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Winter Park Holiday Window Contest

The City of Winter Park Community Redevelopment Agency and **Electric Utility Department** are proud to bring back the Holiday Window Contest. As Winter Park learns new ways to thrive during the COVID-19 pandemic, the City is eager to present safe, socially-distanced opportunities for guests to enjoy as they support WINDOW CONT local merchants and dining establishments.

The new Holiday Window Contest will feature participating Park Avenue, Hannibal Square, and surrounding area merchants as they transform their storefronts into works of art with fun and festive holiday displays.

The public is invited to vote for their favorite windows via a simple QR code, or by accessing cityofwinterpark.org/HWC through Thursday, December 31. Participating merchants will display a numbered window sign with the QR code so that guests can scan and submit their top selection during the voting time period. The first and second place merchants will receive a \$500 and \$250 electric utility bill credit, respectively, generously provided by the City's Electric Utility Department. Winners will be announced the week of January 4, 2021. While guests

are visiting the area to enjoy the holiday window displays,

they are also encouraged to stroll by the windows of the former Gap location at the southeast corner

of Park and Lyman avenues. These windows have been decorated by members of the City's Arts & Culture Alliance in promotion of their mission, "To enhance and improve awareness and visibility of the non-profit arts and culture organizations within the City of Winter Park limits, which offer programming to the public."

For more information regarding participating in the Holiday Window Contest, merchants can visit cityofwinterpark.org/HWCregister or email HWC@cityofwinterpark.org.

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



Orlando Landmark Stewart Jewelry Preparing To Close

Stewart Jewelry is going out of business. As the store enters its seventy-fifth year, this will be its last holiday season in College Park.

Stewart Jewelry originated in Orlando's College Park at 2212 Edgewater Drive in 1946 when Edith and Burnett Stewart opened their dream store. Preceded in death by her husband Burnett, who died in 1977, Edith continued with the business until her passing in 2007. Their daughter, Phyllis Tuell, became owner of Stewart Jewelry in 1977. Tuell has continued to maintain the store traditions of honesty, ethics, and ultimate quality.

Phyllis Tuell is a certified gemologist and a custom design jeweler. She is a graduate of the Gemological Institute of America in New York City and a member of the Jewelers of America, a trade organization of professionals in the industry, which was started in I906. Tuell has a commitment to quality and fairness.

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The Park Press

PUBLISHER RICK CABLE rick@theparkpress.com

ART DIRECTOR JILL SHARGAA

ADVERTISING SALES advertising@theparkpress.com 407-644-6760

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND WRITERS

Janna McGowan, Robert Stuart, George McGowan, Stephen and Kristin Pategas, Ayesha G. Shenk, M.A., Steve Leary, MPO James Whitman, Ron Frechette, Paul Gicola

The Park Press, LLC, Winter Park, Florida Office: 407-644-6760 E-mail: info@TheParkPress.com

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Publisher's Message



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

Rick Cable

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

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

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

Since they were casting from a silent comic strip they quickly sought voices that they thought

match would the character's personalities. Most of the voices were provided by children, except Melen-



dez used his own voice for Snoopy's and they would speed up the tape to create the dog's mutterings. And the teacher's classic voice is Guaraldi on trombone.

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

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

On December 9, 1965 at 7:30 p.m. more than 15 million viewers watched the special, and it has continued to air every year. Apple TV+ now owns the broadcasting rights. However, they want to continue sharing this holiday tradition beyond just their subscribers, so they made an agreement with PBS to air A Charlie Brown Christmas ad-free on both PBS and PBS Kids on Sunday, December 13 at 7:30 pm EST.

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

Rick **Rick Cable** Founder/Owner

remember this holiday season THINK TWICE DON'T WASTE IT WP

- reduce [goes with yard waste] real trees » remove lights & decorations, cut into four-foot lengths
- Feuse [keep for next year or put in trash bin] fancy ribbons & such » metallic, glittery or velvet wrapping paper; gift boxes & bags; holiday cards

recycle [put in mixed recycling bin]

reduce my food waste

2021

conserve energy & water

plain paper products » wrapping paper, gift boxes, gift bags & holiday cards

cityofwinterpark.org/think-twice



KEEP WINTER PARK BEAUTIFUL & SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

personal COMMITMENT

YES! I WILL MAKE A

avoid using single-use items

SUSTAINABL living IS MY PLEDGE...WHAT'S YOURS? cityofwinterpark.org/sustain-pledge

go meat-free on Mondays



Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, City of Orlando District 3

I was reading Mayor Dyer's



Robert F. Stuart

news last week and he said, "What a year these past few weeks have been." Truer words have not been spoken. In that same vein, I think it could be said, what a decade this year has been! As we make it to the last month of 2020, a year that will certainly show up in many

chapters of the history books- from a pandemic, to a hurricane season and wildfires that highlighted the

changes to our climate, to an election that saw record voter turnoutthese are 365 days that won't soon be forgotten.

We continue to work together to protect each other from COVID-19, and I am proud of the way the residents of Orlando and Orange County have responded. Many of the decisions about the handling of the pandemic were left for local governments to navigate, and it has been heartening to see our partnerships shine during these difficult times. With social distancing a consistent recommendation, I know many in

our community have felt more comfortable outdoors and I am glad our city has so many ways to enjoy parks, green spaces, trails, and outdoor events.

We continue to make parks and recreation a priority in the City of Orlando as we know how much they contribute to a more well-rounded quality of life for our residents. Construction is well underway on Lake Lorna Doone Park next to Camping World Stadium through a City partnership with Florida Citrus Sports. Upgrades to the park will include a water-spray area, basketball courts, a walking loop, and a fitness station. Neighborhood residents and visitors to the stadium can all enjoy these great new amenities.

We are also excited to break ground this month on the new City park at the Packing District. Located near the intersection of John Young Parkway and Princeton Street, the park encompasses 66 acres and will also be home to the relocated Orlando Tennis



Center. Surrounding the park there will be a 10-foot wide path along Orange Blossom Trail, Princeton Avenue, Texas Avenue and New Hampshire Avenue.

This month also saw the groundbreaking for Luminary Green, a 2.3 acre park inside Creative Village where UCF and Valencia's downtown campuses are located. Another park that is mov-

Visit ocfl.net/CORONAVIRUS for updates and information for Orange County.

ing one step closer to reality is the City's Under-i Project, which is scheduled to begin construction upon the completion of the Ultimate I-4 project in 2022. The City will transform the space under the I-4 overpasses in the downtown core to provide a multitude of different uses from sports to play spaces. Check out orlando.gov/Initiatives/Underi-Project for details.

I am also happy that our existing parks and outdoor amenities will play host to some great events for our residents to enjoy all month long. From movies at Lake Eola every Friday in Decem-

> ber beginning on December 11th, to dazzling lights at Leu Gardens, the City has many ways to get into the spirit this holiday season. Our partner organization, The Dr. Phillips Center, begins their Front Yard Festival (presented by another great partner, Advent Health) this month with an array of outdoor entertainment on their plaza including concerts, theater, dance

> > performances, classes, and movies. Check out information about all of these events and more at orlando.gov/ events, leugardens.org and

frontyardfestival.org.

This year, more than ever, I hope you and your loved ones are able to enjoy some of the holiday offerings around our city. From my family and my staff, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and our most sincere wishes to everyone for a healthy and prosperous New Year!



At AdventHealth Winter Park ER, we're open to care for you — even during construction.

Our Special Features:

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- Pediatric-friendly rooms

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- Separate pediatric waiting area
- Private ambulance entrance
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Advent Health



Winter Park Mayor's Message

Mayor Steve Leary



What A Year

Safe to say that 2020 has been a year unlike any other, including even our personal interactions. The normal handshake or hug has turned into fist bumps and elbow taps. Our smiles

Steve Learv

are now only seen through the expression of our eyes. Speaking from a podium wearing a mask, to an audience of attendees "masked-up," is quite an experience. COVID-19 has challenged us and COVID-19 has changed us. But COVID-19 has also proved our resilience and exposed our compassion for one another.

In March, as we all started learning about the virus, the city took its first steps in response to the pandemic to ensure the safety of our residents and guests. We canceled large events and programs, closed City Hall, city facilities, playgrounds, gyms, and parks. All public meetings went from in-person to virtual and we all learned how to conduct city business by talking to one another in small squares on our computer screens.

As the virus took hold of our normal lives and we were learning more about how easily COVID-19 is transmitted, the city began creating non-traditional ways to offer safe programming and services. The development of online classes and payment processes, implementing free Wi-Fi in Central Park, moving the Saturday Farmers' Market to Central Park West Meadow to allow

for vendors and patrons to safely space out, and encouraging outdoor activities at our parks, were all safe ways to feel normal and escape the pandemic paralysis.

In April, in efforts to assist the physical and financial needs of our community, the City Commission and Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board approved \$1.9 million of funds to help during this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis. These funds helped pay utility bills, we reduced our electric fuel rates, and we offered free meals via partnerships with Second Harvest Food Bank and Feed the Need Florida.

As the state began to slowly reopen, so did we. Our resilience continued to surface. In May we held our first socially-distant shopping & dining experience when we closed the roads to allow for restaurants and businesses to expand their space to the outdoors. June saw the start of the reopening of City Hall and other city facilities.

In August, the CRA approved \$500k to support economic recovery efforts and shortly thereafter, the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce created an Economic Recovery Task Force. The city joined the chamber and 10 other organizations with the mission to rank and vet mitigation strategies to promote the city's economic recovery.

From this effort the city has created and implemented many safe events such as Movies in the Park, Music in the Parks, musical outdoor concerts, sidewalk sales, and monthly road



closures to allow for socially-distant shopping and dining.

Winter Park is a strong city filled with residents and businesses that come together during times of need. Thank you to all of our stakeholders and especially our city staff, for your commitment and resilience. I wish you all continued good health as we continue through the holiday season.

Shop Local And Give Back With Second Harvest Food Bank

This holiday season, Central Florida standards residents will be looking to support local businesses more than ever, as the need is great across the entire region. Second Harvest Food Bank provides a variety of specialty gift offerings that also give back at the same time.

Through A Spoon Full of Hope, the organization's multi-product food retail line, a variety of customizable gift options are available ranging from unique gifts for friends and family to corporate holiday packages. And back by popular demand is the Honey Bear Trio (\$10) comprised of two-ounce sizes of local, raw and unfiltered orange blossom, palmetto and wildflower Honey for Good. Proceeds from each purchase goes back into

from vendors who share our same philosophy."

А Spoon Full of



Hope was designed to financially support the 16-week Culinary Training Program, which provides at-risk and economically disadvantaged adults with a no-cost culinary and life skills training to pursue a sustainable career in the food industry - thus shortening the line of need across Central Florida.

The Honey for Good trio of orange blossom, palmetto and wildflower are locally sourced through 39-year-old Goldenrod Apiaries; and packed raw, uncooked, and unfiltered. All of the packaging and labeling occurs by staff and volunteers in Second Harvest's Darden Production Kitchen. The tomato basil soup was created by Second Harvest Chef Jill Holland in collaboration with packaging partner IPAC located in Winter Springs. Visit ASpoonFullofHope. org to learn more or to view and purchase any of A Spoon Full of Hope products and gift baskets. To customize a basket, please contact Lanette Jarvis, 41 WL 16oz (454) catering sales manager, at ljarvis@ feedhopenow.org or at 407-514-1048.

Winter Park History **Museum Welcomes New Executive Director**



Christy Grieger

After an extensive search led by the Winter Park History Museum Board of Directors, Christy Grieger has been chosen for the position of executive director.

The museum board made this selection based on Grieger's extensive

knowledge of the organization's operation, passion for Winter Park history, and her collaborative and leadership skills. For the past two years, she was the assistant to the previous executive director, Susan Skolfield.

WPHM board chair Betsy Owens said, "We are so fortunate that someone of Christy's talents,

Second Harvest's no-cost, 16-week Culinary Training Program for disadvantaged adults.

"A Spoon Full of Hope provides a wonderful opportunity for corporations and

individuals alike to purchase a local gift that gives back to the community at the same time," said Dave Krepcho, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank. "Every time a purchase is made, you are guaranteed to be making a difference in someone's life; and that's year-round. Also, each item in the A Spoon Full of Hope food product line includes fresh, clean ingredients with no preservatives or additives including the highest quality experience, integrity and charisma has stepped forward to lead our organization."

Grieger grew up in Tampa and attended the University of Pittsburgh on a swimming scholarship. While there, she was the captain of the swim team and broke a school record held by a former Olympian. After college she moved to the Central Florida area. Grieger's career background includes finance, event planning and, through a family business, many aspects of the printing industry. She has two daughters, ages 14 and 11. In her down time, she drives country roads to photograph old barns, wood fences, or anything else that catches her creative eye. As well as a passion for Winter Park history, Grieger serves on the board for the Seminole County Historical Society.

The WPHM board extends its deep appreciation to Susan Skolfield who passionately and effectively led the organization for the past 10 years, and welcomes Christy Grieger to her new position.



The physical running of OUC Orlando Half Marathon is scheduled for Saturday, December 5th at Lake Eola. Track Shack and OUC-The Reliable One have been granted the permit from the City of Orlando to hold the 44th annual 13.1-mile run / walk event, that also includes a virtual option for participants.

Together with the City of Orlando and Orange County, Track Shack Events has created a safe running and walking experience for participants, volunteers, and neighborhoods along the route. The race safety protocols follow current CDC standards to mitigate transmission of COVID-19.

- Limited capacity: 2,500 registered runners and walkers
- Participants will start in waves, spaciously released in groups
- Advance health screenings for participants, staff, and volunteers
- Mask requirement for participants in preand post-race area
- No spectators in staging area to discourage crowd gatherings
- Staging area designed for social distance

- Ample hand sanitizing stations
- Sealed hydration and packaged refreshments
- Contactless refill hydration stations

"The running community has waited nine months to gather and the OUC Orlando Half Marathon will be the first race "run" in Orlando," says Jon Hughes, Race Director and co-owner of Track Shack. "This community has proven its ability to safely bring sports back. Following guidelines and protocols we are ready to run, walk, raise funds for local causes and celebrate healthy living."

A virtual experience option is offered to runners and walkers participating in the OUC

Orlando Half Marathon (13.1 miles), the Track Shack Lake Eola Virtual 5k (3.1 miles) and/or the new 16.2-mile Corkcicle Challenge that combines both distances.

"Running virtually" means participants run or walk a race individually from anywhere and receive the race t-shirt, bib number and finisher medal.

Proceeds benefit the Track Shack Youth Foundation and Florida Citrus Sports Foundation. Four local organizations make up the Run for a Cause charity program. The program connects half marathon and 5k participants to an official event charity partner. By joining a charity partner, participants can raise funds and awareness for a non-profit, while accomplishing their health and fitness goals. Each individual Charity Partner will determine a minimum fundraising amount for the participant to raise. The four participating organizations are COAMED Foundation, Chanell Wright Save A Child Foundation, Girls on the Run and Racing for Orphans with Down Syndrome (RODS).

More information including safety protocols and the course map are available at OrlandoHalfMarathon.com





Good news. Rates just got lower.

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Winter Park Wins National America In Bloom Award

The City of Winter Park won the Outstanding Achievement Award for Environmental Efforts from the prestigious 2020 America in Bloom (AIB) National Awards Program, announced in October at the virtual "Symposium in the Sky" educational conference and awards celebration. According to the Winter Park Blooms chairman, Stephen Pategas, "This award from America in Bloom is an exciting recognition of the sustainability efforts of residents, business owners, administration, city staff and advisory boards. It takes a diverse collection of caring people to make such a positive difference about our environment."

The AIB Awards were presented to communities that reflect excellence in the areas of community vitality, floral displays, landscaped areas, urban forestry, environmental efforts, celebration of heritage, overall

Holiday Youth Outreach Program

The Winter Park Playhouse, known for its professional mainstage musicals and cabarets, is launching an impactful youth outreach initiative, specifically for the holiday season!



This exciting new program, coordinated by Playhouse Outreach Director, Megan Tsurumaki, works in collaboration with teaching artist and professional Disney entertainer Joshian Morales. The duo produce music and dance choreography videos meant to teach children *Motown Christmas Classics*.

Joshian Morales

Children at The Winter Park Community Center and Central Florida Title l elementary and middle impression and community involvement. To date, nearly 275 communities from 43 states have participated in the AIB program, and more than 22 million people have benefited from these efforts. Eligible participants included towns, cities, college and university campuses, business districts, military installations, and recognized neighborhoods of large cities.

"America in Bloom is helping communities of all sizes achieve their potential. Every year, our participants raise the bar, and the accomplishments and progress shown by this year's group is remarkable. These are, without a doubt, some of the best places to live and visit. Congratulations to Winter Park for the excellent work making your community more beautiful and vibrant," said AIB's executive director, Laura Kunkle.

AIB is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3)

schools, will be sent music and dance video tutorials that allow everyone a holiday performance opportunity this year - whether it is held virtually in the student's home (on computers), or live at their local community center or school (socially distanced with masks and safety protocols in place.)

"This has been such an exciting project to create, and the response from teachers and community partners has been invigorating," said Megan Tsurumaki, Outreach Director for The Winter Park Playhouse. "We know our teachers have had one heck of a year, especially those in underserved communities. Providing free access to these musical theatre lessons gives our arts teachers a much deserved respite, and we're always grateful for the chance to create connections with kids in our community through our vibrant teaching artists at the Playhouse!"

Joshian Morales, a wonderful teaching addition for this program, has long been a professional performer gracing the Disney stage. The



organization dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs and personal and community involvement through the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. AIB provides educational programs, resources and the challenge of a friendly competition between participating communities across the country.

For more information regarding Winter Park's participation in AIB efforts, please visit Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable on the city's official website at cityofwinterpark.org.

new video tutorials feature popular songs like "Dancin' In The Street," "Please Mr. Postman," and "Someday At Christmas" - a Jackson Five holiday hit from Motown.

Local teacher and performer Amy Katherine Hughes has been a recipient of The Playhouse Outreach program for years. She is also familiar with fellow performer Joshian Morales. "This new video tutorial program is very exciting for all of my students - virtual and in person," confirms Ms. Hughes. "My virtual kiddos can sing and while we have restrictions in person, all the children can dance... and we do dance! Also, Joshian matches the kids. And we are working hard to show them representation."

The Winter Park Playhouse quality yearround outreach programming is sponsored in part by The Gracia Belle Livingston Foundation, The Winter Park Community Redevelopment Agency, The Winter Park Rotary Club and United Arts/Arts & Culture Access.

Make A Lasting Impact This Holiday Season

Celebrate this year's holiday season with friends and loved ones while supporting conservation and tree planting with the help of the Arbor Day Foundation.

• Give-A-Tree cards from the Arbor Day Foundation offer a unique holiday giving opportunity with conservation benefits that will endure for generations. And again, this year, Give-A-Tree cards can be purchased individually and with customized text. Cards can be purchased for \$6.95.

• Purchasing the Arbor Day Foundation's coffee helps preserve rain forests in Central and South America. The Foundation's coffee, a part

of the Rain Forest Rescue® program, is shadegrown under the canopy of Latin American rain forests. Unlike sun-grown coffee farms, this traditional shade-grown method gives the coffee a rich and delicious flavor. Cost per bag is \$18.94, including shipping.

• The Foundation's Trees in Celebration program allows the giver to honor loved ones while supporting crucial conservation efforts. For every two dollars donated, one tree is planted in a highneed forest, and recipients are given a certificate showing them where the trees were planted.

• Give the gift of membership with the Ar-

bor Day Foundation, and recipients will be sent 10 free trees, which will be shipped at the right time of year for planting. Memberships begin with a \$10 contribution.

"The holidays are a time for thinking about others, and as you do, take a moment to think about what you can do to protect the beauty and splendor of the Earth," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "We encourage everyone to give gifts that will have a lasting impact for generations to come." To purchase holiday gifts that give back to the planet, visit arborday.org.

NEWS

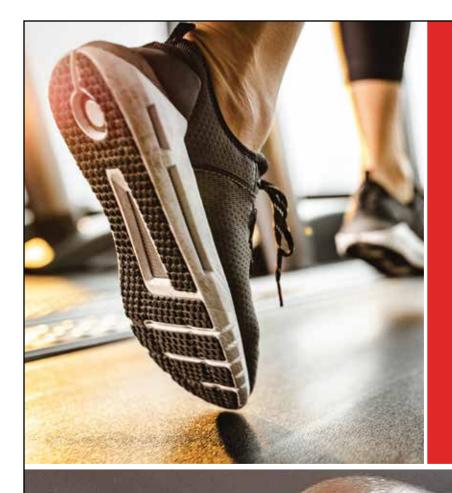
From Page 1

Phyllis Tuell and her wonderful staff look forward to one final opportunity to overwhelm customers with the Stewart Jewelry magic at 2212 Edgewater Drive. The entire collection of prestige jewelry is currently on sale during the going-out-of-business sale. The doors are closing forever. Everything must go.



Photos from Destination Main Streets, and Stewart Jewelry.







Your heart is the only muscle that never rests.



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8

in the garden by Stephen and Kristin Pategas

Grasses To Ornament The Garden 1.0

Turn to ornamental grasses to please the eye and soothe the soul as they sway in the breeze. Be bold and create sweeping masses instead of planting only one, or a handful of plants. Use the fine texture of ornamental grasses to

Stephen & Kristin Pategas

contrast with larger-leaved plants. Combine two or more types of grasses to create a more natural look.

Grasses are available in an assortment of mature heights and spreads. Their foliage comes in a variety of colors and textures from super fine to coarse. Small birds and other wildlife consume the seeds of many grasses, while some are host plants for butterfly larvae.

Grasses are typically deer resistant and grow best in sun. Propagation is typically by seed or division. Ornamental grasses are low maintenance, typically requiring only a once a year early spring haircut (about six inches off the ground) if the foliage looks tattered. The resulting new emerging leaves usher in the new growing season and are soon moving in the wind. If there is some old foliage to remove in between trimming sessions, reach into the clump while wearing rubber gloves and stroke the leaves to coax out dead ones. We find the trimmed off and collected leaves are useful as mulch in low visibility areas.

The following are clumping grasses, and they slowly increase in girth by creeping rhizomes. Some self-seed and in our garden, they provide a source for new plants. They all thrive in Central Florida and often beyond.

Dwarf pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana* 'Pumila') is native to the pampas of Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. It reaches five to seven feet when in flower with a spread of three to four feet. The foliage is sharp-edged and requires gloves and long sleeves when being handled. The flower plumes are non-seed producing. It takes moist to dry soil conditions. Plant four feet apart in sun.

Pink muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) is a native in the West Indies, eastern Mexico, and the southeastern United States. It reaches a 30 to 36-inch height and spread with lacy pinkish flower spikes rising above the thin pine needle-

like leaves. When the flowers are backlit the effect is stunning. It grows in a wide range of soils from moist to dry conditions. Plant 30-inches apart in sun to light shade. There is also 'White Cloud', a white blooming version.

Sand cordgrass (*Spartina bakeri*) is a Florida native with narrow leaf blades that form rounded mounds with a three to five-foot height and spread. Its flowers are inconspicuous. It is salt tolerant, thrives in moist soil conditions, takes periodic inundation, and adapts to dry conditions. It is often found along lake and retention pond edges. Plant five feet apart in sun to light shade.



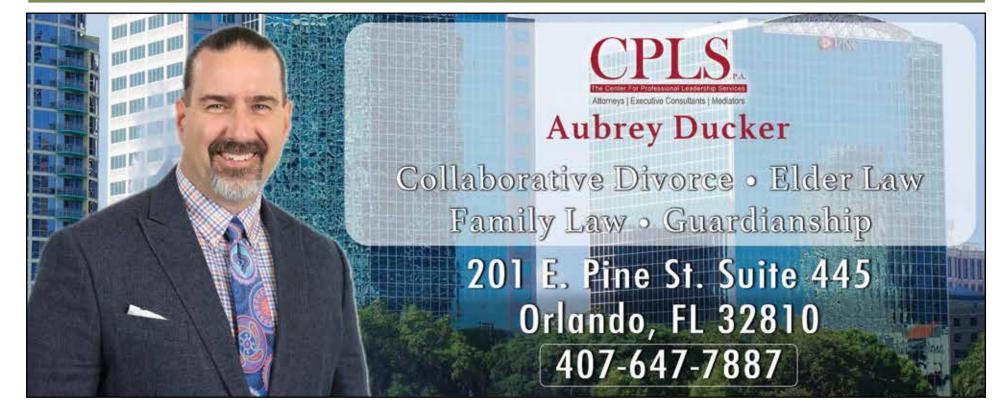


Bottom left photo: Pink muhly grass. Center: Dwarf pampas grass. Right photo: Sand cord grass. Pictured above: Pink muhly grass.











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

It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year...

Welcome, December... The last month of what has been the longest, strangest year of our lives. I don't believe any of us could have predicted all that 2020 has presented. The

Ayesha G. Shenk

fear, the doubt, the trial, the gifts, the depth. We've spent almost nine months in a reimagined reality, juggling needs, demands, anxieties and adjustments within a new world order. From Covid-19 to the election - life continues to keep us on our toes and nothing is quite as simple as we've taken it for granted to be in the past.

No matter your perspective or opinion on the world or all of the new challenges among us, we have been stretched. As a nation, as a people, as fathers/mothers/daughters/sons/sisters/brothers. We have been asked to reach deep into a reservoir that we are not always certain exists.

But December has always promised Magic. From sleighbells to celebrations, there's something sparkly and special about a month so steeped in tradition and promise. This December will be challenging for many; we have loved and lost much this year. But I'd like to believe no challenge is too great for the mystery and magic we have come to create throughout the holidays.

This year's holiday season offers an even greater opportunity to double down on the milk of human kindness. Maybe the magic for someone this year is that which you create for them. Maybe, if we can stretch a little bit beyond what our familiar tendencies have been, we can rise to an even higher stakes achievement. I'm not talking about securing the hottest new gadget or 'it' gift. I'm encouraging you to find the best in yourselves and giving the most to another. Whether time, talent or treasure is yours in abundance - share it. Make this holiday season so full of your natural gifts that those



UChicago News - University of Chicago

under the tree offer no competition. Share a kind word, an open door, a hearty laugh, or a good deed unnoticed. Return the shopping cart, tip generously, play secret Santa, do the chore you've seen gone 'undone' day in and day out. Love abundantly and without expectation.

Covid-19 presents difficulties in engaging in many of our normal traditions... so make new ones. Be the anonymous best version of yourself for someone else and pay it forward. You will be shocked by how full the season feels in your own home and heart.

*On a personal note, I'll be honest - it's been a

hard year. I lost my father and my best friend is deep in a heartbreaking battle with a beastly cancer. I have loved and lost a lot and my heart has broken more than once. I am hurting for her and for me in so many ways... But time stands for no one and I am looking to experience and create the magic of the season as much as anyone. We all need it so very much this year.

I share all of this because I feel committed to being honest about how hard life can be sometimes. It can break your heart and leave you feeling broken and bruised. I have no intention of presenting a Pollyanna outlook as a way to ice over hard things. We have to honor those hard things and grow from them, not despite them. I know it's hard. I know it intimately - but I also know it's beautiful and it's full of miracles and heroism. Even on the darkest days, we can find the light. And when we can't, we must be it...

From my home to yours, I wish you a truly magical December. I wish you light and love and the things that fill your heart and your home and bring a smile to your children's faces. I wish you more of what it means to be human and connected and true.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and may 2021 bring us all the healing and hope our hearts crave.

Till the next time, 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 or 407-796-2959.

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pop culture detours by George McGowan

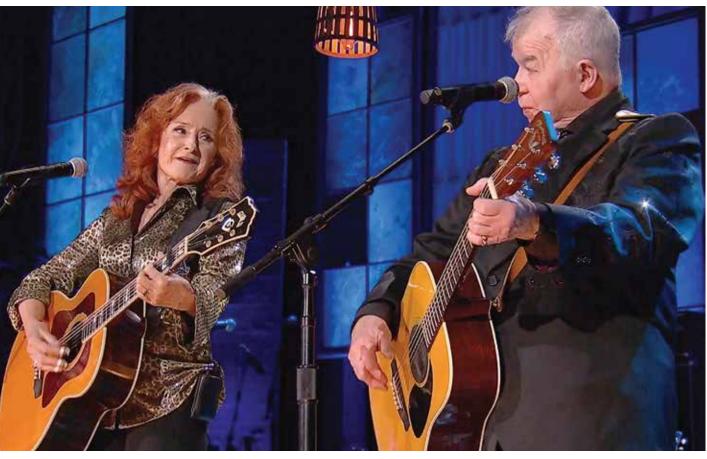
Things We Lost In The Fire, A Remembrance

The end of the year 2020 is upon us and my thoughts are drawn to the lives we have lost to the COVID-19 coronavirus. So much of our lives has been affected by this virus, including our cultural lives. Here are some of the names of artists, actors, athletes, and musicians we have lost this year to this disease: Ellis Marsalis Jr., Tommy DeVito, Toots Hibbert, Tom Seaver, Trini Lopez, Nick Cordero, Hal Willner, Adam Schlesinger, Alan Merrill, Lindy McDaniel, Joe Diffie, and Terrence McNally, to only name only a few who I hope are familiar with you. There was one other musician who died back in April who I would like to specially recognize for his influence on my life. His name was John Prine.

John Prine, born in the Chicago suburbs in 1946, was a singer-songwriter. I discovered Mr. Prine in the early days of the internet when I found an MP3 file (remember those?) of one of his songs, "Let's Talk Dirty

in Hawaiian," that was free to download. Not his best song, I'll admit, but catchy and funny. Thanks to that introduction, I looked for more, and he soon became an artist who I tracked closely. Interestingly and apocryphally, Prine was first "discovered" by the famous Chicago movie reviewer, Roger Ebert, who saw him perform at a small Chicago nightclub and reviewed it in an article he entitled "Singing Mailman Who Delivers a Powerful Message in a Few Words." Yes, at that time, Prine was a mailman who wrote songs in his head on his mail route during the day and performed them in the evenings anywhere he could find a stage.

I introduced Prine's music to anyone who would listen and converted a few folks along the way. I was fortunate to see Mr. Prine in concert on several occasions, and he always delivered a fan-



Above, Bonnie Raitt and John Prine, photo from Google images.

tastic show. He was an entrancing performer and born for the stage. His concerts felt as if a troubadour had come to your home and played especially for you, and you alone. He welcomed the audience into the show and always had an interesting story to tell along with his songs. In 2018 he performed for NPR's Tiny Desk Concert series and the clip is available on YouTube. https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=sOg7mAkrKJw&app=desktop

John Prine is one of those songwriters whose songs may not have captured the airwaves on first release, but are prime for interpretation by other musicians. Many of his songs were made into hits by his contemporaries- for example, Bonnie Raitt with "Angel From Montgomery," Bette Midler with "Hello in There," Tammy Wynette with "Unwed Fathers," and Johnny Cash with "Sam Stone." Miranda Lambert frequently performs his "That's the Way that the World Goes Round" in her concerts.

Prine was also a generous partner on duets with some of the best female voices of our times, and he released two albums of these duets- "In Spite of Ourselves" and "For Better, Or Worse"that are just wonderful. While his debut album from 1971 contains most of his most best-known songs, he was prolific during his entire lifetime. My personal favorite album is "Fair & Square" which was released in 2005 after he fought a successful five-year battle with mouth cancer. I want thank John Prine for gracing us with his songs and, more importantly, the messages in his songs. He will be missed, as will all the artists we have lost to this terrible, terrible disease.



protection and service by Jim Whitman, Winter Park Police Department Let's Tie A Bow On 2020...And Send It Away!

We've almost made it...to the end of 2020. This year, the holidays have definitely felt different and looked different too. Who thought that we would be distributing candy to "Trick or Treaters" through PVC pipes or leaving pre-packaged treats on a table so as to have as little contact with people as possible; or as we planned for Thanksgiving, trying to decide who in our family we want to let enter our inner sanctum or risk spreading the virus to? The only constant that has not changed as we proceed through the year as been that there are still a lot of people that need help (and that number seems to keep growing). The Winter Park Police Department holds our annual "Helping Others Holiday Drive" this time of year to help provide food to stock the food pantries that service our local seniors, and toys for our local neighbors who need an "extra hand" to provide Christmas for their children. Once collected, the food is delivered by the police department to the local pantries for distribution and the toys collected are taken to the Winter Park Community Center where

parents can set up a time to come and "shop" for their children. Each year we are amazed by how generous our community is as we have always made large deliveries with our vehicles to both programs. This year, the need is even greater and we would sincerely appreciate any donation (either food or toys) that you could make to either program. Food and toys can be delivered to the lobby of the Winter Park Police Department now through December 18th. If you choose to donate on the weekends or after 5:00 p.m., please come to the police station and pick up the handset on the wall next to the doors to tell the Communications Center personnel that you need to drop off items for the toy/food drive so you can be granted access.

board Crime Container available for any large boxes that need to be discarded to prevent tipping off any criminals to recently-received gifts. The container (a marked dumpster) will be placed at the intersection of N. Virginia Ave. and Swoope Ave. starting on December 19th and running through January 4th. Please only discard cardboard into this dumpster, as the cardboard collected will be taken to be recycled. We hope that everyone has a joyful holiday season and that you remain healthy. As we look to the New Year we collectively hope for an end to this pandemic and that we can once again meet in person and enjoy each other's company. The Winter Park Police Department wishes everyone Happy Holidays and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Once again this year, we will have our Card-

schools



🖏 The Geneva School HEAD OF SCHOOL BRAD RYDEN

Sometimes, parents have a hard time reconciling the educational philosophy of a Christian classical school like The Geneva School with the desire for a highly competitive sports program. If you watched our student-athletes compete, then you know better. They are dedicated and intense competitors.

The TGS varsity volleyball program has been a model of consistency over the last ten years. Head coach Hollie Benjumea took over the program in 2006 and has led the program to the regional playoffs all 15 seasons; she is currently on a ten-year streak of claiming district championships. The team went all the way to the state semifinals this year before being defeated by St. John Paul II (Tallahassee) in five sets.



Our bright and shiny new Toddler/Twos Playground is a huge hit! The playground, and all the other preschool campus renovations, were well worth the wait.

The project started when large trees were removed, followed by work on the drainage system to alleviate flooding problems that would occur after heavy rains, and roofs on all preschool buildings were replaced. Walls were pressure washed and painted. New sod, majestic palm trees, and extensive landscaping were installed.

On the playground four large square holes were dug, filled with concrete, and poles that support the new sun shade were set. The canvas canopy

Our cross country teams also completed successful campaigns. The boys' team advanced to the state regional meet, with a junior participant qualifying for the state championship in Tallahassee.

Athletics provide our students with experiences that the arts and academics cannot. Specifically, they provide our students with adult-like situations that force them to make split-second decisions that often have an impact on the outcome. Academically-strong schools like TGS develop athletic programs that fit our mission so that we can capture student interest and passion in order to develop them into astute, well-rounded, humble, selfless, confident, and poised young women and men.

As bearers of God's image, we are blessed to be co-creators, taking the good of God's creation and crafting, with intelligence and intentionality, that which is very good. Perhaps nowhere is this more

was lifted over the buildings by a crane and fixed in place. Finally, grading and installation of a cushioned artificial turf surface were completed.

The most important last step: children in one of our classes burst through crepe paper stretched across the gated entrance to the playground on the first official play day! The children ran, laughed,

We would like to thank the following people from the bottom of our hearts: David Miller, our tireless project manager from R. Miller Architecture; Bob White, the church Property Committee chairperson; Pastor Darren; the Preschool Board; the Budget & Finance Committee, Property Committee and other church committee members. We love our new playground and surrounding areas!

and shouted for joy.



At right: Winter Park Presbyterian toddlers and twos love their new playground!



The Park Press

Wishes you and your family a healthy, safe, and happy Holiday Season apparent than in the arts. In studio art, choir, drama, guitar, photography, yearbook design, stagecraft, and video production, Geneva students are provided opportunities to exercise their God-given ability to create that which is very good. Given the depth of study as well as engagement with the best of western culture, Christian classical schools excel in the arts.

An example of such excellence was our fall production of Hamlet by our rhetoric school actors. In my twenty-five years as an educator, I have attended a lot of performances that were very good and a handful that I would characterize as glorious. This production of Hamlet was glorious.

Activities in athletics and the arts, when combined with our academic program, serve to fulfill our school's mission to provide "an extraordinary education . . . that pursues goodness, truth, and beauty in all spheres of life."



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