water's driving force. Molecules of water spout, gush, and drip from water features, moving

on an endless journey. Resting serenely at the bottom in a pool, they are always ready to be pumped uphill for yet another liquid run downhill.

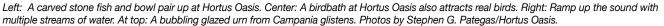
Water features have the uncanny ability to create a mood in the garden – mysterious, meditative, playful, ethereal, ominous, lethargic, mesmerizing, invigorating. Surely, a garden without water is a garden without a smile.

In our own garden, we longed for those relaxing sounds of water and the visual and auditory stimulation of water's fluidity. We also needed focal points that could hold their own in a garden of lush plantings and ornaments. Now, two water features grace our gardens. A fish fashioned from volcanic stone recirculates water into a carved stone bowl purchased in Bali.

Around the corner, a dribbling birdbath attracts hosts of birds and at night, with our heads resting on pillows just a few feet away, lulls us to sleep.







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



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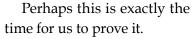


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live meaningfully by Ayesha G. Bullock, M.A.

12

They Say "It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year..."



The election has passed, and with it the frenetic energy of dissension, anger, and con-

fusion. We, as a society, now have the opportunity to refocus and recalibrate that which is necessary to make us whole and connected again. December offers us all of the ingredients necessary to do just that in time for the holidays and a new year.

- 3 tablespoons humility
- 3 cups chopped expectations
- 1 teaspoon fresh perspectives
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt (salt's in every good
- 1 tablespoon freshly delivered good news
- 3 cups gratitude
- 2 sticks of butter (also in every good recipe)
- $2 \frac{1}{2}$ lbs ground love (93% lean)
- ½ cup plain wisdom
- 2 large eggs, beaten with experience
- 2 ½ cups empathy stock or broth
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups faith (hope is an acceptable substitute if you're in a pinch)
- 1 tablespoon forgiveness
- 2 teaspoons tolerance
- ½ teaspoon sugar (to cut the salt :)
- 3 ½ cups generosity



Preheat oven to 2017.

Heat the first six ingredients in a medium sauté pan coated in olive oil. Mix the love, wisdom, experience, and generosity in a separate bowl. After fully mixed, add the empathy broth and all remaining ingredients. Mix well. Spread evenly in greased 13 x 9 pan, cover with aluminum foil, and bake for 25 days. Allow to cool, and serve for Christmas.

Though the recipe may not be exact, I encourage you to create your own take on this and have

your favorite family and friends help you perfect it. Then share generously in your community and to those in need.

Here's wishing you a holiday season full of all the most delicious memories, compelling experiences, heartfelt moments, and shared joys. May your season be Merry and your coming year Bright.

With my love and thanks for your time and attention throughout yet another year...

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

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



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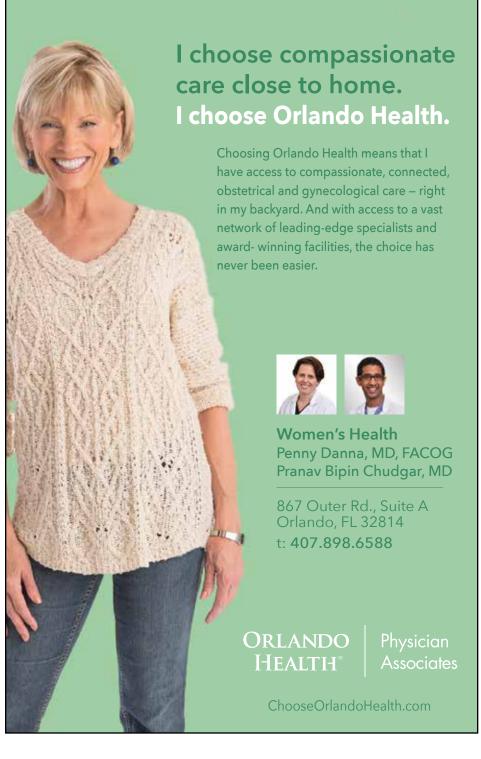
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planned giving by Rachel Calderon

How Do Your Put Philanthropy On A Mission?

During the holiday season, we look forward to pulling out our favorite

recipes - some longstanding traditions and others new to the mix. The tastes and smells fill our homes with enticing scents and our hearts with precious memories. It's part of what makes this the most wonderful time of the year.

Often our holiday traditions include doing something for others - volunteer activities like providing meals and gifts to families in need, collecting clothing for a shelter, visiting a nursing home, or donating to the food bank. These are generous gestures that are important to nonprofits and their clients at this time of year. To carry on these traditions and add in a new element, consider how you can maximize your philanthropy.

Here's a recipe to put your philanthropy on a mission.

First, start with trust. Partner with people and nonprofits that have a proven track record of success and transparency. Talk to people who are knowledgeable about the community and know the ins and outs of who's doing what and how it all fits together. Use tools like Nonprofit Search (cffound.org/nonprofit_search) to research local nonprofits and Guidestar (guidestar.org) to re-

outside of our local area. Be familiar and comfortable with the level of transparency of a nonprofit. This makes a difference in how far the investment of your time and talent will go.

Next, add passion. Think about which causes you're passionate about. Some examples include healthcare, education, the environment, animals, research, homeless-

ness, human services, youth

that are close to our hearts. Lastly, add impact. When we come together, we can tackle our community's most pressing issues through bold, proactive action. It starts with each of us and our decision to make it happen. We can each impact our community and leave our own lasting legacy to inspire others. Mix trust, passion and impact together, and you have the recipe for philanthropy on a mission. Hold your giving to a higher standard, and look for a return on your investment to making a difference.

strategy for our philanthropy can

ensure that our dollars yield the

maximum results for the causes

Our community is what we make it. Let's embrace the spirit of philanthropy this year - and strengthen our community in the process.



Rachel Calderon is the Marketing & Communications Manager of the Central Florida Foundation.



WITH PURPOSEFUL GIVING, YOU CAN BUILD COMMUNITY BY BUILDING PHILANTHROPY.

When we come together, we can tackle our community's most pressing issues through bold, proactive action. Creating collective impact starts with your individual decision to contribute. The Central Florida Foundation can help you make the right gift at the right time to yield maximum results. In the process, you'll leave a lasting legacy for your loved ones. As we approach year-end, your desire to make a difference can also benefit your bottom line. It's always a good time to give ... but now is the ideal time to achieve tax benefits by doing so.

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pop culture detours by George McGowan

Where Has My Pop Culture Muse Gone?

I start this article with no idea what to write about. My Pop Culture Muse has left me. I blame the election. I blame 2016, in general. Looking back at the year, it seems to have been dominated by negativity. It has overpowered me. Looking back at the year, I feel I have not served you, dear reader. For one, I did not see one movie in a movie theatre all year. I expect that will change before the end of the year, as several interesting movies are scheduled to be released in December, including the first non-sequel

Star Wars film, "Rogue One."
As of this writing,
I only saw two
movies released
in theatres in 2016:
"Hail, Caesar!" and
"Ghostbusters" – both
of which I watched on TV
when they became available on demand. Both
disappointments, really,
so true to the theme of the
year. Looking back at the
TV shows of 2015, I have to
mention another disappoint-

ment – the return of the "X-Files." The limited series aired in January and February and was, in hindsight, just not very good. It was nice to see the two leads again, David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson, but that is all I remember from the forgettable six episodes.

In music, 2016 was dominated by losses. Bowie, Prince, Glenn Frey, Maurice White, Phife Dawg, Merle, Guy Clark, Thomas Fekete, Christina Grimmie, Ralph Stanley, Bernie Wor-

about in my first ever column in this fine publication, way back in September 2008. The music in heaven just got that much better but we here on earth will suffer from the loss of these fine musicians.

ENOUGH! Time to snap out of it!

recently, Sharon Jones, who I wrote

ENOUGH! Time to snap out of it! Rather than wallow in what is now missing from our lives, I believe it is time to point out the living legends of music who are still with us – and some who continue to make good, if not great, music. Loretta Lynn (age

(75), Paul Simon (75), Barbra Streisand (74), and Van Morrison (71) all released new music in 2016. And Brian Wilson continues to tour regularly, including a scheduled stop in Orlando in 2017.

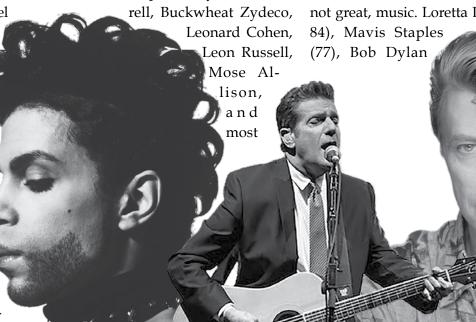
As penance for wallowing in the negativity of 2016, and to banish the year to the waste bin, I will listen to these living legends for the rest of the year. And don't forget the others who still grace stages to this day: Little Richard, Tony Bennett, Aretha Franklin, Smokey Robinson, and Willie Nelson, not to mention those who

pack stadiums like Jagger, Richards, and McCartney. Heck, even Ringo (76) and Yoko (83) tour regularly and keep active websites with all manner of interesting stuff.

So, onto 2017! May our new year be dominated with positivity and promise. (And maybe a trip to the movie theatre for good-

ness sake, Mr. Pop Culture!)

> From left to right: Prince, Glenn Frey, and David Bowie.



theater in the parks by Barbara Solomon

The British Are Coming

A MARVELOUS PARTY!
WORDS AND MUSIC BY NOËL COWARD
DIRECTED BY STEVEN FLAA
STARRING ROY ALAN, LARRY ALEXANDER, AND LAURA HODOS

Noël Coward's words shine in this British comedy musical. In between his songs we're treated to many of his pithy quotes. Coward's clever lyrics are demonstrated in numerous songs, one of which is "Mrs. Worthington." Another witty one is "What Ho! Mrs. Brisket," adorably sung by Roy in a '30s bathing suit; and his wonderful soft shoe made it even more special. He employed many of his marvelous tap steps in this and other soft shoe versions throughout the show.

We were unbelievably fortunate that Larry Alexander was willing to come up from south Florida to grace our Winter Park stage. I first met him when we worked at Burt Reynolds in Jupiter on "Bye-Bye Birdie." His rendition of "Mateloit" urchin to duch was absolutely beautiful. And Laura was the perfect complement to the guys. Their three voices blended extremely well. Her twelve-minute monologue at the end of Act I was just amazing, and I always love listening to her sing.

you prefer.

Bobbie Bel Eliza's father.

Patterson did Eliza's transform urchin to duch not give kude ing the beauti authentic cos young addition bunnett.

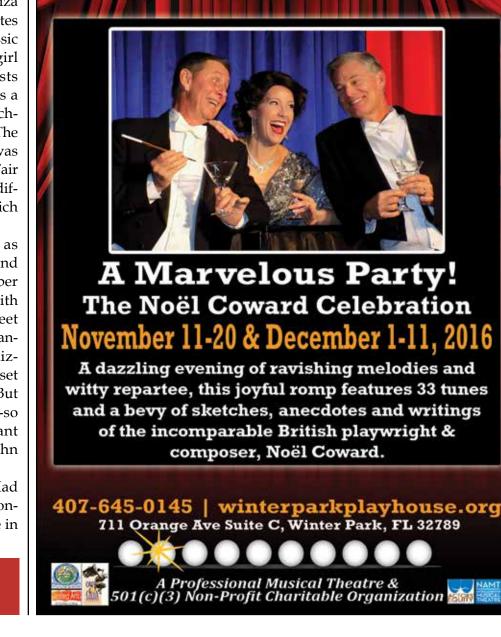
So come to "A Marvelous Party!" at The Winter Park Playhouse. You'll enjoy the great songs and witty repartee in this romp featur-

ing 33 tunes and a bevy of sketches. Playing through December 11.

And at Mad Cow we meet Eliza Dolittle and her London associates in "Pygmalion." This is the classic comedy of a West End flower girl brought home by two linguists who bet they can pass her off as a duchess in three months by teaching her to speak proper English. The story may sound familiar as it was adapted for the hit musical "My Fair Lady." But Shaw's version has a different ending – you choose which you prefer.

Bobbie Bell stole the show as Eliza's father. It is a juicy role and he juiced it for all it's worth. Piper Patterson did an amazing job with Eliza's transformation from street urchin to duchess in two acts. I cannot give kudos without recognizing the beautiful, multi-faceted set of Robert Wolin and Liza Buck. But the best thing of all were the oh-so authentic costumes by a brilliant young addition to Florida, John Dunnett.

As many of you may know, Mad Cow has been going through concerns. It is good to hear they are in the process of reorganizing.



The Winter Park

Playhous

BARB'S BEST BETS FOR DECEMBER: "DREAM ROLES" AT UCF, "EVERY CHRISTMAS STORY EVER TOLD" AT ORLANDO SHAKES.

schools



Audubon Park Elementary PRINCIPAL ANNA FERRATUSCO

The holidays can be a chaotic time at an elementary school as the students prepare to celebrate in their own individual ways. While receiving a physical gift can be exciting, sometimes the best gift is the 'gift of time.' During the month of December, teachers are given the "Gift of Time" where they are given a large enough amount of time to go off-campus with their team and enjoy a meal together and each other's company. Their classes are taught by a member of the administration team so that no instructional time is lost and they know their students are in safe hands. This allows teachers some time to relax and get to know their team on a personal level. They typically return feeling refreshed and appreciated!

From everyone at Audubon Park Elementary, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season filled with family and lots of laughter. We wish all our students a restful break with plenty of extra time to play. Happy Holidays to all and see you in 2017!



Lakemont Elementary PRINCIPAL DR. BRENDA CUNNINGHAM

I can't believe that we are now almost half-way through our school year! Lakemont Leopards have been keeping busy with all sorts of assignments and activities this second nine-week period.



Pictured above, NEHS Dr. Cunningham, Dr. Diaz Cindy Clark, Leadership Winter Park

We had a wonderful STEAM night in mid-November, and many students and parents came out to learn about how the simplest things can be combined to create fun STEAM activities to challenge a child's creative and analytical mind. Lakemont STEAM night was complete with workshops, the Book Fair, and a wonderful dinner from one of our Partners in Education, Outback Steakhouse. Our National Elementary Honor Society students operated as servers to create a smooth dining experience for families. It was a great evening of family fun!

Additionally this month, we were also honored to have Leadership Winter Park visit and tour our campus. Leadership Winter Park is a program of the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce that identifies and promotes potential leaders from the business community who desire to become involved in making a difference in Winter Park. The program is an adaptation of a nationwide community-awareness, leadership preparation effort and offers a behind-the-scenes look at and study of the critical issues and challenges facing Winter Park. One of their monthly sessions focused on education which is what brought them to our school. We thank school board member Joie Cadle and our guests for being with us and learning about what it takes to educate children.

Finally, this season, it is our hope that everyone has a wonderful and safe holiday!



On November 1st, just after a year of fundraising, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School's new home basketball court was officially opened and blessed by Bishop John Noonan. The entire school community, along with the Morning Star students, gathered by the court. Students erupted in cheers as former Orlando Magic players Bo Outlaw and Nick Anderson, along with "Stuff," led them in free throws, jump shots, and cheers.

"Recreation is not just for fun, it also helps children grow in their relationship with God and each other," said Principal Nadeau. Up until the construction of the new court, St. Charles and Morning Star students were sharing facilities at Bishop Moore Catholic High School. "God has blessed us with the ability to play and be a part of sports," Nadeau continued. "Without a doubt, Jesus played games as a child with his friends. Our children should be taught that our faith comes with us when we are on the court or field or competing, not hidden under a bushel. Our faith should always be visible, especially when competing in sports, for all to see and to glorify God."

Pictured below: Orlando Magic mascot Stuff (center) with former Magic players Nick Anderson and Bo Outlaw join in the opening of the new basketball court at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School.

CATED FOR LIFE



Please Join Us For Our

KINDERGARTEN CHAT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

PROSPECTIVE PARENT **OPEN HOUSE**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

PLEASE RSVP OR SCHEDULE A PERSONALIZED TOUR

jfleming@thechristschool.org • 407-849-1665

106 E. Church Street • Orlando, FL 32801 • thechristschool.org







COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Audubon Park Garden District Events

Ongoing Events

16

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.

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

Every Wednesday Belles and Beaus Dance Club has dances every Wednesday (except November 23) from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at the Marks Street Recreation Complex located at 99 E. Marks Street. Join in for an evening of fun and dancing to music by the Soft Touch band. Refreshments are available. Singles and couples are welcome. Cost: \$5.00 per person. For more information please call 407-277-7008.

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

Every Friday Your Adult Club Socials (Y.A.C.S.) Dance – 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Marks Street Recreation Center, 99 E. Marks St., Orlando, FL. Admission is \$4.00 for members and \$5.00 for guests. Dress code of no jeans, tennis shoes, or tee-shirts. Singles and couples are welcome. For more information, please call Joan at 407-339-5393.

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.

Now - January 7 Light Up UCF – This annual event includes ice skating, light shows, music, photos with Santa and more. For more information, please visit www.lightupucf.com.

December 1 The Orange County Retired Educators Meeting – 10:00 a.m. at the College Park United Methodist Church, 644 W. Princeton Street. Anyone who has worked in education is invited to join. For more information, please call 407-677-0446.

December 17 13th Annual Snow Fest – 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the RDV Sportsplex Ice Den located at 8701 Maitland Summit Blvd. For more information, please visit www. rdvsportsplex.com

December 17 "Holidaze" Concert – 7:00 p.m. featuring the Central Florida Sounds of Freedom Band and Color Guard at the Orlando Repetory Theatre located at 1001 East Princeton Street. Tickets are \$10; available at the door or online at www.CFSOF.com. Kids 12 and under are free.

December 5 The Orange County Retired Educators Meeting – 10:00 a.m. at the College Park United Methodist Church, 644 W. Princeton Street. Anyone who has worked in education is invited to join. For more information, please call 407-677-0446.

February 4 10th Annual Orlando Out Of The Darkness Community Walk – 7:30 a.m. at 2420 Lakemont Ave. Funds raised support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and its bold goal to reduce the annual suicide rate in the United States 20 percent by 2025 through research, education, advocacy, and support. To register, donate or to learn more please log on to www.outofthedarkness.org.

Maitland Events

Ongoing Events

Every Sunday Maitland Farmers' Market at Lake Lily.

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.

Winter Park Events

Ongoing Events

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through April 14 Free Tax Assistance Free Tax Assistance – 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Winter Park Library.

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

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

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

Every Thursday "Walk With A Doc" – Enjoy a rejuvenating 45-minute walk with Florida Hospital physicians. This free event is held at 6:00 p.m. at the Crosby YMCA. For more information, or to reserve your spot, please call 407-644-2300.

Every Friday (November - April) Free Friday Nights At The Morse – 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Morse Museum located at 445 N. Park Avenue. This event includes live music, curator tours and art demonstrations. For more information, please call 407-645-5311, or visit www.morsemuseum.org.

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

Every Saturday and Sunday Line Dance Class – 10:00 a.m. Saturday for experienced dancers, and 3:00 p.m. Sunday for beginners at the Winter Park Community Center located at 721 W. New England Avenue. Enjoy music, make new friends, and get some fun exercise at the same time! For more information please call 407-592-7835.

Every Sunday Winter Park Running Group–7:00 at Park Avenue and Welbourne. New participants are welcome to join. For more information, please email jackgallagher@gmail.com.

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.

December 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11 "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" – Show times depending on day are at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Orlando Repertory Theater. For more information, please visit www.circletheatrecompany.com.

December 2 Live Music – 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. featuring Victoria Lynn Schultz playing the harp. Free at the Morse Museum located at 445 N. Park Ave. For more information, call 407-645-5311, or visit www.morsemuseum.org.

December 2 Popcorn Flicks In The Park – Featuring the showing of "The Santa Clause" at 7:00 p.m. in Central Park. For more information, please visit www.winterpark.org.

December 3 64th Annual "Ye Olde Hometown" Christmas Parade – 9:00 a.m. along Park Avenue and West Morse
Blvd. For more information, please visit www.winterpark.org.

December 5 City Blood Drive – 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. at City Hall.

December 5 Comprehensive Plan Coffee Talk – 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at the Winter Park Welcome Center located at 151 W. Lyman Ave. For more information regarding the proposed Comprehensive Plan elements, the adoption process timeline, drafts and revisions, please visit cityofwinterpark.org/comp-plan.

December 7 Christmas At The Casa – 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Casa Feliz.

December 7 Leadership Winter Park Holiday Luncheon – 11:30





THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
38TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK
6:15 to 8:00 p.m. Exhibition of centuryold Tiffany windows in Central Park, the
Morse and the City of Winter Park present
an outdoor concert of holiday favorites
by the Bach Festival Choir and Brass
Ensemble. Free.

a.m. at the Winter Park Farmers' Market, 200 W. New England Ave. Join Leadership Winter Park alumni and members of Class XXVII for a holiday luncheon featuring David Odahowski, president Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation, as a keynote speaker. For more information, please visit www. winterpark.org.

December 9 Good Morning Winter Park – 7:45 a.m. at the Winter Park Welcome Center located at 151 W. Lyman Ave. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.winterpark.org.

December 16 Live Music At The Morse – 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Beautiful Music Italian Trio (bass, flute, and guitar or mandolin). Free at the Morse Museum located at 445 N. Park Ave. For more information, call 407-645-5311, or visit www.morsemuseum.org.

December 17 21st Annual Merry Tuba Christmas – 1:00 p.m. Central Park.

December 18 Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra "Peter And The Wolf And Holiday Favorites" – Noon to 3:30 p.m. Central Park.

December 23 Live Music – 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Beautiful Music Three Flutes Only. free at the Morse Museum located at 445 N. Park Ave. For more information, call 407-645-5311, or visit www.morsemuseum.org.

December 24 Christmas Eve Open House – 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art. Free admission with live music by the Raintree chamber Players from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information, call 407-645-5311, or visit www. morsemuseum.org.

December 25 Chanukah On The Park – 5:30 p.m. in Central Park.

December 30 Live Music – 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Beautiful Music Jazz Trio (flute, guitar, and upright bass). Free at the Morse Museum located at 445 N. Park Ave. For more information, call 407-645-5311, or visit www.morsemuseum.org

