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## Santa Claus Is Coming To Town!

The City of Winter Park is preparing to welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus to the City Monday, December 10, through Thursday, December 13, and Monday, December 17. Young and young-at-heart will have the chance to mingle with Old St. Nick himself as he rides his sleigh through Winter Park neighborhoods. “On Dasher, on Dancer and Donner and Blitzen!” Santa and Mrs. Claus will make stops in local neighborhoods according to the following schedule\*:

### Monday, 12/10

Shady Park.....6:30 p.m.  
Israel Simpson Court .....6:45 p.m.  
Winter Park Country Club ...7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, 12/11

Lake Knowles, east side .....6:30 p.m.  
Phelps Park .....7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, 12/12

Brookshire Elementary .....6:15 p.m.  
Fire Station 62, Lakemont .....7:15 p.m.  
Genius and Mizell Avenues ...8:00 p.m.

### Thursday, 12/13

The Park at Orwin Manor ....6 p.m.  
Briarwood Drive.....6:45 p.m.  
Harland Park (Blueridge Road)  
.....7:30 p.m.  
Chelton Circle .....8:00 p.m.

### Monday, 12/17

DePugh Nursing Center .....6:30 p.m.  
Margaret Square ..... 7:30 p.m.

\* Times are approximate and subject to change.

In addition to welcoming Santa and Mrs. Claus this holiday season, the City of Winter Park has many other holiday events planned for all ages to enjoy. Gather with friends, family and loved ones to experience Winter Park’s holiday traditions.

The City of Winter Park wishes everyone a very happy and safe holiday season!





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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

Thanksgiving. In a publication, the term Black Friday was coined to define the massive traffic jams, overcrowded 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 we look forward to the great things to come!

*Rick*  
Rick Cable  
Founder/Owner

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# City Commissioner's Message

Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, City of Orlando District 3



Robert F. Stuart

Holidays are just around the corner and I wanted to take the time to wish you and your loved ones a happy and safe holiday season. This is my favorite season of the year because there are so many ways to spend time with family and friends. Keep reading for fun things to do in December!

A wonderful way to spend time together is at Leu Gardens. J.A. Cobb's Ribbit the Exhibit II is back and it is displayed throughout the 50-acre gardens from now until January 31, 2019. This exhibition features 26 copper frog sculptures located in 18 displays throughout the gardens. Take a picture in front of "The Thinker" and tag us on Facebook, we love to see our residents supporting our local City jewels. For more details, please visit <https://www.leugardens.org/>

Lake Eola is lit up for the holidays, so come downtown and enjoy an evening walk around the lake, some great dining, concerts at the amphitheater, movies on the lawn, and more. Throughout the entire month of December, downtown Orlando is offering free holiday movies for all to enjoy! On December 7 grab a blanket and come watch The Polar Express at 7 p.m. at Lake Eola. If you miss that one, don't worry, you can catch Disney's Santa Clause on December 15 at 7 p.m. You can also watch National Lampoon's Christmas Va-

cation Friday, December 21. For more information visit Lake Eola's Facebook page.

Loch Haven Cultural Park is a great place to visit and spend a quality afternoon with the arts and sciences, with a holiday twist. Check out our city's Parks & Recreation website to start your journey.

The Amway is also full of holiday events. The

by a live symphony orchestra, amazing acrobats, aerialists, hilarious hijinks, and holiday cheer.

On Saturday, December 8, enjoy the Winter Spark in Baldwin Park festival and parade in the Baldwin Park Village Center. The festivities begin at 4 p.m. with the parade starting at 7 p.m. Please visit [Baldwinparksevents.com](http://Baldwinparksevents.com)

Enjoy the Eola Wonderland Christmas Tree Show every night in December through Saturday January 5 at 5:45 p.m.; 6:45 p.m.; 7:45 p.m.; 8:45 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. The Eola Wonderland 72-foot Christmas tree will come alive with a synchronized light and music show while the Lake Eola fountain displays red, green and gold lights. Also, make sure to stop by the Eola House and take your picture with Santa between Friday, November 30 - Sunday, December 23, every Friday and Saturday from 4:30-9 p.m. and Sunday from 5-8 p.m. For more details, please visit [www.cityoforlando/events](http://www.cityoforlando/events)

Another great way to spend time with your family before the new year is at the Florida Citrus Bowl Parade on Sunday, December 29th on Rosalind Avenue, between Central Avenue and Robinson Street. The parade will feature signature citrus floats, marching bands from across the county, and family fun in downtown Orlando.

Please know that I am grateful to be your city commissioner and I love working with each and every one of you. Thank you for your continuous support to District 3. Merry Christmas and best wishes to you and your family for 2019!



Ribbit the Exhibit II is on display at Leu Gardens until January 31, 2019.

Cirque Musica Holiday presents Wonderland plays for one spectacular evening on Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now. This is a fun-filled and high-flying concert experience for the entire family featuring the talented cast of Cirque Musica accompanied by holiday songs performed



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# Winter Park Mayor's Message

Mayor Steve Leary



Steve Leary

## Re-cap of 2018

- As we wind down 2018 and gear up for the New Year, I want to share a few highlights from this past fiscal year that your city staff and city commission accomplished:
- Acquired 50+ acres of the Howell Branch wetlands for development of a natural park.
  - Undergrounded 5.7 miles of overhead power lines.
  - Began to underground the transmission and distribution power lines along Fairbanks Avenue from Harper Street to Interstate 4.
  - Opened the newly-renovated Fire Station 64 on Howell Branch Road.
  - Began Phase 1 of the fiber backbone project to connect all city facilities.
  - Added three properties to the Historic Registry.
  - Held a grand re-opening for the Winter Park Tennis Center and implemented a new management model to improve maintenance and revenues.
  - Completed the first three phases of the Denning Drive Multi-Use Trail improvements from Orange to Canton Avenue.
  - Added approximately \$750,000 to General Fund Reserves.
  - Held our millage rate for the 11th straight year.
  - Celebrated the city's arts & cultural organizations by hosting the inaugural "Weekend of the Arts" event.
  - Planted approximately 560 trees in parks and city rights of way.



Howell Branch wetlands

- Planted a 20-foot Red Cedar in Central Park to serve as the city's new official Christmas tree that will be lit for the first time at the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 7.
- Said goodbye to the Rachel D. Murrah Civic Center with a special "We Still Do" event that commemorated the civic center's historic significance and became Winter Park's largest public wedding vow renewal ceremony.
- Launched the new Family Fun Program to bring reconnect our families and parks with fun recreational activities.
- Hired three new directors for the Parks & Recreation, Fire-Rescue and Planning departments.

These are just a few of the successes your city has reached in just 12 months and we look forward to celebrating many more in the upcoming year. We are fortunate to be able to not just enjoy what we have inherited, but to also build upon our founders' vision and improve Winter Park for generations to come. I wish you and your loved ones a very happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

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# protection and service

By MPO James Whitman – The Winter Park Police Department

## A Year In Recap

It is hard to believe that another year has passed. Looking back over this past year, we have highlighted several topics to try to keep in mind to keep from becoming a victim. We stressed the importance of monitoring your bank and credit accounts for any unusual or unauthorized activity. We stressed the importance of destroying personal information when you are done with it to keep it out of the hands of those trying to commit identity theft. We mentioned the need to “clean out” your wallet and only carry those cards that you use routinely and to never keep your social security card on your person. We gave some advice on charitable giving as well how to avoid becoming a victim of some of the more prominent scams. We offered tips on how to secure your home while on vacation as well as during hurricane season. We cautioned you on the importance of wearing your seatbelt and making sure that you reduce your speed while traveling through school zones and to stop for those school buses that are loading and unloading. And of course, we invited you to come and participate in our National Night Out event here at the Winter Park Police Department.

Now that December is here, we want to remind everyone to be especially mindful while shopping. Limit the amount cash that you carry and only visit ATMs during daylight hours. If you are placing gifts or purchases in your vehicle, place them in the trunk out of sight. Once at home and the time comes to open them, if there are any large items, bring the boxes to our cardboard disposal dumpster (located outside the Police Department at the corner of N. Virginia Ave and W. Swoope Ave) so as not to “advertise” to any prospective thieves the new treasures in your home.

We hope that you all have a very happy and safe holiday season and that the New Year brings you prosperity and good luck!

Happy Holidays from the Winter Park Police Department!

### Adopt A Fire Station


With the help of the Neighborhood Preservation & Revitalization Division, Orange County Fire Rescue will once again participate in the Orange County Mayor’s Adopt a Fire Station for the holidays. The goal is to have all 41 Orange County Fire Rescue stations, as well as 911 Dispatch Center and headquarters, adopted by families and/or local organizations and businesses.

While most firefighters celebrate the holidays with their families and loved ones, many spend the holiday season on call at the Fire Station. In an effort to make the holidays special for them, the Adopt a Fire Station program began in 2012 so neighborhood groups, businesses, families, and non-profits could recognize and give back to their local stations during the holidays.

The program provides the opportunity to be creative in showing appreciation to local first responders. Those who have adopted in the past have prepared meals and holiday treats or organized special activities such as Christmas caroling. During the visit, crew members often offer station tours and take photos with the guests.

Registration for Adopt a Fire Station is currently open and runs through December 15, 2018. The campaign will run until January 1, 2019.

For more information, visit [www.ocfl.net/adoptafirestation](http://www.ocfl.net/adoptafirestation) or contact Tiana Davis of the Orange County Neighborhood Preservation and Revitalization Division at 407-836-5531 or [Tiana.Davis@ocfl.net](mailto:Tiana.Davis@ocfl.net).



### Winter Park Signs Deal For Low-Cost Wholesale Electricity

The city of Winter Park will see lower wholesale electric costs for the foreseeable future after city officials negotiated a new power purchase agreement with the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA).

“People need affordable electricity, especially in Florida where air conditioning is so important,” said the FMPA general manager and CEO, Jacob Williams. “Winter Park has a great municipal utility with competitive electric rates, and we are honored to help the city and its residents lower its power costs even more.”

The city chose FMPA’s bid in a competitive bid-

Continued on page 6



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## Community Center Pool Now Open Year-Round

The City of Winter Park's Parks & Recreation Department is pleased to announce the pool at the Winter Park Community Center, located at 721 W. New England Ave., will now be open through the winter months.

Make a splash this winter in the heated, zero-depth entry, state-of-the-art pool which will be open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., as well as Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition to two designated lap lanes for serious swimmers, the pool is heated to a comfortable 84 degrees and includes a spray play with recreation area for all to enjoy.

For City of Winter Park pool hours, event and swim lesson information, please call 407-599-3338 or visit [cityofwinterpark.org/swim](http://cityofwinterpark.org/swim).



## Orlando Magic's OMYF Open Raises A Record \$240K For Local At-Risk Youth

By Josh Cohen, [OrlandoMagic.com](http://OrlandoMagic.com)

After Mo Bamba was selected sixth overall in the 2018 NBA Draft by the Orlando Magic, one of the many things the 7-foot center was excited about at the start of his NBA journey was helping children throughout Central Florida reach their full potential.

As you might expect from someone who aspires to embolden kids, the 20-year-old wasted no time jumping into action by surprising youth at a Magic Youth Academy Basketball Camp in August. While walking them through drills on the court, Bamba relayed some very inspiring messages to all the children.

Now, three months since that event, the native of Harlem, N.Y. is even more eager and motivated to steer youth down promising paths.

Heartened by the fact that his teammates care just as much as he does about helping children achieve their goals, Bamba was elated to join Aaron Gordon, Terrence Ross, and Wes Iwundu at the 28th Annual Orlando Magic Youth Foundation (OMYF) Open Golf Tournament in November at Disney's Palm and Magnolia Golf Courses.

"It's just really fulfilling," Bamba said with a pair of customized golf clubs in his hand. "To some people it's just an appearance, but I actually enjoy it. I like to indulge in different things that they do out here in Orlando."

"Thankfully for me, for our organization and the city, these are a group of guys that actually enjoy doing these types of things in the community," he added.

Now in his seventh NBA season and third with the Magic, Ross has seen first-hand how fundraisers can dramatically improve lives and neighborhoods.

"It's amazing, especially when you have your own kids, it puts a lot of things into perspective,"

the 27-year-old said. "It's fun because I was definitely at one point of my life one of those kids, so it's great to know that somebody is out there looking out for you."

More than 200 golfers participated in this year's OMYF Open, which raised a record \$240,000 for under-served children in Central Florida.

The Magic and the DeVos family are committed to the community. Over the last 28 years, more than \$23 million has been distributed to local nonprofit community organizations through the OMYF, which is committed to helping youth realize their full potential.

The DeVos family's investment in the OMYF covers all administrative costs, allowing for 100 percent of all donations to go directly to the foundation to benefit children and families. The OMYF raises money through donations, auctions and events such as the OMYF Open and the inaugural Orlando Wine Festival and Auction, which is scheduled for March 15-17, 2019 at The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes.

"It's really gratifying that we can have fun, we can bring our fans together, but most importantly raise money for the kids," Magic CEO Alex Martins said. "It's great to have the players here. They were interacting with our fans and having a great time. They understand what our mission is to help the kids of Central Florida and they are always great about participating."

With another successful OMYF Open in the books, the Magic now look forward to the team's signature fundraiser in March, the inaugural Orlando Wine Festival and Auction benefiting the OMYF. The Orlando Wine Festival and Auction will replace the Magic's Black Tie and Tennies Gala after a 28-year run and will include exclusive vintner dinners, an outdoor festival featur-



## Jonathan Cox Joins GoldSky Security As COO And Managing Partner

Jonathan Cox joined GoldSky Security as a managing partner and will serve as the company's chief operations officer. Cox's primary role will be to lead and enhance GoldSky's service offerings, delivery capabilities, and operational infrastructure as the company continues to scale and expand across the U.S. His security and compliance expertise spans over 14 years and focuses on infrastructure design, risk assessments, and leading complex security & compliance management projects.



Jonathan Cox

Prior to joining GoldSky, Cox served as COO for Mediat, LLC. He was responsible for developing and managing Mediat's SaaS EMR software platform and leading the company to become the only college health EHR to achieve Type 2 SOC 2 + HITRUST CSF certification. Mediat was acquired by Banyan Software in 2017 which led Cox back to his entrepreneurial roots.

GoldSky founder & CEO, Ron Frechette, says, "Jonathan brings a deep understanding of information security controls from both a technical and compliance framework perspective which makes him an extremely valuable asset for our small-midsize business clients. We feel blessed and excited to have him on our team!"

Throughout Cox's career he has consulted with a variety of companies, providing his expertise in ISO 27001 gap analysis, policy and procedure development, security assessments, and security framework development. Additionally, he has created Information Security Training Programs for employees and managed third party client audits, including SSAE 18, PCI DSS and FISMA. Congratulations to Cox in his new role at GoldSky!

ing live music, live auction displays, local and celebrity chefs, wineries, and food pavilions.

"Although our Black Tie and Tennies Gala was a great event for 28 years, we wanted to raise more money and our goal is to raise more than a million (dollars) on an annual basis and I think the Wine Festival and Auction is going to give us a great opportunity to do that," Martins said.

For more information on the Orlando Wine Festival and Auction, please visit [www.wineauctionorlando.com](http://www.wineauctionorlando.com), and for more information on the OMYF please visit [www.omyf.org](http://www.omyf.org).

From Page 5.

ding process that included proposals from six other wholesale power providers. FMPA's proposal was selected because it provided the lowest cost to the city and its customers.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, FMPA will supply 10 megawatts of electricity to Winter Park. This amount will increase in 2020 when FMPA will supply Winter Park's partial-requirements power needs of approximately 70 megawatts through 2027. One megawatt serves approximately 200 customers.

"Winter Park has a strong working relationship with FMPA on a variety of projects, including the acquisition of 10 megawatts of solar energy," said Dan D'Alessandro, Electric Utility Department director. "We are happy to broaden our partnership with FMPA through this wholesale power agreement, which will allow us to continue to provide great rates to our electric customers and to fund the undergrounding of the city's overhead electric distribution system."

FMPA currently provides wholesale power to 21 Florida cities. Serving the power supply needs of other municipal electric utilities, such as Winter Park, is an opportunity for the agency to optimize its generation resources to lower costs and keep rates affordable for its customer-owners.

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Ayesha G. Shenk

# live meaningfully

by Ayesha G. Shenk, M.A.

## Everything Changes...

As anticipated, it is early November as I write this for our December print deadline and life is indeed markedly different. My doors are open to a temperate 64 degrees, the sun is shining, Bodhi is pacing, Sara Bareilles plays in the background, and I have a tiny, perfect, two-and-a-half week-old baby girl sleeping next to me.

Ava Grace Shenk was born just past midnight on October 29th, 2018. The significance of that date probably can't be overstated...of course, because her entry into our world has changed everything for us forever. But also, because it has set into motion a life's work that is yet unknown and full of promised magic. Joys and sorrows, triumphs and trials, other lives touched as a result of the child, girl, young woman, perhaps wife and even mother that she will eventually be in her own right, are yet to be discovered. On October 29th a mighty soul was unleashed into the world and life will be better as a result of it.

The other, particularly sweet, reason October 29th stands out in significance is because it was also my mother's birthday before she passed away in 1997.

She was the most amazing woman.

She was a force with whom to be reckoned and was beautiful in all the most important ways. She shaped the world (including me) in her all-too-few years in an extraordinary way and though I only had eighteen years with her, her profound impact was never lost on me.

To give you an idea, for years after her passing, strangers would approach me and ask if Nans was my mother. They would then wax on poetically about what she had done for them, how she had touched their lives or how much they had loved her. From local 'dignitaries' to the grocery baggers at Publix... I kid you not. She was really something.

Nevertheless, as one can imagine, her death rocked my world in all of the most painful ways and it took me years to come to some sort of acceptance, even if not understanding, of how it could have happened and what I was supposed to learn from it. Death is a particularly devastating force because it is the *only* thing that is infinite and never changes.

I was the youngest, by a number of years, of Nan's children and for much of my young life it was just the two of us. My sisters were away at school and my father traveled extensively for work. So rattling around a big house was a little girl and her mother making their way in the world according to their own set of rules. She and I created a unique language and understanding of life and the world at large that would serve me far beyond my eighteen years with her. She taught me to see people in the important ways and to express myself authentically and vulnerably. She taught me to listen to my inner voice and honor my own intuition. She may very well be the reason I am a therapist today.

After her passing I always wondered whether I'd have a daughter with whom I could share the same sort of closeness and understanding. I wished, hoped and prayed for it on days her loss felt particularly resonant.

I'm not sure who exactly Ava will be or how our relationship will evolve and I wouldn't dream of putting the duress on her to be who I once needed her to be... but I can't wait to find out and I am grateful that *everything changes*.

### Everything Changes – by Sara Bareilles

Today's a day like any other  
But I am changed  
I am a mother  
Oh in an instant  
And who I was has disappeared  
It doesn't matter, now you're here  
So innocent  
I was lost for you to find  
And now I'm yours and you are mine  
Two tiny hands, a pair of eyes  
An unsung melody is mine for safekeeping  
And I will guard it with my life  
I'd hang the moon for it to shine on her sleeping  
Starting here and starting now  
I can feel the heart of how  
Everything changes  
My heart's at the wheel now  
And all my mistakes  
They make sense when I turn them around  
Everything changes  
What I thought was so permanent fades  
And I swear I'll remember to say  
we were both born today  
Oh, and it's true  
What did I do to deserve you  
I didn't know, but now I see  
Sometimes what is, is meant to be  
...  
Thank God for you

Be Well; Live Meaningfully.  
Ayesha

Ayesha G. Shenk, M.A. practices at 2150 Park Avenue North as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and can be reached at [ayesha@livemeaningfully.net](mailto:ayesha@livemeaningfully.net) or 407-796-2959.

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Stephen & Kristin Pategas

in the garden by Stephen and Kristin Pategas

All photography by Stephen G. Pategas/Hortus Oasis

Does North Matter?

Whether you are in the Northern or Southern Hemisphere, the pole you are closer to has an impact on many activities. In the northern hemisphere, an artist desires light from a north-facing window. A sailor counts on the North Star to navigate. A solar panel installer aims panels to the south. A gardener needs to know where the sun rises and sets throughout the year and the difference between the winter and summer solstices.

Knowing where to find north is critical for determining where the sun will strike the ground through the seasons. Designing for the warmth of the sun on a terrace during the winter or for shade on a dining area or window during the summer requires knowing which way is north.

Many plants need specific light conditions to

thrive. While some plants will successfully grow in sun, shade, or somewhere in-between, many need more or less sunlight. Before purchasing any plants know their light requirements. Note that the sun in Florida is intense and some plants rated for full sun need partial shade in Florida. Scorched leaves are indicative of sunburn. Scorching can also occur when a plant is moved from a shady to sunny location. Plants that are “leggy-looking” are reaching toward the light and would benefit from more of it.

Areas of sun and shade change throughout the year due to the earth’s shift on its axis. In the Northern Hemisphere, at the summer solstice around June 21st, the sun rises and sets at its most northern points. The sun is so far north that even northern facing objects receive sunlight. If there are shade only plants in those

locations, they may stress from the sun that is coupled with longer days and the summer heat. On the south side, sunny areas become shady.

Once the summer solstice passes, the sun’s position shifts to the south and the temporary northern sunny areas return to full shade. As the winter solstice approaches, the shade deepens on the north side and the south side regains the sun.

Walls and overhead objects like overhangs, vine covered pergolas, and trees also cast shadows and affect nearby plantings. If there aren’t any trees with moss on one side of the trunk - moss typically seeks shade - find north by checking a property survey, a map, or a compass. Pay attention to each plant’s light requirements and what portions of the yard are sunny or shady over the year - then plant accordingly. Plants will benefit as they receive the proper amount of sun or shade.



Top left: Many caladiums look their best in shade to part shade conditions.  
Top middle: The evergreen cross vine (*Bignonia capreolata*) growing on a pergola will provide shade year-round.  
At right: Cast iron plant (*Aspidistra elatior*) thrives in shade only locations.  
At left: Typically moss grows more readily on the north side.

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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pop culture detours

by George McGowan

# Classic Storytelling In A Classic Setting

In the popular culture, the American West is a setting used throughout the ages as a metaphor for today's issues. The indomitable American spirit is on display in its most vital form, usually including perilous dangers and the actual and very real threat of death or disease. If you look for the metaphors, you can certainly find them. However, sometimes a story is just a story and I recently experienced all the emotions that good stories can deliver. In this most recent case, they were delivered visually through a television mini-series and an anthology film.

The first, "Godless" is a series that was introduced about a year ago and which I had identified as something worth checking out. I am glad I did! I'm not too manly to admit that I teared up at the final installment, due to the fantastic job that the creators did in fashioning some wonderful characters and some intriguing storylines. The story centers on the Western town of La Belle, New Mexico. The majority of its inhabitants are women who have lost their husbands to a tragic silver mine disaster. While these women strive to recover from their misery and salvage their town, a madman and his gang are on the loose and on a collision course with the town folk. Over seven episodes, we meet and begin to grow fond of a sheriff who is slowly losing his sight, a deputy who thinks he can outshoot all comers, the mayor's widow who strives to model self-sufficiency to her fellow widows, and a laconic and reluctant hero, of course. I enjoyed every minute.

The second is the latest film from the Coen Brothers, "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs." This anthology film was initially conceived as a mini-series and presents six individual stories of the West- and in classic Coen Brothers style, skewers all conventional ideas of the West. The first story features Buster Scruggs, a singing cowboy who had a deep and dark violent streak and gets the film off to a rousing start. The stories that follow show a gold prospector played (played wordlessly by Liam Neeson) and his "meal ticket" (played wonderfully and impressively by Harry Melling, who was Dudley Dursley in the Harry Potter films), and James Franco as an inept bank robber. The Coen Brothers have never met a character they couldn't put through trials of a cruel nature even though they may be simple and innocent and worthy of just one darn break. You'll find yourself enthralled by the fantastic photography of the Western scenery, and awed by what the people who travelled west had to endure for their dreams of freedom and opportunity.

Both of these fine entertainments are available through Netflix, and are well worth your time if you want to step away from today's holiday distractions and return to wonderful story and setting.



The Ballad of Buster Scruggs, starring Tim Blake Nelson.

theater in the parks

by Paul Gicola

## 'Tis The Season...

Now that we have put Halloween and Thanksgiving behind us, it's time to focus on Christmas and there are many theatrical experiences to help us get in the spirit. Here is a sampling of what is happening around the Orlando area.

**WINTER WONDERETTES - WRITTEN/CREATED BY ROGER BEAN**  
**DIRECTED BY ROY ALAN, MUSICAL DIRECTOR CHRISTOPHER LEAVY,**  
**PLAYING THROUGH DECEMBER 16, WINTER PARK PLAYHOUSE**

Roger Bean's original "The Marvelous Wonderettes" has evolved into four shows featuring four quirky young women. The holiday version currently playing at the Playhouse is totally delightful. As with all the Wonderette shows, there isn't much of a plotline. The focus is on the songs and the fun interaction between the ladies themselves and the audience. In this production the audience "employees" are part of the Harper Hardware Holiday Happening and the ladies who also work for the company are the entertainment for the event. There is also a playful number where audience members become part of the show.

The four Wonderettes have great voices and nice harmonies. Their version of "Snowfall" and the sexy "Santa Baby" were standouts. Of the 24 holiday songs, many were those you do not hear very often, giving it a fresher feel. The section featuring songs from different nations and one featuring risqué numbers with outlandish costumes was a blast. The ladies are charming as they perform together and take individual turns which gives them a chance to express their unique personalities. Lindsay Nantz plays Suzie the ditzy blonde was great in the number "Suzy Snowflake." Caitlin Doak is extremely funny as Cindy Lou. Her bittersweet version of "All Those Christmas Clichés" was outstanding. Lea Marinelli as the redhead Missy was a hoot in "This Christmas." Kate Zaloumes as Betty Jean exhibited a more dramatic side with "Christmas Will Be Just Another Lonely Day," reminding us that not everything about Christmas is happy. As usual, the musical ensemble under the direction of Christopher Leavy was first-rate.

- Other Holiday Happenings:**
- The Garden Theatre** - "A Christmas Story" (based on the motion picture). 11/24-12/23.
  - The Rep** - "Elf: The Musical" for the entire family (based on the motion picture) 11/12-12/30.
  - Dr. Phillips Center** - "White Christmas" by Irving Berlin. A musical based on the 1954 film. 12/18-12/23.
  - The Breakthrough Theatre of Winter Park**- "A Charlie Brown Christmas" 11/30-12/10.  
"A Breakthrough family Christmas" 12/14, 15 and 16.  
"A Sexy Christmas Cabaret" Adult Show 12/21 and 22.
  - Orlando Ballet** - "The Nutcracker" 12/7-16.
  - Orlando Shakes!** - "A Christmas Carol" 11/28-12/30.
  - CFCA** - "Let There Be Joy...A Christmas Celebration" 12/13 and 14.

**Theatre West End** - On a sad note, the revival of "A Christmas Carol" which was to be produced by Frank and Fran Hilgenberg of Theatre Downtown has been cancelled due to illness. The production had been a holiday staple for over 10 years at Theatre Downtown. The theatre was abruptly closed in early 2015 by Florida Hospital who claimed at the time that they needed the space but today still appears unused. Many theater goers, myself included, would like to see shows produced again by Theatre Downtown which had been a theatrical gem for over 20 years in Orlando.

The Winter Park

Playhouse

Holiday Fun!

Winter Wonderettes

WRITTEN AND CREATED BY ROGER BEAN

November 16 - December 16, 2018

Perfect Holiday Show for Everyone!

Featuring 60's versions of holiday classics including "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town," "Winter Wonderland" and more!

407-645-0145 | www.winterparkplayhouse.org

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MEMORIAL SERVICE CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BARBARA SOLOMON WILL BE ON MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019, 6PM AT THE WINTER PARK PLAYHOUSE.



## schools

## Audubon Park School

PRINCIPAL TREVOR HONOHAN

Audubon Park School was officially dedicated last month in a wonderful ceremony for the entire school. Special remarks from OCPS Superintendent Dr. Barbara Jenkins, Board Chair Bill Sublette and District 6 School Board Member Nancy Robinson inspired students to do their very best and take good care of the beautiful new facility. Students performed, gave speeches, and compiled a book about their favorite designs of the new school. The book was presented to architects from Baker-Barrios and the Welbro Construction Company. Each student was challenged to think of what was important to them, then take action to bring change to the local community or globally. Our recent Teach-In event reflected this message as our students and staff heard from local changemakers in the community about how they turned their passions into work with a purpose. We are thankful for the way our community supports our school!

In the spirit of giving, our Audubon Serves Committee is collecting gently-used cold weather attire (jackets, coats, gloves, hats) to distribute to those in need. All sizes welcome. Collection points are the front office and Ben & Jerry's of Winter Park. We also have a Giving Tree with student and family needs in our front office. We hope you'll consider stopping by and granting a wish.

## Baldwin Park Elementary

PRINCIPAL ANNA FERRATUSCO

The members of the Baldwin Park National Elementary Honor Society have hit the ground running since induction back at the beginning of October. The students have been doing various community service projects to earn their required hours. Most recently, our members have been assisting our PTA in collecting and organizing canned goods for our Fall Food Drive and collecting and submitting Box Tops for Education. The students are also working on picking a charity for which we will hold fundraisers in the spring. We are proud of our NEHS members in the fine examples they are to their classmates on campus and off, and for their hard work in helping the community around them.

## Brookshire Elementary

PRINCIPAL JASON FRITZ

November was a busy month at Brookshire. We held our annual Veteran's Day Program to honor those who have sacrificed so much for our country and freedom. Thank you to the Veterans who joined us and participated in the program. It was an honor to have you with us! We also had an incredible field day and we cannot thank Coach Topps and our volunteers enough for a tremendous day right before Thanksgiving break.



George Franco, Brookshire's OCPS Hero teacher.

Coach Topps always does such a great job creating fun and exciting activities.

We also honored two amazing Bulldogs this month. First, Melissa Pappas is a finalist for OCPS Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Pappas is one of five finalist and look forward to celebrating her in January at the district award ceremony. What an amazing accomplishment! Also, George Franco is Brookshire's OCPS Hero teacher! Mr. Franco is an amazing teacher who provides the best learning environment for his students. We are so proud of you both! Congrats Bulldogs!

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends. Brookshire is incredibly thankful for our community members and their support!

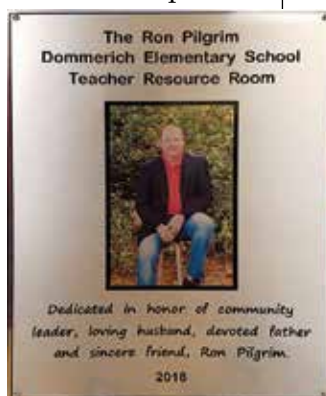


## Dommerich Elementary

PRINCIPAL KAREN VERANO

Dommerich Elementary is the proud owner of many new titles selected for all six grade levels and paid for by the DES Fund! Mostly informational texts, the books were purchased based on teacher recommendations and current curriculum.

The Dommerich Fund allocated \$12,000 for the updating of our Teacher Resource Room. In addition to spending about \$1300 on each grade level, they paid for three new scanners, shelf signage, books to complement Play-Away audio devices, earbuds, a cute new curtain, and the plaque to honor Ron Pilgrim. It has been a worthwhile project for our school!



## St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School

PRINCIPAL NATHAN NADEAU

**St. Charles Annual Gala Was A Huge Success!**

Nearly 200 guests filled The Alford Inn, for the Kentucky Derby Gala and Awards Dinner in October. The room was buzzing with excitement and the bidding wars started on over 190 silent auction items. Along with an amazing plated dinner and hosted bar, guests were entertained by placing their bets on video horse races and could even sit for a caricature with friends.

The SCBCS gala included annual recognition awards for the following:

**The Heart of St. Charles Award**  
Volunteers that distinguished themselves by demonstrating exceptional commitment to volunteerism in the school community.



Guests enjoying the Kentucky Gala and Awards Dinner, held in October at The Alford Inn.

Congratulations to: Mrs. Lenny Gillette and Mrs. Gemma Kay

**The Sisters of St. Joseph Award**  
By exemplifying the charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the recipients have been instrumental in guiding Catholic students by modeling a lifelong path of generosity, love and service.

Congratulations to: Mr. David Powers (awarded posthumously)

This amazing night raised over \$70,000 for SCBCS!

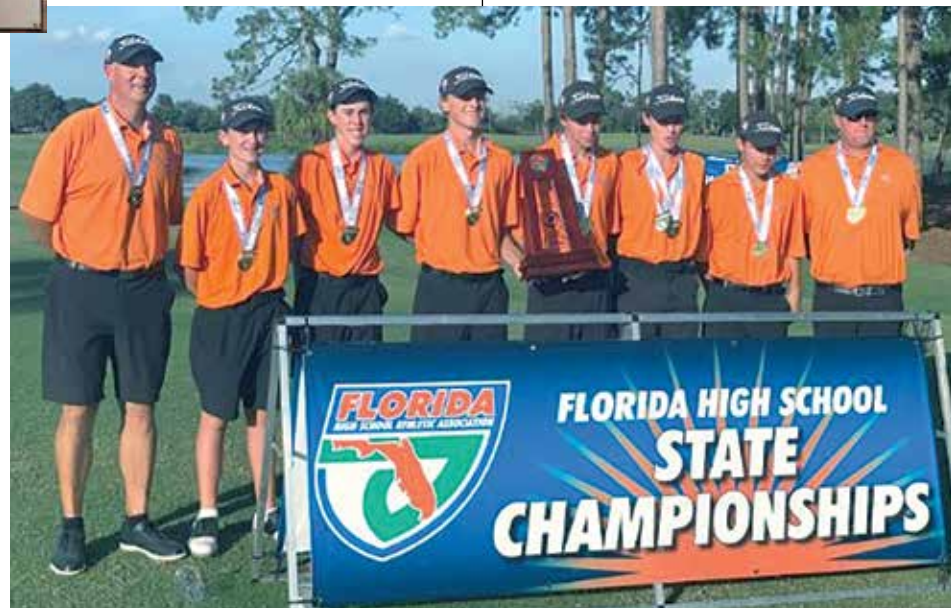
Many thanks to our Gala chair, Stephanie Martin; the many committee members; and generous sponsors for their gifts of time, talent, and treasures. Plans are already underway for next year's event. While every school wishes for a bottomless budget, necessary fundraisers help bring together our community in many ways. Thank you to everyone for their support!



## Winter Park High School

PRINCIPAL MATT ARNOLD

Winter Park High School has a lot to be proud of as many student athletes brought home titles this fall sports season. Congratulations to the boys' golf team for winning the State Championship for the first time in school history! Both girls' and boys' swimming won District Championships and competed at the Region Championships in No-



Congratulations to the Winter Park High School's boys' golf team for winning the State Championship.

vember. Girls' cross country won their sixth straight District Championship and girls' bowling won the Metro Championship. The Wildcat varsity football team was crowned district champs as they move into the post-season.

OCPS has partnered with UCF on a project that will showcase what we do in our schools with educators from other countries. Winter Park was selected to be involved with this initiative for the 2018-2019 school year. Until February, WPHS will host five educators from Saudi Arabia. These educators will be observing classes and other areas of the school. When the project concludes they will return to Saudi Arabia and suggest changes to be made to their education system.

## Winter Park Presbyterian PreSchool



Winter Park Presbyterian PreSchool students listen and learn about birds courtesy of the Audubon Birds of Prey.

Our annual Audubon Birds of Prey Event for the three-year-old & VPK classes was very exciting! The children had the opportunity to see two different birds, a falcon and an eagle. They learned many facts about each bird and also about their injuries and how they ended up at the sanctuary.

Many parents are already making preschool choices for the 2019-2020 school year. We are conducting tours by appointment only, and will allow parents who have taken a tour to register with our currently enrolled families on February 4. You can request a tour online via our website [winppc.org/preschool](http://winppc.org/preschool) or by calling 407-629-0727.

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas season followed by a restful and restorative break!



# 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.

**December 7 Leu Gardens Movie Night** - 7:30 p.m. at Leu Gardens located at 1920 N. Forest Avenue. Grilled items, popcorn, and drinks are available for purchase. Garden admission: \$6 adult, \$3 child (ages 4 – 17 years) and free admission for Leu Garden Members. For more information please call 407-246-2620 and visit leugardens.org for movie selections.

## Baldwin Park, College Park and Orlando Area Events

### Ongoing Events

**Every Monday and Friday Plant Clinics** - 8:00 a.m. to noon; and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the UF/IFAS Extension Orange County, located at 6021 S. Conway Road. Master Gardeners are available. Please stop by with your plant problem or soil for pH soil testing. Call 407-254-9200 or visit [http://orange.ifas.ufl.edu/res\\_hort/](http://orange.ifas.ufl.edu/res_hort/) for more information.

**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 Street. For information call 407-246-4447.

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

**Every Monday and Wednesday Body Pump Express** - noon at Florida Hospital Health Village Fitness Center, located at 2520 North Orange Avenue, Suite 101. General public is welcome, and cost is just \$5. Free for Health Village Fitness Center members. Call 407-303-2552 for more information.

**Every Tuesday and Thursday X-Fit** - 4:30 p.m. at Florida Hospital Health Village Fitness Center, located at 2520 North Orange Avenue, Suite 101. General public is welcome, and cost is just \$5. Free for Health Village Fitness Center members. Call 407-303-2552 for more information.

**Every Tuesday and Friday Tai Chi** - 10:00 a.m. at Florida Hospital Health Village Fitness Center, located at 2520 North Orange Avenue, Suite 101. General public is welcome, and cost is just \$5. Free for Health Village Fitness Center members. Call 407-303-2552 for more information.

**Every Wednesday Plant Clinic** – 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Harry P. Leu Gardens located at 1920 N. Forest Ave. UF/IFAS Extension Orange County Master Gardeners are available. Please stop by with your plant problem or soil for pH soil testing. For more information, please call 407-254-9200 or visit [http://orange.ifas.ufl.edu/res\\_hort/](http://orange.ifas.ufl.edu/res_hort/).

**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](http://www.TrackShack.com).

**Every Thursday Senior Stretch (Yoga Gold)** – 10:00 a.m. at Florida Hospital Health Village Fitness Center, located at 2520 North Orange Avenue, Suite 101. General public is welcome, and cost is just \$5. Free for Health Village Fitness Center members. Call 407-303-2552 for more information.

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

**Every Friday Friday Night Social Dancing** – 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Marks Street Senior Center, 99 E. Marks Street, Orlando. Singles and couples are welcome. Admission is \$5.00 for members and \$6.00 for non-members. Complimentary coffee and water is provided. Dress code is no jeans, tennis shoes, or tee-shirts. For more information, please call Joan at 407-339-5393. Your Active City Seniors.

**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.

## DECEMBER HIGHLIGHT

DEC. 7, 6:30 P.M., CENTRAL PARK

**MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET** - This classic film stars Edmund Gwenn, Maureen O'Hara, John Payne and Natalie Wood. Showing at 6:30 p.m., located at North Park Avenue and West Morse Boulevard. The event is free. For more information, please call 407-599-3397 or visit <https://cityofwinterpark.org/event/popcorn-flicks-in-the-park-18/>



**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.

**December 6 The Orange County Retired Educators Association Meeting** - 10:00 a.m. at College Park United Methodist Church, 644 W. Princeton Street. Call 407-366-8982 if you have any questions, or visit [www.ocrea-fl.org](http://www.ocrea-fl.org). Anyone who has worked in education is invited to join.

**December 6 Holiday On The Drive In College Park** - 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. along Edgewater Drive. For more information, please visit [collegeparkpartnership.com](http://collegeparkpartnership.com).

**December 8 Winter Spark In Baldwin Park** - 4:00 p.m. with parade starting at 7:00 pm. Along New Broad Street. For more information, please visit [baldwin-parkevents.com](http://baldwin-parkevents.com).

## Maitland Events

### Ongoing Events

**Every Sunday Maitland Farmers' Market** at Lake Lily.

**Every Thursday Healthy Maitland Walk** 7:00 a.m.; **Babytime** 10:30 to -11:30 a.m. and **Adventures w/Books Club** 2:00 at the Maitland Public Library. For more information, please visit [www.maitlandpl.org](http://www.maitlandpl.org).

**December 8 Jingle Run 5K** - This event is hosted by RDV Sportsplex, and all proceeds benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs' Joe R. Lee branch in Eatonville. The registration fee is \$35 through race day to participate. Registrations are available for purchase at [www.rdvjingleturn.com](http://www.rdvjingleturn.com)

## Winter Park Events

### Ongoing Events

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

**Every Tuesday and Thursday Tour of Louis Comfort Tiffany's Laurelton Hall** - 2:30 p.m. at the Morse Museum located at 445 N. Park Avenue. Learn more about Louis Comfort Tiffany's Long Island estate. Space limited. No advance reservations. Free with admission. For more information, call 407-645-5311, or visit [www.morsemuseum.org](http://www.morsemuseum.org).

**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. The shop is also looking for volunteers. For more information please call 407-647-8276.

**Every Wednesday Gallery Talk on Revival and Reform — Eclecticism in the 19th-Century Environment** - 11:00 a.m. at the Morse Museum located at 445 N. Park Avenue. Learn more about the rich diversity of styles, especially in leaded-glass windows, that made up the visual environment of the late 19th century in Europe and America. Space limited. No advance reservations. Free with admission. For more information, call 407-645-5311, or visit [www.morsemuseum.org](http://www.morsemuseum.org).

**Every Wednesday Plant Clinic** – 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Ave. For more information, please call 407-254-9200 or visit [http://orange.ifas.ufl.edu/res\\_hort/](http://orange.ifas.ufl.edu/res_hort/).

**Every Friday – November 23 through December 28 Holiday Friday Nights** – Free admission from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00

p.m., and live music from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at The Morse Museum. For more information, call 407-645-5311, or visit [www.morsemuseum.org](http://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. The group now includes members who walk exclusively, those who both walk and run, and those who run exclusively. It is very eclectic, and has an age span from people in their 20s through 80s. New participants are always welcome to join. For more information, please email [jackgallagher534@gmail.com](mailto:jackgallagher534@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](http://www.casafeliz.us).

**Now Through December 16 "Winter Wonderettes" presented by The Winter Park Playhouse** - Located at 711 Orange Ave., Suite C. For more information and showtimes, please call 407-645-0145.

**December 6 Christmas in the Park** – 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Central Park. The Morse Museum and the City of Winter Park present the 40th annual exhibition of century-old Tiffany windows and a free outdoor concert of holiday favorites by the Bach Festival Society Choir, Youth Choir, and Brass Ensemble. For more information, call 407-645-5311, or visit [www.morsemuseum.org](http://www.morsemuseum.org).

**December 7 Popcorn Flicks** - 6:30 p.m. featuring the showing of "Miracle of 34th Street" in Central Park. For more information, please call 407-599-3397.

**December 8 66th Annual Ye Olde Hometown Christmas Parade** - 9:00 a.m. along Park Avenue. For more information, please call 407-644-8281.

**December 9 Runners Collecting Food For Second Harvest** – 6:30 a.m. at Welbourne and Park Avenue. For more information, please contact Jack Gallagher at 407-647-3521 or [jackgallagher534@gmail.com](mailto:jackgallagher534@gmail.com)

**December 9 Chanukah On the Park** - 4:30 p.m. in Central Park. The event will include singing performances, live music, dancers, face painting, jugglers, food and grand menorah lighting. For more information, please call 407-529-5966.

**December 14 and 15 Snow in the Park** - Friday, Dec. 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Central Park West Meadow. For more information, please call 407-599-3342.

**December 22 23rd Annual Merry Tuba Christmas** - 1:00 p.m. at the Main Stage in Central Park. Registration for musicians begins at 9 a.m., with rehearsal from 10 to 11:30 a.m. For more information, please call 407-599-3463.

**December 22 Free Holiday Open House** - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. featuring live music at the Morse Museum. For more information, please call 407-645-5311.





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