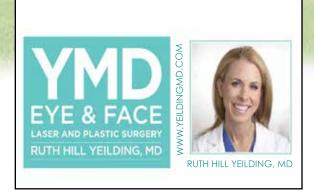
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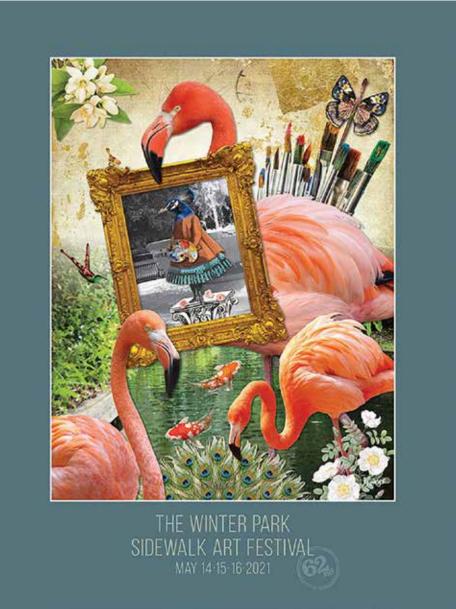






For updated news, events and more, visit www.TheParkPress.com

# 62nd Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival, May 14-16



The City of Winter Park is preparing to host the 62nd Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival (WPSAF) Friday, May 14, thru Saturday, May 16, 2021. The WPSAF, one of the nation's most prestigious outdoor art festivals, features national and international juried artists exhibiting their artwork along beautiful Park Avenue and throughout Central Park. After the cancellation of the 2020 WPSAF due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and a virtual event in March to allow more time for vaccinations to be administered, the City and the festival committee are eager to present a safe, slightly modified event this May.

To facilitate the Festival, the following streets will be closed Friday, May 14, at 5 a.m. to Sunday, May 16, at 8 p.m.:

- Garfield Avenue
- Lincoln and East Welbourne avenues from Center Street to South
- Morse Boulevard from South Knowles to South New York avenues
- New England Avenue from West Park Avenue to Center Street
- Park Avenue from West Canton to Lyman avenues

Any restaurants in the road closure area that would like to extend their services outdoors during this weekend must fill out an application by Wednesday, May 12, by accessing cityofwinterpark.org/RoadClosureApp. Retail businesses are approved to have one table OR one rack outdoors without a permit. More than one rack or table will require an application.

Please remember no pets, bicycles, motorized scooters, or skateboards will be allowed inside the festival areas.

Please also remember at all City gatherings to:

- Wear your face masks/coverings.
- Keep a safe social distance from others.
- Wash your hands at the hand-washing stations made available. For additional information on the WPSAF, please access www.wpsaf.org

or call 407-672-6390.

2021 Poster is by artist is Victor Bokas.



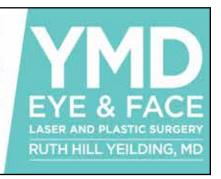
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# The Park Press

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# Publisher's Message



Rick Cable

This month we honor perhaps the most important, influential, and unselfish person who has ever been a part of our lives. Sure, as we get older we have others who might take over that role, but mothers are first, and the ones who really set the stage

for how we will handle things throughout our entire journey in life. I view being a mother as being perhaps the most unselfish thing a person can do. Mothers, especially when their children are young, place their children in higher importance than anything else, and they become blessed with great awareness and unseen eyes in the back of their head. They are the constant protectors, caregivers, teachers, rule setters, and the ones who, when something is not going right, are to whom we need to talk. For we all know that one of the quickest ways for any child to begin solving a problem is to say-"I'm telling mom!"

In most situations just saying these three powerful words alone immediately solves the problem.

This led me to ask the origin of this holiday. I've always assumed that it was created by Hallmark and 1-800-Flowers, but no. The holiday was first established by Ann Jarvis in 1868 as a "Mother's Friendship Day" to help bring

families together who had sons who had fought or died on opposite sides during the Civil War. These gatherings became sporadic at a local level up until her death on May 9, 1905. Her daughter, Anna Jarvis, continued her efforts with the help of John Wanamaker. He was a Philadelphia merchant, and they held a large celebration at his store on May 10, 1908. Five hundred carnations were at this ceremony which is why carnations are associated as the flower of this holiday.

Jarvis worked hard to establish this day as an annual national holiday, and on May 9, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson delivered the official proclamation.

Ironically, after nine years the commercialization of the holiday had become so rampant that Anna Jarvis herself became a major opponent of what the holiday had become. So much so, that she spent all her inheritance and dedicated the rest of her life fighting what she saw as an abuse of the celebration.

Thankfully, the holiday has stood the test of time, and continues to honor she who, I believe, is the most important, influential, and unselfish person in our lives.

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



It is encouraging to see inperson events starting to take place by our Main Streets, local businesses, and nonprofits. One event, which we especially look forward to, is the 30th Annual Fringe Festival, which will take place in-person from May 18 to 31. I think that this festival, and others like it, are especially

needed now. We need the beauty and vibrancy that artists bring to our city. The pandemic has hit artists very hard. Yet they have within them the unique gifts that bring healing, unity, and wholeness. All of these are intrinsic values we need for reopening our offices, businesses, schools, and lives.

Here are just a few other events happening that celebrate the art and culture of our city:

- Orlando Shakes is performing Little Shop of Horrors from May 5-23. Remember the campy Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash musical that stars a lonely florist and his man-eating plant? You can now see it live at Lake Eola.
- The Central Florida Community Arts is presenting Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella at the Fashion Square Mall from April 15 until May 1. The tickets range from \$18-\$25.
- If you haven't done so already, be sure to swing by the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts for lunch Monday through Friday between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and enjoy free live music on stage. You can support local businesses by ordering food from any of the on-site restaurants. You can also choose your own sociallydistanced box to sit in. Plus, there's free live entertainment by members of the Central Florida Musicians' Associa-

tion. It's the perfect place to get some fresh air—or get some work done during the week. Best part? Dogs are welcome too!

I am certainly grateful to see the city come alive again... but I also see it as my duty to keep our constituents informed about issues regarding the less-thanglamorous 2021 Florida Legislative Session, which is wrapping up for this year. Here are three more bills on which I'm trying to shed light. They are bills that directly affect our city and our citizens.

#### **Emergency Powers of Local Governments -**Senate Bill 1924

The bill, SB 1924, would put the burden of proof on the city or county to justify emergency restrictions. It would end all emergency orders after 10 days and require the city or county commission vote to extend after that period.

A similar bill, SB 2006, provides that the governor, or the legislature by concurrent resolution, may invalidate a political subdivision's emergency order if the governor or legislature believes (not has proof) that the action unnecessarily restricts a constitutional right, fundamental liberty, or statutory right. The bill also provides that an emergency order issued by a political subdivision automatically expires 10 days after its issuance unless extended by a majority vote of the political subdivision's governing body. Upon expiration of the significant emergency order, a local government is prohibited from issuing a "substantially similar" order to respond to the same emergency.

#### Online Sales Tax Bill (HB15/SB50)

I believe the name of this bill should be the "Small Business Protection Act" as it has a major impact on our local "mom and pop" businesses. This bill closes the loophole to those vendors who sell products into

City of Orlando District 3 Commissioner Robert Stuart and his staff members Jessica Stead (left) and Amethyst Rodriguez (middle) are enjoying live music and lunch at the Dr. Phillips Center for Performing Arts.

the State of Florida that would already be taxed if they had a location within the



state. This bill helps our local businesses, especially retail businesses, that have to compete with the likes of eBay or Etsy. As a reminder, closing this tax loophole can mean as much as \$1 billion in sales tax revenue, just like 47 other states already collect. As a compromise, the funds from this bill will be used to replenish the Unemployment Fund, something that is regularly funded out of general revenue.

I am again talking about Home Rule, which allows local officials to solve problems and develop solutions locally. Some state lawmakers feel they know what's better for the community than the people who live in it. Why are legislators in Tallahassee trying to pass laws that affect how cities hundreds of miles away manage local issues? Because they are listening more to those that are making money off these decisions. When state lawmakers do this, they are not listening to you and your local officials who are being hurt by those decisions. This is why it is incredibly important to stay informed and stay involved in local issues. You can visit buildingstrongercities.com for resources and advocacy tools.

Have a great spring and keep supporting our community by participating in the events that are happening, shopping local and also staying actively engaged with legislation and issues that affect our city.



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### Winter Park City Manager's Message | May 2021

#### 2020 Employees of the Year

High-quality city services are provided 24/7, 365 days a year by over 500 devoted city employees. Even through the peaks of the pandemic, we held true to that commitment as we safely navigated the waves of COVID-19 and adjusted our precautions as needed. Our residents have expressed appreciation in many ways, whether it is a complimentary email, a nice note mailed, or a simple verbal "thank you," all of which are very much appreciated. I believe all 500+ employees deserve Employee of the Year – especially for 2020. Representing them and in keeping with our annual tradition, I would like to highlight three who have not only kept our city safe but also worked tirelessly to manage city projects, large and small.



#### Brenda Moody Capital Improvement Project/Grant Administrator | Public Works

Over her 35 years of service, Brenda Moody has worked in many roles throughout the city. Currently, in her position with the Public Works Department, she serves as the lead construction manager for our new 21st century, state-of-the-art Winter Park Library & Events Center. Since breaking ground in March 2020,

the project is on schedule to be completed fall 2021.

Brenda's vast knowledge of the event business, after many years in parks and recreation management, has been invaluable to ensure the city gets a beautiful and fully-functional facility that will serve Winter Park's needs for years to come. She has successfully developed a sales office for the events center to begin the booking of future events. One particular item that Brenda went "above and beyond" on was the compilation of a several thousand-page audit documenting every facet of the Library & Events Center project development from its inception.



# David Hughes Firefighter/Paramedic | Fire-Rescue Department

Firefighter/Paramedic David Hughes began his career with the Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department in May 2016. He is currently assigned to Station 61, where he consistently demonstrates a positive attitude and the ability to be an effective leader. David implements a high degree of detail in all his

work and continually sets the bar higher for others to follow. He puts forth the extra time and effort when it is not always convenient or easy to do.

One of the strongest attributes that helps David succeed as a paramedic is his empathetic demeanor as a medical provider. He treats his patients with dignity, respect and fairness, regardless of the situation, time of day, or the events that may have taken place prior to his arrival. His supervisors describe his work as highly effective, accurate and professional. In addition, his initiative and willingness to teach others is why he was recently chosen to be a fire department preceptor. As a preceptor, David will serve an integral role in setting the foundation for future paramedics.



#### Aaron Stephenson Officer, Uniform Patrol | Police Department

Officer Aaron Stephenson began his career with Winter Park in 2015. Over the last five years, he has developed into one of the city's best and hardest working officers. In addition to being very proactive on patrol, Officer Stephenson is always professional and courteous. Numerous compliments

and commendations have been received from city residents and visitors in regard to his professional service. He has also been nominated for this award by many of his peers, being described as an officer who is courageous and kind.

Officer Stephenson's initiative was demonstrated last year when he responded to a call regarding suspicious activity of an adult with minors. Normally, these types of cases are turned over to the Criminal Investigations Section for them to address. However, Officer Stephenson took the initiative to follow through on this case himself. He was able to develop probable cause to arrest the suspect on multiple charges, including false imprisonment, lewd and lascivious molestation, simple battery, and deprivation of family custody.

Congratulations to all our Employees of the Year. Your service to our community and dedication to Winter Park is respected and appreciated.

Sincerely, Randy Knight, City Manager



# protection and service by Jim Whitman, Winter Park Police Department

# Low And Slow – Great For Bar-B-Que Not So Much For Roadways

Lately, we have received quite a few inquiries regarding golf carts driving through the streets of Winter Park. In an effort to clarify the operation of these vehicles on roadways, I will relay some laws governing their use.

To begin with, it is important to differentiate between a 'golf cart" and a "low speed vehicle." Florida Statute FSS 320.01(22) defines a golf cart as "a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 M.P.H." Golf carts may be operated on roadways that are designated for golf carts (there are none in Winter Park) with a posted speed limit of 30 MPH or less. Golf carts are not titled or registered and not required to be insured. A person must be 14 years of age or older to operate a golf cart.

Now, to add confusion to the mix, there is a vehicle recognized by Florida law as a "converted golf cart." A converted golf cart is a golf cart that has been inspected by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and has been assigned a Vehicle Identification Number. It will only be issued a VIN number if it meets the criteria for a low speed vehicle: seat belt for each designated seat, tail lights and brake lights, front and rear turn signals, a parking brake, headlamps, exterior mirrors and a windshield.

If the converted golf cart has all of the listed items, it can then be issued a license plate. Owners would be required to carry insurance on the vehicle and register it annually. Anyone operating a converted golf cart on the roadways is required

to have a valid driver's license.

It should be pointed out that all low speed vehicles are limited to roadways where the speed limit is 35 mph or less and is required to have a top speed greater than 20 mph but not faster than 25 mph. For those of you who are interested in the minutia that governs golf carts and low

speed vehicles, you can reference Florida State Statutes 316.212 and 316.2126.

So, to wrap up this particularly confusing topic, golf carts are designed for use on golf courses



only unless the city (such as The Villages) has designated the municipality's roadways as golf cart-permissible. The City of Winter Park has not done this. Converted golf carts are golf carts that have been issued a VIN number, license plate, and have all of the

necessary operational and safety items to make them "street legal" and require insurance and a licensed driver to operate them on a roadway.

Now and more importantly, does anyone know what temperature to smoke a beef brisket if it is slightly fatty?

Stay Safe!

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#### NEWS

#### **Best Buddies International Partners With PDQ Restaurants**



to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

As part of this newly-launched partnership with Best Buddies in Florida, PDQ will have an in-store fundraising campaign in the fall of 2021 and will serve as a statewide sponsor for the Best Buddies Friendship Walk. PDQ has also made a commitment to hire Best Buddies Jobs participants throughout the state of Florida. The Best Buddies Jobs program secures integrated employment for people with IDD, allowing them to earn an income, pay taxes, and continuously and independently support themselves.

of Best Buddies in Florida. "Their dedication to the Best Buddies mission of inclusion and integrated employment will help bring an even greater awareness to the infinite abilities people with IDD possess."

"Inclusion is one of our core values as a brand, and we are excited to expand our partnership with Best Buddies and the incredible work they do with so many individuals and families. This relationship began more than eight years ago when Sam Piazza joined our PDQ team, and we look forward to welcoming many more team members that are People Dedicated to Quality through this initiative. Sam is a Best Buddy to me, our team, and every guest who gets to meet him," said PDQ CEO and co-founder, Nick Reader.

Through the Jobs program, Best Buddies develops partnerships with employers, assists with the hiring process, and provides ongoing support to the employee and employer. Many businesses have seen the benefits of hiring individuals with IDD, such as gaining dependable, motivated employees; promoting an inclusive and diverse workforce; and improving customer satisfaction.

To date, PDQ has hired five participants from the Best Buddies Jobs program throughout the state of Florida, with a commitment to hire more in the coming years.

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## Essential Work: Keeping Families Safe by Amy Moncion, LCSW-QS

I'll be honest: It's been a long year for social workers.

As advocates for child welfare, we know how to handle a full plate. In a good year, we're busy helping families navigate financial hardship, job loss, and even homelessness. When parents are struggling with mental illness or substance abuse disorder, we connect them with the resources to recover. We advocate for kids in schools, doctor's offices, courtrooms, and living rooms.

2020 brought all those issues – and some new ones – to the forefront. By May, more than 1.2 million Floridians were unemployed. Parents who still had jobs were forced to balance working hours with childcare and supervising online classes. Families that relied on school lunches and breakfasts to keep kids fed turned to food pantries. Across the board, our carefully constructed support networks were crumbling away.

Was it daunting? Absolutely. But no one goes into social work expecting it to be easy.

As early as March, Embrace Families – the leading nonprofit responsible for foster care and child welfare in Central Florida – was developing new strategies to navigate pandemic protocols. My team worked with more than 500 families across Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties last year, finding new ways to manage our workflow, and helping staff members process their own stresses and worries.

We continued making in-person family visits when necessary and possible. When it wasn't, we adapted to virtual visits. Of course, there's no perfect substitute for a face-to-face meeting – but going virtual had surprising advantages. Not



Amy Moncion, LCSW-QS

only did it protect families from illness, but it also cut down on travel, which allowed our staff and families to meet more frequently.

Meanwhile, at the Children's Advocacy Center in Osceola, we were dealing with the medical crisis from a different perspective. As a Medical Neglect Advocate, my colleague Dan Mawhinney works with families who have children with chronic health conditions such as Type I diabetes or cystic fibrosis – all of which require ongoing care with various specialty providers, typically at a children's hospital.

Parents would often tell Dan how scared they were to take their child to the hospital, saying: "What if my child gets COVID-19? What if I get

COVID-19, and bring it home to my family?" In a time of overwhelming fear and uncertainty, it's no wonder they were worried. But thanks to his intervention – and the efforts of hundreds of social workers across Central Florida – kids got the care they needed. Dan's team worked with families to address their concerns, keep them informed, and connect them with a compassionate team of medical providers.

Another obstacle was helping families navigate the switch to telehealth services. As many as 464,000 Floridians don't have access to high-speed internet, and others may not have the electronics or expertise to run video conferencing software. As a result, a lot of kids were missing appointments – and it was a joint effort to make sure they got online to receive the care they needed.

While 2020 is now behind us, I know my job isn't over: Across Central Florida, many families still need our support.

It really does take a village to raise a healthy, happy child – not only parents and guardians, but also social workers, foster parents, doctors, tutors, donors, mentors, volunteers and community partners. And if you can help in any way – whether it's by donating money, giving your time or opening your home to a child in need – now is the time to take that step.

To learn more about child welfare in Central Florida, visit www.embracefamilies.org.

Amy Moncion is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Clinical Utilization Management Manager with Embrace Families. She has worked with youth in and out of foster care for 15 years.

# Winter Park Resident Endows Classics Scholarship At The College Of The Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross has created the Billy Collins '63 Scholarship for Studies in Classics, the result of a \$250,000 gift from the former United States Poet Laureate. Two scholarships will be awarded annually to current students who have demonstrated a commitment to major in classics and also show financial need.

The Billy Collins scholarship fund includes the initial gift of \$250,000, as well as a match through the College's newly launched Campaign for Hope and Access, bringing the endowment amount to a total of \$500,000. Students will be awarded the scholarship beginning with the fall 2021 semester.

"I am pleased to create this endowment at Holy Cross because its classics program is the most spirited and highly regarded of any such program at a liberal arts college in the United States," said Collins. "My years of studying classics there provided me with a solid underpinning to my career as a teacher and as a poet. When I'm composing poems, the classical languages are among the candles that light up my page."

In establishing the endowed scholarship, Collins — who was an English major at the College — is giving back to his alma mater and investing in the kinds of resources that made his Holy Cross experience possible. The endowed scholarship will provide funds in perpetuity, ensuring that future students benefit from valuable scholarship assistance, and are able to pursue their passion for the study of classics regardless of their background and financial means. Specifically, the Collins scholarship presents an opportunity to students who, while attending the College, discover and declare a major in the largest



Photo of Billy Collins by Bill Hayes.

and most active classics undergraduate program in the United States.

"We are deeply thankful to Mr. Collins for this unique contribution which allows our students to pursue their passion for the ancient world, and which further supports our department's ongoing efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in the field of classics," said Neel Smith, professor of classics and chair of the department.

Internationally recognized for his work and dubbed "the most popular poet in America" by *The New York Times*, Collins has published 13 collections of poetry. His most recent collection is "Whale Day and Other Poems" from Random House. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a New York Public Library "Literary Lion," and a vice president of the Poetry Society of America. For several de-

cades, he taught in the English Department at Lehman College (City University of New York), and he has been a visiting writer at Sarah Lawrence, Columbia, Arizona State, Ohio State and Vanderbilt, among other institutions.

Collins served as U.S. Poet Laureate from 2001 to 2003, and as the New York State Poet Laureate from 2004 to 2006. His other honors and awards include fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. His poetry has been translated into over a dozen languages. He has given lectures and readings all over the world, including two at Holy Cross.

In 2002, Collins served as the College's Commencement speaker and was given an honorary degree. He also has a doctorate degree from the University of California, Riverside. He currently lives in Florida with his wife Suzannah.

### **Local Crooner Kevin Kelly Debuts New Cabaret**

Kevin Kelly, local crooner and area favorite, will debut his newest solo cabaret - Did You Miss Me? -May 19 and 20, 2021 at The Winter Park Playhouse in the theatre's monthly Spotlight Cabaret Series. Musical Director Christopher Leavy will accompany on piano.

Did You Miss Me? will feature some of the best tunes made famous by Nat King Cole, Duke Ellington, Billy Joel, Cole Porter, Ray Charles, Frank Sinatra and The Beatles. The new cabaret will be performed live on the theatre mainstage to allow for socially-distanced seating and ensure patron and performer safety. Masks will be required for all patrons and staff.

Mr. Kelly has captivated audiences in numerous shows and cabarets all over the globe. Playhouse patrons will remember him in *The Andrews Bothers*, Murder for Two, Ruthless, Forever Plaid, Musical of Musicals and of course The Rat Pack Lounge. He has been a featured soloist with the Orlando Philharmonic and The Sarasota Symphony. In addition to being a



Photo of Kevin Kelly courtesy of Winter Park Playhouse.

working actor, Kevin has taught both students and professionals vocal technique, audition strategy and piano for over 20 years.

"Yes, Mr. Kelly we did miss you!" said the Playhouse executive director, Heather Alexander. "Kevin is always fabulous and regularly sells out, so book your tickets early!"

General admission tickets for live cabaret performances are \$20 plus a one drink minimum. Seating is limited due to social distancing and performances sell out quickly, so advance reservations are strongly recommended. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a 7:30 p.m. show. To purchase tickets, call The Winter Park Playhouse box office at 407-645-0145.

The live cabaret will also be filmed and available to enjoy virtually May 28-31, 2021. A private link and password will be sent at 5:00 pm on the selected date. Virtual tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online at www.winterparkplayhouse.org or by calling the box office (407)645-0145.

# Orlando Elks Lodge Grants \$7,000 To Lighthouse Central Florida

Lighthouse Central Florida nonprofit received two grants from Orlando Elks Lodge, totaling \$7,000. Lighthouse will use the grants to provide education, independent life skills, and job readiness training and coaching to Central Floridians living with vision impairment or blindness, along with their families.

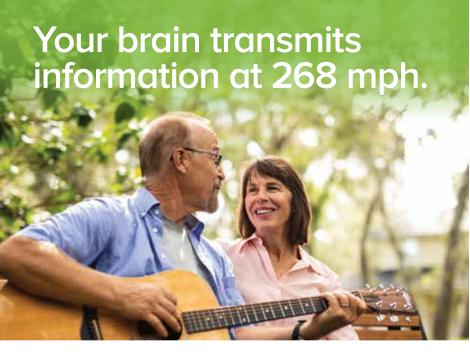
Celebrating its 45th anniversary this year, Lighthouse is the only nonprofit provider of lifechanging vision rehabilitation services in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties.



Pictured left to right: Aubie Dingwell, 5 Year Trustee; Ralph Vemos, the Acting Exalted Ruler; Georgiana Tynes, Director of Fund Development; and Beatrice Lopez Masso, Marketing and Development Coordinator.



Pictured left to right: Beatrice Lopez Masso, Marketing and Development Coordinator; Georgiana Tynes, Director of Fund Development; Aubie Dingwell, 5 Year Trustee; and Ralph Vemos, the Acting Exalted Ruler







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- Stroke and neurovascular disorders
- Sleep disorders





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# Orlando Shakes Invades Lake Eola Park With A Campy Musical Comedy

For their second in-person, socially distanced production at Lake Eola Park, Orlando Shakes in partnership with UCF is taking over Orlando with the hilarious award-winning, musical send-up of sci-fi 50s movies, *Little Shop of Horrors* (May 5 - 23, 2021). This Broadway and Hollywood musical has devoured the hearts of theater goers for over 30 years with its campy telling of a carnivorous plant from outer-space.

The meek floral assistant Seymour Krelborn stumbles across a new breed of plant he names "Audrey II" – after his coworker crush. This saucy, R&B-singing carnivore promises unending fame and fortune to the down-and-out Seymour as long as he keeps feeding it... blood. Over time, though, Seymour discovers Audrey II's out-of-thisworld origins and intent towards global domination!

Howard Ashman and Alan Menken (*Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and The Beast*, and *Aladdin*) are the creative geniuses behind what has become one of the most popular shows in the world. Tickets (starting at \$27) for *Little Shop of Horrors* are available now by phone (407) 447-1700 ext. 1 or online at orlandoshakes.org.

"Like Faust on fertilizer, Audrey II is starving to share her story with the citizens of Orlando," Director Steve MacKinnon said. "Our mean green mother of a musical is going to be a wild, reimagining of the cult classic, as our man-eating plant takes over The City Beautiful."

All events produced by Orlando Shakes will follow health and safety guidelines and policies set by local and national government officials. Safety protocols include social distancing, face coverings, and temperature checks. The most up-to-date safety information for all of Orlando Shakes' in-person offerings can be found at: https://www.orlandoshakes.org/visit-us/frequently-asked-questions/safety/

*Little Shop of Horrors* is presented at Lake Eola by Massey Services, with additional support from Seaside Bank & Trust, Dr. Phillips Charities; and our 32nd Season Producing Partners.

Orlando Shakes is supported by United Arts of Central Florida, host of OrlandoAtPlay.com and UAArtsEd.com. This project is sponsored in part by the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the State of Florida.

For more information visit orlandoshakes.org.



### Disaster Infrastructure Awards To Central Florida Communities

Nearly \$7.5 million has been awarded to Central Florida communities through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program. The program allows local governments to develop large-scale infrastructure projects to make communities more resilient to future disasters.

"My administration remains committed to providing the resources necessary for Florida communities to build back stronger and be more resilient to future storms," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "This transformational mitigation funding will go a long way in helping Florida's communities invest in their

futures through critical infrastructure improvements."

The funds are allocated to the state through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program, formed in response to 2016 to 2017 presidentially-declared disasters.

The Florida DEO executive director, Dane Eagle, said "The Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program is a resource to help these Central Florida communities not only recovery from the devastating impacts of past storms, but an opportunity to be better equipped to handle future storms

and become more resilient."

DEO is awarding the following communities funding:

- City of Orlando (\$2,850,000)

   to develop six resiliency hubs
   that will provide services to
   low- and moderate-income
   communities in the recovery
   phase of a disaster.
- Osceola County (\$4,689,320) to modify and adapt existing drainage elements to substantially reduce repetitive flooding.

With a total allocation of \$475,000,000, the Rebuild Florida

Mitigation General Infrastructure Program will provide two additional rounds of funding in the future to communities designated by HUD or the state as Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) by Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, and Irma.

The DEO is the governor-designated state authority responsible for administering all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) long-term recovery funds awarded to the state. Rebuild Florida uses federal funding for Florida's long-term recovery efforts from the devastating impacts of natural disasters. For more information, visit RebuildFlorida.gov.

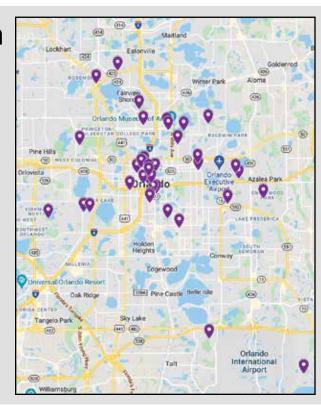
# The City Of Orlando And OUC Unveil 100-Station Orlando Public EV Charging Network

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, Orlando City Commissioners, and OUC—The Reliable One unveiled the new 100-station Orlando Public EV Charging Network, and "plugged in" at one of the new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at the John H. Jackson Neighborhood Center.

With this project, a partnership with OUC and the American Cities Climate Challenge, the City of Orlando has installed 100 new EV charging stations spanning 33 locations throughout the City, including at parks, neighborhood and senior centers, parking garages, and public venues. Each location will also have at least one ADA-accessible EV charging station to ensure the services are available to all drivers.

For a full map of all 100 locations, please visit https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1qddjiiRR\_jKrEbfGEye51gRsjmVozpGs&ll=28.54552029734871%2C-81.35353962855332&z=14

EVs are critical to achieving OUC's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, with interim goals of reducing carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and 75% by 2040. The utility announced another partnership with the City and Orange County to build an EV charging hub on Robinson Street near I-4 on the OUC-owned land next to Ace Café. This project is the largest of its kind in Florida, with 22 fast charging stations – including 16 superchargers for Teslas. The site will be complete later this year.



### Cybersecurity awareness by Ron Frechette, The Cyber Coach

# **Digital Spring Cleaning And Decluttering**

Longer days, warmer weather, flowers in full bloom, are all the marvelous signs of spring time! It's also

a time when we have the unusual urge to clean and declutter. Have you ever wondered why people in just about every culture on earth have the urge to clean during spring?

There are several origins of spring cleaning that date back centuries and are still practiced today. The Iranians practice "khooneh tekouni" (shaking the house) on Iranian Norouz, the Persian New Year, which happens to fall on the first day of spring. In the Jewish culture, ancient Jews were commanded to conduct a thorough cleansing of their homes prior to Passover, which begins in spring. Catholics have traditionally cleaned the church alter during the season of Lent which falls within the spring. And from a seasonal standpoint, especially before central air and heat existed, opening the windows to let the fresh air in and cleaning the house of soot build-up from months of coal-burning furnaces made common practical sense.

Spring cleaning and decluttering have also proven to have a profound positive impact on our physical and mental health. The process of ridding mold and germs hidden deep within the crevice's our homes dramatically reduces the risk of physical illness. These types of microorganisms carry all types of nasty viruses that once ingested, over time, can lead to various chronic and lifethreatening diseases.

From a psychological perspective, thoroughly cleaning and decluttering has been linked to higher concentration levels, being more creative, deeper sleep, better moods, and decreased stress.

So what does all of this have to do with cybersecurity you ask?

The Digital Age has brought a whole new set of risks related to viruses (a.k.a. malware) that also reside deep within the crevices of our digital devices. Similar to biological viruses, digital viruses or malware can be also contracted in various ways by our devices unbeknownst to us. Music and photo files that we share, infected websites, spam emails, infected word docs or pdf attachments received from a friend or family member, free games, toolbars, media players and other system utilities are some of the ways we can become infected.



These viruses, over time, can also have a devastating impact on the quality of our lives. Having our personal and/or work information deleted, stolen, or put up for ransom can cause major problems. Cyber criminals compromising our protected healthcare information (PHI) is at an all-time high. Healthcare providers are required under federal law (HIPAA) to conduct annual security risk assessments. Be sure to ask your healthcare providers if they are conducting annual security risk assessments to help protect your healthcare data.

The psychological effects of identity theft and data breaches can be devastating. Psychosomatic impacts vary from feeling physically sick, lack of sleep, increase in anxiety, depression, and in extreme cases- like that of the Ashley Madison Hack-suicide.

Incorporating a Digital Spring Cleaning and Decluttering Regimen will help reduce our risks of infection and compromise. The National CyberSecurity Alliance and Better Business Bureau created a Digital Spring Cleaning Checklist and easy-to-follow four-week plan that we highly recommend.

#### **Digital Spring Cleaning Checklist**

#### WEEK 1: Keep Clean Machines

Get started by making sure that all web-connected devices are squeaky clean.

#### WEEK 2: Make sure you're secure

Enhancing the security of your online accounts is a must and a fast, simple way to be safer online.

#### WEEK 3: Digital File purge and protection

Tend to your digital records just as you do for paper files. Be sure to properly dispose of sensitive materials - such as hard drives, disks and memory cards - at a community shredding event.

#### WEEK 4: Clean up your Online Reputation

Parents and older kids with social media accounts can take an active role in making sure their online reputations shine.

In closing, we live in a new age where most the time we spend is in front of some type of digital device. And that device most likely has sensitive information about our lives that cyber criminals would like to have and we must protect. A good spring cleaning and de-clutter will decrease your risk of cyber-attacks and give you some peace of mind to worry less and sleep better! Wishing everyone a safe and secure spring cleaning season!

Sources: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/alternative-medicine/3354156/Health-Why-a-spring-clean-is-good-for-you.html

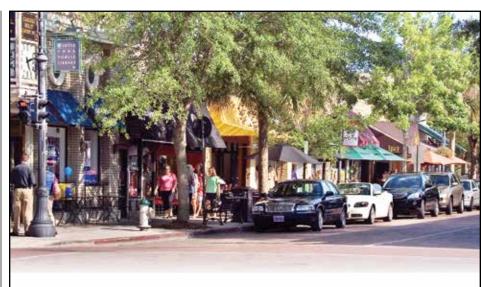
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Questions? Send me a tweet: @GoldSkyRon or email: ron.frechette@goldskysecurity.com





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#### pop culture detours by George McGowan

# Two Great Stories From The Days Of "Yacht Rock"

Way back when, in 2005, the term "yacht rock" was first coined. A web series with that name parodied the soft rock sounds of the late 1970s and early 1980s and those who made them. Now, the term is used simply everywhere to describe any of the songs of Michael McDonald, Kenny Loggins, Little River Band and many others. There are Yacht Rock stations on SiriusXM satellite radio, Pandora, and iHeartRadio. But can anyone define Yacht Rock? Or is it just something you know when you hear it? You know, similar to when Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart used a similar phrase in 1964 to describe his threshold test for obscenity: "I know when I see it"?

I have other questions: why the modifier "yacht" which isn't even an adjective? Is this music high-class like those who own a yacht? Can one only listen to yacht rock whilst sailing? Of course not! On the contrary, yacht rock is an inclusive term and can extend to certain phases of Fleetwood Mac's music, the song "Drive" by the new-wave act The Cars (but not much else by the band), and even the horn-centric R&B sound of Earth, Wind and Fire. So, while some may believe the term "yacht" makes yacht rock an exclusive club, I argue that yacht rock

contains multitudes.

One of the great names in yacht rock history is Christopher Cross. Cross hit the scene in 1979 with his excellent self-titled debut album, which includes the hits "Ride Like the Wind" and "Sailing." This Grammy award winner simply slams (as the kids say these days) and bested albums by Billy Joel, Barbara Streisand, Frank Sinatra, and Pink Floyd to win the coveted Album of the Year in 1981. Yes, the debut album by Christopher Cross beat Pink Floyd's "The

after a short-lived solo singing career became

Illustration by Jill Shargaa

Wall" at the Grammy's. But, upon a relisten, tell me it doesn't hold up. You might listen to "The Wall" over and over on your headphones (and I certainly have), but you can't tell me you crank it up poolside when you have your friends over for a bar-be-que! For that, you need my man Christopher Cross.

While researching Mr. Cross, I learned that his song "Spinning" is effectively a duet with a singer named Valerie Carter. While "Spinning" is not a great song, by any means, it is definitely improved by Ms. Carter's voice. And Valerie Carter has her own very interesting story. She was born in Winter Haven in 1953 and, like many others who became teenagers in the late 1960s, she fled her home as soon as she was able to join the youth culture and "find herself." She met fellow travelers, trekked cross country to Los Angeles, and

> a go-to background singer for many yacht rock acts, including James Taylor, Linda Ronstadt, Jackson Browne and others. In fact, she co-wrote "Love Needs a Heart," one the best songs on Jackson Browne's "Running On Empty" album. Carter was such an influence on others that she

has had two songs written about her - "That Girl Could Sing" by Jackson Browne and "Valerie" by Steve Winwood. Like I wrote - Yacht Rock contains multitudes!

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



**Letting Go** 

May marks a year since my beloved father's untimely passing. May marks 14 months since we were able to leave our homes without a

second thought of safety. May marks my 42nd birthday - in which my eldest daughter will begin driving on her own, my son will navigate adolescence in a brand new way, and my young-

est daughter will leave the nest and go to school for the first time.

This May feels like a different kind of May.

I don't mean to outline these things with any morose or cynical tone. To the contrary...I hope this May marks a recalibration to allowing the world to

turn, and we to move with it... as it may.

I know a lot of people, both personally and professionally, who have lost something this year. Whether it's a loved one, a job, a marriage, a sense of freedom, or even their innocence. It has not been a year without losses.

Loss, however, is a part of life. It is immutable and unwavering. It is what we do with that loss that matters far more than whether we think we can escape it. Elizabeth Kubler Ross is famous for her stages of grief: Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, and Acceptance. (David Kessler came along and recently added a sixth stage to that — with the Kubler Ross Foundation's blessing — Finding Meaning.)

Now, for a column (and a professional identity) anchored by the profound belief that we must find meaning (live meaaningfully) for any

Loss, however, is a part of life. It is immutable and unwavering.

chance of joy or peace... of course I couldn't let this pass without at least a bit of reflection...

I hold on pretty tightly. I hold on to the people I love. I hold on to my convictions. I hold on to the things I believe are right. But I also tend to hold on to some of the things that don't matter as much, as well. Things aesthetically being "just so." No dishes in the sink and the counters wiped

down. All of the chores being done and the boxes checked. My opinions that others should or could operate through the same lens, etc...

I also have, especially in the past, held on to the vision of what I thought things were supposed to be. What my unwitting expectations for life or people or the journey were. I don't believe we are often able to even recognize what we "thought it was going to be like." Let alone

> taught to apply some conscious reasoning to it. Or, perhaps even more importantly, let go of and grieve it. And yet, the Buddhists might say that expectation is the root of all suffering.

> So, this May, my intention and my hope is to let go. (Let Go and Live Meaningfully, if we're being accurate... but it must first be rooted in the Letting Go part.) Let go of what it should have been. Let go of who I had wished they

> > were. Let go of what could have been. Let go of the desire to control. Let go of my children's every waking breath

and how they may now have some without me. Let go of the pain of wishing losses hadn't been. Let go of the opinion. Let go of wanting the external to change instead of looking inwards. Let go of the expectation. Let go of the fear. Let go and come what May.

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.

## in the garden by Stephen and Kristin Pategas



Stephen & Kristin Pategas

### Grasses To Ornament The Garden 2.0

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 orna-

mental grasses to 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.

These 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.

Lemongrass (*Cymbopogon citratus*) is native to Southern India and Sri Lanka. The foliage has a lemon scent when bruised. Leaves and stems are used for culinary and medicinal purposes. Grow it in a large container or in the ground where its coarse textural foliage reaches a three to four-foot height and three-foot spread. Plant in full sun and provide moist and well drained soils. Trim it back when the foliage looks tired.

Bamboo muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia dumosa*) is native from Arizona to southern Mexico, but we first spotted it at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge. It has arching stems to five feet in height and can reach six feet or more in spread. The flowers are insignificant but do provide a tan cast over the whole plant for a few weeks in mid-winter. The very narrow leaves and thin clumping stems create the effect of a very finely textured bamboo. It increases in width very slowly by underground rhizomes. It takes dry or moist conditions in well-drained soils. Plant six feet apart in sun to light shade. The bamboo muhly grass hedge in our garden requires almost zero maintenance and did not benefit from being pruned back to the ground years ago as a test. We do trim off the few dead stalks that rise above the billowy foliage that is animated by the slightest breeze. This grass is grown by few wholesale nurseries so please ask garden centers for it, so they promote production.



Hortus Oasis (LA0001090) 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 and visit www.houzz.com/pro/hortusoasis/\_\_public.

All photography by Stephen G. Pategas/Hortus Oasis unless otherwise noted.



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#### schools



This past month has been another wonderful one at Glenridge Middle School. We celebrated National Administrative Professionals' Week highlighting the hard work and dedication our "behind-the-scenes" team members bring to our school every day. In addition, thanks to our PTSA, we celebrated a Team Appreciation Week, to include all teachers and staff. We have an amazing team here at Glenridge Middle School and I am thankful for everything they do, every day, to inspire, challenge, and encourage our students. It truly takes a village to raise our children. I would also like to thank our Glenridge Middle School PTSA for taking the time to celebrate our team. Know that you make us great!



#### The Geneva School

HEAD OF SCHOOL BRAD RYDEN

Ready. Set. Build.

In the fall of 2022, our K4 teachers will welcome the Geneva School class of 2036 to a new lower school building—the first class who will spend all of their Geneva days on the new campus. The Geneva School Board of Governors voted last month to break ground on our new lower school building, adjacent to our new upper school, which opened its own doors in 2019. Seventh through twelfth-grade classes and our athletic complex currently reside on 40+ acres on Seminola Boulevard in Casselberry, while the lower school still calls our campus on State Road 436 home.

From 34 students and five faculty members in 1993, The Geneva School has grown to nearly 550 students and a faculty and staff of over 100 today. For the last decade, the growth has resulted in the need to educate our students simultaneously on multiple campuses. Geneva seeks to provide a culture and an education that are best accomplished with one campus that brings together all students, one that is called home by the whole community. Thanks to the generosity of our friends and families, this will now be a reality.

A small group of donors launched the Gather Campaign to build the lower school with a generous donation of \$8.5 million. With the sale of our current lower school building and the additional donations from the school community we are close enough to the \$16.6 million goal to move forward.

The Geneva School will always seek to be a place where scholarship and Christian character thrive: a community that brings glory to God and

good to neighbor. We give glory to God, he is making this happen and he is blessing this school as we develop future generations of kingdom builders.

# Winter Park Presbyterian PreSchool

Throughout this school year the preschool staff has gone above and beyond to provide high-quality learning experiences while adapting to extraordinary health and safety protocols. We have a very dedicated group of professionals who truly deserve recognition for their commitment, and WPPP parents planned a wonderful Teacher Appreciation Week to honor them.

Parent volunteers gathered at the school over the weekend to decorate classroom doors. Their creativity was over the top and such a wonderful surprise. The students walked around the school to check out all the superhero door decorations. So exciting!

The week started with a fabulous breakfast spread delivered on Monday morning with warm muffins from First Watch and breakfast boxes from The Salty; students brought handmade superhero cards on Tuesday; a Tijuana Flats burrito lunch with Kelly's Homemade ice cream dessert was thoroughly enjoyed on Wednesday; children brought their teacher's favorite flower to them on Thursday; and we ended the week with superhero-themed Farris & Foster's chocolate treat boxes on Friday.

We would like to thank our wonderful parents who worked so hard to spoil our teachers and let them know how deeply appreciated they are!



Pictured above: Teacher Appreciation Week (Miss Alison shown here) and some students from Winter Park Presbyterian PreSchool.

# Winter Park High School Student Named Rising Star By Orlando Republican Women Federated

Claire Crossman, a junior at Winter Park High School, has been named a Rising Star by Orlando Republican Women Federated, the oldest Republican women's club in Florida.

Formed as the Republican Round Table in 1924, ORWF periodically hon- Claire Crossman



ors up-and-coming Republican women.

Crossman, 17 - the daughter of Florida business leader John Crossman and his wife, Angie is the founder and president of the Winter Park High School Republican Club.

Crossman said her role in the club helps promote the values of respect and cooperation, and she hopes that she and her leadership team can inspire future voters by providing resources and volunteer experiences, as well as lining up

informative guest speakers.

In addition to politics, she has a passion for singing as evidenced by serving as a lead vocalist in the school chorus and being a featured soloist in the school's "Night on Broadway," two years in a row. She also is training for her fourth year on the school's girls' cross-country team.

Upon graduation in 2022, Crossman - who maintains a weighted 4.5 GPA - says she plans to attend a conservative, Christian college.





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