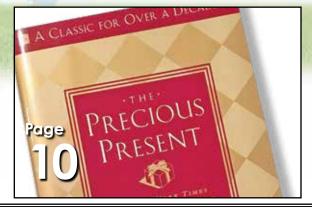
# The Park Press Positive news that matters ~ FREE



Winter Park | Baldwin Park | College Park | Audubon Park | Maitland







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

# Home Instead Kicks Off 'Be A Santa For A Deserving Senior'

As isolation continues to impact local seniors, Home Instead of Orlando repeats their Be a Santa to a Senior program promising another season of holiday cheer. This year the Home Instead Orlando offices will be working with Beall's Outlets and various healthcare facilities to provide gifts to more than 500 seniors in the area.

Be A Santa to a Senior supports older adults who may be overlooked, isolated, or alone during the holiday season. This is the 18th year for the local program that gives back to older adults and reminds them they are cherished by our community. The gifts collected, which are often necessity items such as toiletries, clothing and blankets, make a big impact and help area seniors combat the holiday blues.

"We've all experienced feelings of loneliness during the pandemic, and seniors are at a particularly high risk for isolation," said Debra Foscolo, owner of the three Home Instead offices serving Orlando and surrounding communities. "Be a Santa to a Senior shows the older adults in our community that they are valued and thought of during the holidays."



Continued on page 4. Home Instead volunteers are busy wrapping gifts that will be delivered to more than 500 seniors in the area.

# Create Your Own Greeting Card In Winter Park



'Tis the season to create fun, memorable moments with family and friends! Just step inside our five holiday greeting cards located in city parks, take pictures to share, and be entered for a chance to win a City of Winter Park gift basket. Creating memorable moments this holiday season is tons of fun and super easy by following these three steps:

- 1. Take a photo at one or ALL the life-size greeting card backdrops now through Monday, January 3, 2022.
- 2. Submit your greeting card photo(s) via direct message [DM] to facebook.com/WinterParkFla or instagram.com/WinterParkFla. We will share your holiday moments in our Hometown Holidays photo album on the City's official Facebook page.
- 3. DM your greeting card photos from ALL FIVE greeting cards (five pics total required) to be entered in the raffle to win a City of Winter Park prize basket.

Greeting cards can be found at the following city park locations:

- Central Park one at the corner of Morse Boulevard and Park Avenue, one near the Emily Fountain, and a third next to the retired city holiday tree.
- Shady Park in Hannibal Square, between the Ruby Ball Amphitheater and Pennsylvania
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Park at the corner of Denning Drive and Morse Boulevard.

We can't wait to see festive photos of your magical moments while you shop, dine, and enjoy the beauty of Winter Park this holiday season. Happy Hometown Holidays!

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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

VISIT US ON THE WEB www.TheParkPress.com

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# Publisher's Message



What's "Black Friday?" Well, since you're reading this you've obviously survived another one. You know it's that day that most, if not all, of the big retailers open early, the day after Thanksgiving, and offer ridiculous deals on a few hot items at limited quantities to kick off the holiday shop-

ping season. Other than working in retail back in the day and having to pull a shift on the Friday following Thanksgiving, I've never participated in Black Friday. I'm a "need" versus "want" type of guy and believe shopping on that day is strictly for the "wants." Quite frankly, there is nothing I want to shop that hard for.

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

Then, in January of 1966, the Philadelphia Police Department used the term to describe the mayhem that ensued on the day after Thanksgiving. In a publication, the term Black Friday was coined to define the massive traffic jams, overcrowded sidewalks, and mobbed downtown stores; a definition obviously not welcomed by most retailers.

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



Did you survive "Black Friday?" How about "Small Business Saturday?

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

Ok, so the last one makes a little sense, but like I said, cutting room floor in my opinion. Nothing about the label is endearing to the consumers, but thanks to the media it is commonly recognized as the start of the holiday shopping season. And of course in more recent years it's been followed by "Small Business Saturday" for local stores, and "Cyber Monday"!

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

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

### Rick

Rick Cable Founder/Owner

**OUR PUBLICATION IS** MADE POSSIBLE IN OUR COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT OF OUR ADVERTISERS.

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



Like us on Facebook

# 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
- reuse [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]
- plain paper products » wrapping paper, gift boxes, gift bags & holiday cards

cityofwinterpark.org/think-twice

KEEP WINTER PARK BEAUTIFUL & SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

2022

YES! I WILL MAKE A

# personal COMMITMEN











go meat-free on Mondays

avoid using single-use items

IS MY PLEDGE...WHAT'S YOURS?

cityofwinterpark.org/sustain-pledge



Good news. Rates just got lower.

John Psomas RICP, Agent 922 Lake Baldwin Lane, Suite A Orlando, FL 32814 Bus: 407-277-2997 www.johnpsomas.com Se habla español

I'm excited to announce auto insurance rates just went down. I can help you find coverage that works for you. LET'S TALK TODAY.



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, Richardson, TX

1901155

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



December has arrived be filled with bright lights, smells of pine tree-scented candles, and the joy of family and friends. There are many events happening around the City of Orlando to get residents into the holiday spirit. We hope you'll join in

on the holiday cheer.

Lake Eola serves as the hub for City-hosted events-check out their social media, @LakeEolaPark for information on light shows and holiday movies, along with performances by Violectric (December 11th at 7 p.m.) and The Nutcracker performed by Russian Ballet Orlando (December 18th at 7:30 p.m.).

Our commercial districts will also be hosting events throughout the season and have worked to add to the festive spirit by installing holiday decorations throughout their areas. Do a drivearound the community and check out the decorations in Albert Park, Gaston Edwards Park, the SoDo shopping Plaza, the Baldwin Park Village Center, Curry Ford West's "Picture Perfect Holiday Photograph" settings, and so many more.

There are also many markets and opportunities to shop local this season, so you aren't stressed about all of the talk regarding supply chain issues. The Milk District will host their holiday market on December 19th beginning at noon. And of course, our Audubon Park Garden District plays host to the community market every Monday evening. And our newest market is now happening every

Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. in the Packing and that means days will District at the corner of Orange Blossom Trail and Princeton Street.

> These are just a few highlights, but I encourage you to stay up to date by following our Facebook page, Twitter feed, and email newsletters (sign-up by emailing me-robert.stuart@orlando.gov).

> 'Tis the season of holiday shopping in store and online. Online shopping is convenient. However, scammers are everywhere and they case neighborhoods looking for packages on porches. Here are some tips from Orlando Police Department to help you, family, and friends stay safe this holiday season.

Online:

- If you are ordering online, make arrangements for alternate drop-off if you won't be home for a period of time.
- Have your packages sent to your workplace, or to a neighbor's house where someone is at home.
- We offer an e-commerce exchange zone at Orlando Police Headquarters with two spots in our visitor parking lot set aside for e-commerce exchange. If you are buying or selling something online, please consider making the exchange there. Their lot is under video surveillance and is a well-lit and safe place to drop off or pick up goods. If someone doesn't want to meet you at a police station for safe exchange, that should be a red flag.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. If something doesn't feel right – trust your instincts. In person:
- When shopping, call law enforcement or reach out to mall security immediately if you

are in need, and we will respond.

- Carry your purses and wallets on the front of your body to make it harder for pickpockets.
- Our mantra is, "If you see something, say something." We can't tell you how many crimes have been thwarted by citizens who saw something suspicious and brought it to our attention.
- Always lock car doors. Try to park in well-lit areas and never be afraid to ask for an escort to your car if you need one. Make sure your packages are stored securely in the trunk of your vehicle or out of sight. If you are dropping off packages and you intend to continue shopping, consider moving your car to a different area of the lot.
- When you get home, please don't use your car as a storage area for gifts since car break-ins can happen in a blink of an eye (unless you are one of those unicorns who can park in your garage).

If your New Year's resolution is to get more involved with your city, the mayor's State of Downtown Address will take place on December 13th at Exploria Stadium at 3:30 p.m. Registration for the event can be found at doporlando.com/ stateofdowntown or can be viewed on our city's You Tube Channel.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year's in our Great City and with the people you love and admire. Thank you for working with us during this unprecedented year. I am truly proud to be a resident of Orlando and share space with each and every one of you who make this city a compassionate place to call home.



# Peace of Mind STARTS with your primary care provider.

Having a primary care provider (PCP) is one of the best things you can do to protect your family's health. This provider knows you and your medical history and can connect you to any health services you may need over time.



Provides regular health screenings to catch issues before you get sick



Ensures timely treatment for a wide range of injuries and conditions



Refers you to appropriate specialists



Knows you and your medical history



Helps you live a healthy lifestyle



Manages your medications



Serves as a trusted source of medical advice and care

### IN-PERSON AND VIDEO VISITS AVAILABLE.

To schedule an appointment with a primary care provider near you, call 407-599-6111 or visit CentralFloridaPrimaryCare.com.



# Winter Park Mayor's Message Mayor Phil Anderson



### **Celebrating Hometown Holidays**

Welcome to Holidays" celebration! Like

Park and Park Avenue holiday season. It feels like a magical place for families and neighbors

to let the warmth of the season flow into our hearts and put a smile on our face. It just makes me happy.

The holidays are the time when we reach back to our childhood, when we long to connect with the generations before us and when we want our children and friends to feel the love and joy of the season. It is also a time to just lighten up!

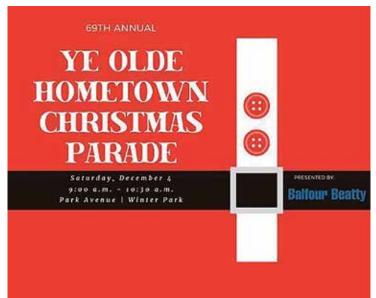
And that is what we are really doing this year with our "Hometown Holidays" celebration... more lights, more shopping, more events, more smiles and more fun.

I think Winter Park's founders would be pleased. When they created Central Park, they knew that great places to live really needed great places (and spaces) to relax and enjoy. So I want to thank them. Thank them for giving us a special place to mingle, shop, and showcase the culture and heritage that makes Winter Park special.

In 2016, Winter Park residents said they valued "History and Heritage" and our "Village Ambiance /Small Town Feel" as the top two guiding principles that describe our community.

As we close the year, this commission and our city staff have applied those principles well.

Winter We have tackled a pandemic and are emerging Park and our "Hometown with a strong appreciation for our neighbors, our neighborhoods, and park spaces. We made you, I love our Central great strides in fully staffing our police and fire



The 69th Annual Ye Olde Hometown Christmas Parade takes place on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Park Avenue.

departments, keeping our position as providing the best emergency response times in the region.

We ended the prior fiscal year and started the next with our reserves fully intact, a balanced budget, and ambitious investment plans for the next 25 years. We put forward a model guideline for redeveloping our Orange Avenue. We tackled the important work of high-quality water and electrical services, roadway safety improvements, economic development assistance, and increased parking for our businesses. This year, perhaps

more than any other, I hope that you embrace Winter Park's historic, small-town feel, knowing that is what we are working to keep, and what our founders in 1882 intended.

After the events of the last 18 months, I also want to thank our courageous business owners and team members for persevering, being creative, and giving us all, residents and visitors, the best shopping and dining experience in Central Florida. There aren't many places where you can buy a blazer or shoes, walk down the Avenue with your dog, and enjoy some of the best cuisine at an outdoor café table in the middle of winter.

Thanks also to our arts, culture, and heritage community members for keeping our sense of beauty and charm alive! As we have restarted our public gatherings, I think the joy and inspiration we all feel today has been magnified because of the time spent without the personal connection to our performances, our artists, and the curators and custodians of

culture who operate our world class museums.

So that's my message...

Thank you to all the people who work and live here, and who make this city a "small town" of neighbors. And special thanks to those who founded Winter Park in the first place, for giving us the parks, avenues, and charm that truly makes us feel at home.

Wishing you and your family and friends the happiest of holiday seasons.

Sincerely,

Mayor Phil Anderson

From Page 1.

### **HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

Individuals can visit one of the participating locations and look for the Be a Santa to a Senior tree on display through December 11. Each tree will be decorated with ornaments featuring seniors' first names and gift suggestions. Holiday shoppers can choose an ornament, buy the requested gift, and return it unwrapped to the location with the ornament attached.

"A small act of kindness can make a big difference. And a heartfelt gift brightens the lives of older adults who may feel alone during the season," said Foscolo. "Finding ways to care and support one another is important now more than ever and we are grateful for the community's involvement

### Be a Santa to a Senior trees can be found at the following locations:

- Allegro, 2701 Howell Branch Rd., Winter Park, FL 32792
- Beall's Department Store, 2302 E. Semoran Blvd., Apopka, FL 32703
- Beall's Outlet, 12413 S. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL 32837
- Beall's Outlet, 6682 Eagle Watch Dr., Orlando, FL 32822
- Beall's Outlet, 2668 E. Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 32803
- Beall's Outlet Ocoee, 8901 W. Colonial Dr., Orlando, FL 34761
- Beall's Outlet Waterford, 638 N. Alafaya Trail, Orlando, FL 32828
- Beall's Outlet Apopka, 2314 East Semoran Blvd., Apopka, FL 32703
- Beall's Outlet Fern Park, 157 State Rd 436, Fern Park, FL 32730
- Beall's Outlet Kissimmee, 3227 S. John Young Pkwy, Kissimmee, FL 34746
- Beall's Outlet Kissimmee, 2523 Old Vineland Rd., Kissimmee, FL 34746
- Beall's Outlet Longwood, 949 State Road 434, Longwood, FL 32750
- Beall's Outlet St Cloud, 3431 13th St., St. Cloud, FL 34769
- CF Fitness, 7733 Turkey Lake Rd., Orlando, FL 32819 • CF Fitness, 4049 13th St., St. Cloud, FL 34769
- Home Instead Senior Care, 3655 Maguire Blvd., Orlando, FL 32803
- Inspired Living, 1061 Tomyn Blvd., Ocoee, FL 34761
- Kindred at Home, 4776 New Broad St., #110, Baldwin Park, FL 32814
- Shaffer Animal Hospital, 1475 E. Mitchell Hammock Rd., Oviedo, FL 32765
- Sonata West, 420 Roper Rd., Winter Garden, FL 34787
- Strive Senior Living, 7255 Strive Place, Fern Park, FL 32730



to seniors in time for the holidays. Shoppers encouraged to purchase as many gifts for seniors as they would like. If you have a passion for giving back and helping seniors, visit https://www. homeinstead.com/ home-care-jobs to learn more about becoming a CAREGiver. From personal care and companionship to transportation and meal preparation, compassionate CAREGivers allow seniors to remain in their homes.



# News Anchor Nancy Alvarez Joins Heart Of Florida United Way

Award-winning morning news anchor Nancy Alvarez will be signing off from WFTV-9 and joining the team at Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) as the senior vice president of community relations & equity Impact.

Alvarez will be responsible for directly engaging targeted communities, especially underserved populations, with a goal of increasing awareness of Heart of Florida United Way's programs. She will serve as a liaison to key population segments, promote community engagement and action, raise the visibility of the impact of Heart of Florida United Way, and facilitate community conversations on critical issues affecting Central Florida.

"Over the years, as I covered some of our toughest moments, I always noticed Heart of Florida United Way was there shining a light and helping lift our neighbors. I'm grateful for this opportunity to join a team focused on empowering our diverse and rapidly growing community," Alvarez said.

Alvarez began her 21-year award-winning broadcasting career as a reporter for Central Florida News 13's Brevard County Bureau. She also spent five years at WKMG Channel 6 where she worked as an investigative reporter. She covered the space program at both stations for most of her early career. After leaving the market for a brief time, she joined WFTV where she spent the last 11 years. In that time, she was at the center of every major story in the region including storms, political events, the tragedy at the Pulse nightclub, and the COVID-19 pandemic. She was also one of the first reporters on the ground in



Nancy Alvarez photo by Lindsay Parks Photography

Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria devastated the island in 2017. Over the course of multiple trips, she provided coverage of the impacts of the storm both on the island and in Florida as evacuees moved to the mainland. She was also there for the political unrest that led to the resignation of the island's governor in 2019.

"Nancy is a trusted voice in the community," said Jeff Hayward, the president & CEO of Heart of Florida United Way. "We are looking forward to working with her to continue telling the most important stories in our community and being an advocate for underrepresented segments of our region."

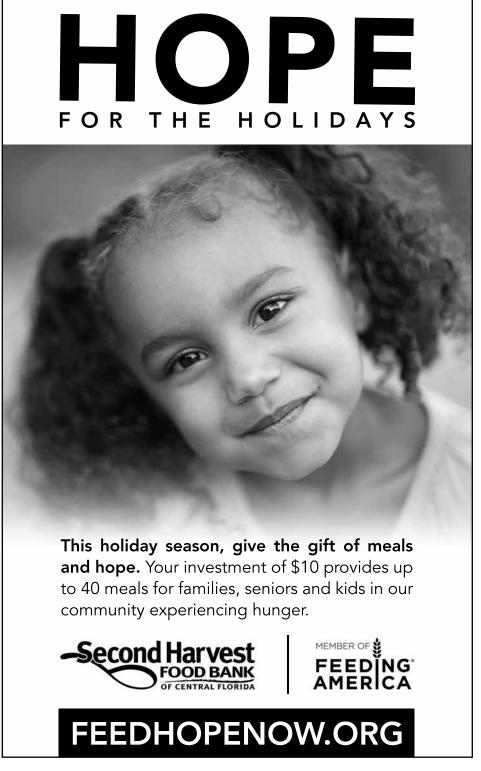
HFUW and WFTV are long-time partners, aligned on issues such as the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) populations, advocating for the Earned Income Tax Credit for working families, empowering women through Women United partnerships and supporting military Veterans through Mission United. In 2020, WFTV partnered with HFUW on the "Central Florida Strong" campaign to raise much needed funds for those impacted by the financial consequences of COVID-19.

"We're very proud of WFTV's strong partnership history with Heart of Florida United Way," said Paul Briggs, the vice president & general manager of WFTV. "While we will miss Nancy on our airwaves, we look forward to this new chapter with Heart of Florida United Way and the integral role she will have in serving our Central Florida community."

Follow the stories that Alvarez will be covering at Heart of Florida United Way on Facebook and @HFUW on Twitter and Instagram or NancyAlvarezFL on Facebook, @NancyAlvarezTV on Instagram, and @NAlvarezWFTV on Twitter.

Visit HFUW.org to learn more about Heart of Florida United Way.





# Rollins College Breaks Ground On Tiedtke Theatre And Dance Center

A new performing arts era began at Rollins College with the groundbreaking for a state-of-the-art 16,165-square-foot theater and dance center that includes the first custom-built black box theater on campus. The projected completion is in 2022.

"The theater project is critical to the educational excellence and rigor of one of our topranked academic programs," says President Grant Cornwell. "Generations of students will benefit from this investment."

The new Tiedtke Theatre & Dance Centre was made possible by a \$5-million gift from

Philip and Sigrid Tiedtke and generous support from Sally Albrecht '76, a composer who doublemajored in theater and music at Rollins.

The Centre will be adjacent to the Annie Russell Theatre and just north of R. D. Keene Hall, home of the College's music department, anchoring a creative neighborhood of the arts on campus. The architectural firm Baker Barrios Architects, Inc., has designed the new space in harmony with Rollins' iconic Mediterranean campus architecture, and OHLA is the general contractor on the project. Topped with a red tile roof, the building will feature a fountain,

arched doorways with classical columns, and a covered loggia walkway.

A 1,900-square-foot black box theater will host formal performances of up to 142 guests, integrating the latest in design, lighting, and sound systems. The dance space room will feature mirrors, barres, and special flooring. The center will also include a 2,400-square-foot costume design and technology lab, which will integrate a costume shop, fitting rooms, a draft room, and storage for the necessities of live productions such as props and set decorations.



Tiedtke Dance Center rendering exterior.



Tiedtke Dance Center rendering bird's eye view.

# Celebrate The Holidays With The Playhouse Family Holiday Cabaret



Want to feel at home for the holidays? There's no place like The Winter Park Playhouse and its new cabaret, The Playhouse Family Holiday Cabaret, on December 8 and 9, 2021.

Join the Playhouse founders Roy Alan and Heather Alexander, along with staff members Christopher Leavy, Todd Allen Long, Monica Titus and Ned Wilkinson as they weave together a feel-good cabaret filled with songs from radio, film and stage.

Enjoy a fun evening with holiday classics like "Winter Wonderland," "Santa Baby," and "White Christmas," along with a variety of music, dancing and seasonal surprises.

"We are so excited to bring our amazing staff together to provide a joyful escape during the holiday season! Come forget your troubles and celebrate the season with us!" confirms Heather Alexander, Playhouse executive director.

Tickets for live performances are \$20 plus a one-drink minimum. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the cabaret begins at 7:30 p.m.

Cabarets are currently taking place on the theatre Mainstage and masks are required throughout the duration of the performance. Assigned seating is limited and performances sell out quickly, so advance reservations are strongly recommended.

The Playhouse Family Holiday Cabaret will also be filmed live and be available to enjoy virtually December 17 -20, 2021. Tickets for the virtual cabaret can be purchased through the box office or online.

Call The Winter Park Playhouse box office 407-645-0145 to reserve tickets or go online at www.winterparkplayhouse.org.



# My Social Security's **Four Superpowers**

By Angelita Pacheco Social Security District Manager in Orlando, FL

Did you know having a personal my Social Security account is almost like having super powers? Think about it. It protects you, and you can even look into your financial future. Check out these four features that can empower all working Americans who pay into Social Security.

### **SAVES YOU TIME**

You may think you need to speak with a Social Security representative to check your application status, set up or change direct deposit, or request a replacement Social Security card. But you don't! All you have to do is log in or create your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Take care of your Social Security business from home or away when it's convenient for you.

### **SECURITY PROTECTION**

Your personal information is very important to us. When you create an account, it prevents someone else from possibly creating an account in your name. We use two-step authentication to verify you are the one logging in to your account. Our security measures allows you to access your personal information safely and securely using my Social Security.

### REASSURANCE

Did you know you can see your entire earnings history with your personal my Social Security account? Do you know why it's important to check it and make sure it's accurate? Your future benefits are based on your earnings history. You won't receive all the benefits you should if our records understate your real earnings. Use your account to check your Social Security Statement online and verify if your employers reported your earnings to us correctly. We tell you how to correct an error if you find one.

### PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE

Retirement planning is essential for a secure future. And your personal

my Social Security account makes it easy. You can view your retirement estimates when you enter the age or date when you expect to begin receiving benefits and your estimated future salary amount. You can also view your estimated disability benefit on the Estimate Benefits page.







NEWS The Park Press | DECEMBER 2021



# Geico Donates Shoes To Heart Of Florida United Way For Homeless Kids

One in five children in the U.S. live in poverty, and shoes are one of the most expensive items for low-income families to purchase- especially when choosing between that or putting food on the table. Through Geico's national partnership with California-based nonprofit Shoes that Fit, Heart of Florida United Way received a donation of 167 custom, new athletic shoes to distribute to youth who need them most. These shoes were given to the youth currently in programs at Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida - specifically the 21 children ages three to five years old within its Early Childhood Development Center. On any given night approximately 100 children are sheltered at Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida – or one-fourth of shelter residents.

Delitza Fernandez, project manager for the Community Investment & Strategic Impact Department, Heart of Florida United Way said, "When we were approached by Geico with this opportunity, we knew we just had to make a difference in these children's lives. Too many of our ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families had fallen on hard times for the very first time due to the pandemic. Many lost their homes and some ended up homeless. It was obvious to us that our agency partner, Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida, would receive these so youth could have something new to wear to school or safely enjoy the playground activities. We hope this is a bright spot in their day and lessens the worry of their parents who are simply trying to make ends meet."

Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) is Central Florida's most comprehensive health and human services charity and the largest provider of funds to the region's most critical health and human service programs. Last year, it delivered more than \$23M in programs and services throughout Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. It operates United Way 2-1-1, Central Florida's information

and assistance, crisis, suicide and referral helpline; Volunteer Resource Center; Emergency Homelessness Services; and the Ryan White Part B program, which administers nearly \$3M to provide HIV/ AIDS services and referrals. HFUW impacts more than 490,000 individuals annually through its direct service and funded programs. Visit hfuw.org for more information, or call (407) 835-0900. Follow us on Facebook @HeartofFloridaUnitedWay or Instagram and Twitter @hfuw.

Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida helps families and individuals return to safe, stable, permanent housing as quickly as possible. Each day, the Coalition serves up to 500 men, women, and children through its residential shelters, as well as more than 100 unsheltered individuals through its community initiatives. Last year alone, the Coalition ended homelessness for more than 1,600 people. For more information, visit Central-FloridaHomeless.org.

# Ring In The Holidays Rat Pack Style At The Winter Park Playhouse

The cast from "Christmas My Way: A Sinatra

Celebrate the season with The Winter Park Playhouse, Central Florida's professional musical theatre, as it returns to the stage with a Rat Packstyle holiday treat - *Christmas My way:* A Sinatra Holiday Bash - now through December 18, 2021.

From classic Sinatra tunes to seasonal favorites, Christmas My Way: A Sinatra Holiday Bash is guaranteed fun for all with 40 popular hits including "That's Life," "New York, New York," "Mistletoe and Holly," "The Christmas

Song," "Silver Bells," "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and many more!

Holiday Bash."

The professional cast of veteran actors returning to the Playhouse Mainstage includes Patrece Bloomfield (Ain't Misbehavin', Florida Festival of New Musicals) Kevin Kelly (The Andrews Brothers, Murder For Two, Forever Plaid, Rat Pack Lounge) Rebecca Jo Lightfoot (Heartbeats, All Hands on Deck!) and Russell Stephens (Crazy For Gershwin.)

Playhouse artistic director, Roy Alan, will direct and choreograph; the music is directed by the resident Playhouse musical director, Christopher Leavy. The Playhouse band will feature Mr. Leavy on piano, Sam Forrest on percussion, and Ned Wilkinson on multiple instruments.

"This show is a perfect way to celebrate the holiday season! The cast

is incredible and the songs are classic songs loved by all. Don't miss out!" said Heather Alexander, Playhouse executive director.

Performances are Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday matinees at 2:00 p.m. and select

Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Ticket prices are \$45 evenings, \$42 senior evenings, \$36 matinees, \$20 preview performances, \$20 students and theatrical industry professionals. Group discount rates for 10 people or more are available. Student rush "\$10@10" offers \$10 tickets (for students 25 years and younger) 10 minutes prior to a performance when seats are available. All patrons will be required to wear masks during the performance.

To purchase tickets call the box office at 407-645-0145 or visit online at www.winterparkplayhouse.org.

# Springhill Suites Marriott Opens In Winter Park

The newly-opened Springhill Suites Marriott in Ravaudage offers a convenient location for visitors to explore the shops, restaurants, and experiences of Winter Park. Specializing in large scale development projects all over the country, Daniel Bellows, Richard Haines and their partners at Sydgan Corporation and RLH Construction LLC came together to construct the hotel.

Owners Daniel and Richard are both local to Winter Park and familiar with the area's rich history of beautiful hotels. "The Seminole, The Alabama, and The Langford are just a few of the hotels that make Winter Park unique. However, over the years the Seminole burnt to the ground, the Alabama converted to condos, and the Langford was demolished. The Winter Park community simply needed more hotel rooms and Ravaudage was just the place to provide the land area and usage," said Daniel Bellows, Sydgan Corporation. "As a builder, it's an honor to actually keep the building as part owner and see the successes beyond completion," said Richard Haines, RLH Construction.

SYDGAN
CORPORATION
Real Estate Management, Davelopment, & Brokerage

The construction process started back in 2011 when Ravaudage received its full entitlements. Ten years later, the team successfully opened the Springhill Suites Marriott as smoothly as they could in a world of construction post COVID-19.

The Springhill Suites Marriott is located at 1127 North Orlando Avenue, Winter Park, Florida 32789. For more information or reservations, call (407) 960-4624 or visit https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/mcows-springhill-suites-winter-park/





The Park Press | DECEMBER 2021 **BUSINESS** 

# Cybersecurity awareness by Ron Frechette, The Cyber Coach

# **Best Online Cybersecurity Practices**

The holiday season is here, and the shopping spree has already begun. Cybercriminals gear up during the holiday season. A recent study conducted by McAfee analyzed the changing behavior of online shoppers in today's evolving cyber threat landscape and highlighted

some of the most critical risks impacting e-commerce consumers:

- 74% of consumers between the ages of 18 and 25 do not check the authenticity of gift cards
- Only 37% of respondents were aware of cyberattacks and associated risks

### Risks of Online Shopping during the Holiday Season

As the volume of online sales increases, so too does the number of cyberattacks against online retailers. In previous years, hackers have placed malicious code on the retailers' websites to capture sensitive data on consumers—names, addresses, credit card numbers, and more. Also, retailers' APIs are lucrative targets for attackers, as they hold sensitive payment and transactional data belonging to customers and businesses.

Moreover, the online shopping boom results in retailers experiencing more cyberattacks. Some of the significant cyber-threats retailers must be aware of include:

- Digital skimming attacks: hackers steal customers' personally identifiable information (PII). Cybercriminals exploit the security vulnerabilities of the third-party JavaScript running on the retailer's site. Then, malicious code is inserted that skims the credit card information and other sensitive data.
- Credit card frauds: hackers use stolen card details to make purchases on e-commerce sites. Gift card frauds are also widespread during the holiday season as they have lesser protection than credit cards.
- Denial of inventory and scalping attacks: hackers repeatedly add an item to the shopping cart to deplete its stock. With items constantly out of stock, customer frustration increases, and business is affected adversely. Moreover, cybercriminals deploy bots in scalping attacks to buy the most popular products and sell them elsewhere at inflated prices.

### Best Practices to Secure Online Sales During the Holiday Season

This doesn't just apply to large online retailers; it's also necessary for small businesses and brick-and-mortar stores to secure their point-of-sale (POS) systems. These are the cybersecurity best practices to prepare for the holiday season:



- 1. Monitor real-time data from endpoints and other systems interacting with your organization's network. This adds visibility and prevents malware from being deployed into the system.
- 2. Keep all software and applications up to date via patch management and vulnerability prioritization. Protect website functionalities and safeguard newly-added pages or features with bot mitigation solutions and a strict ruleset.
- 3. Prepare for a high volume of traffic and DDoS attacks by testing your infrastructure to ensure protection across all web resources.
- 4. Implement proper cybersecurity practices for users: strong passwords, multi-factor authentication, and reminders to change their passwords.
- **5.** Perform regular data backup to increase the availability of business operations in case a cyberattack occurs.
- **6.** Having a robust incident response plan in place is crucial for recovery procedures.
- 7. Implement continuous cybersecurity awareness training for staff members.

Despite the stresses of the holiday season and the evolving threat landscape, strong cybersecurity measures can deter cybercriminals—for large retailers and small businesses alike. Cybersecurity awareness and training is a best practice that works with end-users to help detect suspicious email or phishing attacks. And even if a breach occurs, a robust incident response plan will enable organizations to respond promptly, securing the integrity of sensitive customer and business information and other configuration data from the POS system. So implement these best practices to keep your business running smoothly during the holiday shopping season and beyond.

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

# 15th Annual Orlando Out of the Darkness Community Walk @ Baldwin Park Saturday, February 5, 2022 Across from 2420 Lakemont Ave. Orlando, FL 32814 Register at afsp.org/ORLANDO

# Winter Park Florida Law Firm Named A 2022 Best Law Firm By Best Lawyers

Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman, P.A. was recently named a 2022 "Best Law Firm" by U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers. Several of the firm's areas of practice were recognized in the report, including Banking & Finance Law, Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Business Organizations, Commercial Litigation, Corporate Law, Litigation - Banking & Finance, Litigation - Bankruptcy, Real Estate Law and Trusts & Estates Law, Elder Law, Land Use & Zoning Law and Bet-the-Company Litigation.

Firms included in the 2022 Best Law Firms list are recognized for professional excellence with consistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. Achieving a ranking signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal expertise. The rankings are based on client, attorney and law firm assessments.



President Jere Daniels of WHWW.

Established in Central Florida in 1931, Winderweedle, Haines, Ward and Woodman is a full-service law firm providing legal representation in business law, litigation and appeals, bankruptcy, banking, insurance law, estates and trusts, government, property rights, and real estate, as well as other areas. WHWW also represent national, regional, and local clients including financial institutions, corporations, private foundations, and individuals.

# pop culture detours by George McGowan

# In A Bit Of A Surprise, I Read 20 Books Last Year!

In a last-ditch attempt to find something to write about for this last column of 2021, I went back to review the books I read in 2021. I was surprised to see that I read 20 books! I think this is a banner year for me! Not as impressive as some others I know, but I will put my variety up against anyone. The list includes 11 non-fiction books and nine novels, with subjects from the memoir of a president to a National Book Award winner. I have two books on music, two books of historical fiction, four memoirs, a graphic novel, a teen novel, and one book my wife recommended! If my math is correct, the folks who use the website Good Reads to rate and review books give the books I finished an average rating of 3.972 on a 5-point scale, so in titular general, some very good reads.

Interestingly, the highest rated book I read this year was the graphic novel, "Kent State: Four Dead in Ohio" by Derf Backderf. This makes the second graphic novel I have read by this author, after "My Friend Dahmer" in which Backderf recounts his childhood friendship with the notorious serial killer. In similar fashion, in "Kent State" Backderf recounts his experience as a 10-year-old who remembers seeing the Indiana State Guardsmen rolling through his small town before they became front page news on May 4, 1970 at Kent State University. Backderf thoroughly researched his account of that day and shows the reader in all the harrowing detail how local, state, and national politics led to the tragedy that took place in that bucolic town and on that hilly campus.

was "The Persia Café" by Melany Neilson. While I gave the book four stars, the Good Reads collective voice only rated it 2.96. I wish I could recall why I added this book to my "To Reads" list, but perhaps it is because award-winning novelist John Grisham

STUNNING

praised it. The novel is set in

South and the main character is a young lady who runs the café. with many folks who run a local the spot, owner knew and becomes

clients enamored with a young lady who is in love with another local boy. Because of their upbringing, the couple is not well-accepted by

the townsfolk and when the boy is found dead under suspicious circumstances, the town begins to come apart at the

seams. I was intrigued by the characters and while the story seemed formulaic, it was a breezy read and The least well-reviewed book that I read this year caused me to think about the wider implications

of the story. I finished this book in March and I recalled it when I read the autobiography of the baseball superstar Hank Aaron over the summer. Aaron similarly was raised in a small Southern town and experienced terrible racism and poverty before becoming baseball's home run king in 1974

If I had to decide on my favorite book that I read this year, it would be tie between the novel "Later" by Stephen King and the non-fiction book "Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the

MAGNIFICENT'

Birth of the FBI" by David

Grann. I love most everything Stephen King, but especially his books when they are under 300 pages! And the Grann book "required" reading since Martin Scorsese is making the movie based on his book and it looks like it will be released sometime in 2022. Looking forward to seeing if Scorsese does the book justice! Here's to many great reads in the new year.

Favorite books from 2021 are "Later" by Stephen King and "Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI" by David Grann.





As I was considering what to write this evening, I found myself remembering a story from when I was a child. There was a fable,

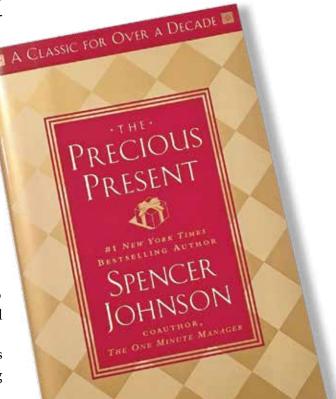
written by Spencer Johnson, that I was lucky enough to have been assigned in my fourthgrade English class. It was called *The Precious* Present and though I remember liking it well enough, what I remember more was how taken my mother was by this specific assignment. It was almost a little curious.

The profound nature of this simple story was mostly lost on me (at the ripe old age of nine) despite my understanding of the basic premise. But my mother, in all of her existential virtue, just couldn't stop sharing it with people. She delighted in my teacher's decision to assign it and wanted to talk about it over and over. I wasn't exactly as thrilled to do or talk about homework as she was, but I dutifully obliged and tried to dig down deep in my nine-year-old nuanced understanding of it.

The story is about wisdom and the pursuit of happiness. In some ways it is not dissimilar to ShelSilverstein's The Giving Tree, another one of my late mother's favorites. It is worth the few minutes of a Google search for you to read it yourself, but I'll give you a thumbnail sketch here.

The fable weaves through decades of a man's life, from a young boy to an elderly man, along his search for the coveted 'precious present' about which he was told by his elderly friend. The boy chases this supposed present and yearns for the riches or delights that it may bring. Eventually the boy becomes a man and the man becomes tired and frustrated by the fruitless search. After some time and significant aggravation, the man finally gives up his search.

It is then, after years of chasing the present, that the man realizes the meaning of his wizened old friend's words. He has had the present all along. The gift is actually the present moment and the ability to live in this moment. \*Again,



Spencer Johnson does a far better job and it's worth the read.\*

However, the reason this story came to mind was because as I thought about December, about the hustle and bustle of the holidays, about the richness of the season, about the children on Santa's laps, the sparkly ribbons, the decadent gifts and the elves on the shelves... what I hoped most for, was the precious present.

The last couple of years have been rife with loves and losses, gifts and triumphs. We have been through a lot, but I hope and believe it has gifted us with the opportunity for a more sophisticated appreciation of the precious present.

The world can be uncertain and life can change on a dime, but this moment, right here - right now - is true. It is all that matters and all that you can actually endeavor. It is in this moment, and only this moment, that you can truly exist in the world and participate fully in the gratitude and peace of a known truth. Living in the past is full of pain and regret, living in the future is full of fear and anxiety... living in the present is a precious gift and offers joy, love, peace, acceptance, and enough.

With my gratitude to each and every one of you who takes the time to spend these moments with me and my heartfelt wish, to you and yours, for a wholehearted, deeply joyful, precious present this holiday season and in the 2022 to come.

'til the next time, Be Well; Live Meaningfully. Ayesha

# in the garden by Stephen and Kristin Pategas



Stephen & Kristin Pategas

# **Front Door Show And Tell**

The front entrance to your home and the arrival sequence tells a story to every passerby and guest. Curious what they are seeing and thinking? Step out to the street - imagine you are arriving at your home

for the first time and with your eyes and senses on full alert, walk to the front door during daylight and at night.

During the journey ask yourself these questions:

- Is the front door area visible, clean, and welcoming?
- Does the landscaping lead the eye to the front door?
- Do guests ever arrive at the wrong door?
- Is the walk safe to travel upon?
- Do plants and overhanging branches crowd the walkway?
- Is the doorbell visible and functioning?
- Does the landscape read the same at night?
- Do naked bulbs create glare (night blindness) and reduce their effectiveness?

Begin the welcome at the street with landscaping that flows to the curb at one or two points. This is where you start to lead the eye through the landscape. Repeat plants in masses but be aware of differing sun and shade conditions that may affect plant growth.

Punctuate the journey to the front door with color, fragrant blooms, and visual interest. Accents (aka focal points) may include specimen plants, a water feature, container(s), a bench, or a trellis or ornament on a wall. Create a welcoming sense of scale at the front door. Place a small tree or palm such as a ligustrum, yaupon holly, crape myrtle, or pindo palm near the entrance to use its canopy like a lacy enclosing overhang.

Guests, who most likely are gawking at the beautiful garden, need to safely arrive at the door. Proper design, construction, and maintenance of the walkways are critical so follow these tips:

- Use a straight-on or 90-degree approach to the front door.
- Include a small gathering space along the walk for greetings and those sometimes-lengthy goodbyes.
- Allow a minimum four-foot-wide walkway for two people to walk side by side
- For pavement, select non-slip materials that have a visual relationship to the house. Clay brick walls? Then use brick for the walk. Stucco? Concrete pavers are a great choice.
- Avoid steps if possible, but steps are better than a steep slope. Cluster level changes together and make them well defined and consistent. Minimum step riser heights of four inches and a maximum of six inches are desirable. Deep treads allow safe placement of the foot. A convenient formula we use is: 2 x riser height + tread height = 27. Hence a six-inch riser requires a 15-inch tread.
- Keep the surfaces well-lit and free of weeds, mildew, and debris.

With the voyage almost complete and the front door at hand, provide a payoff – a door painted a contrasting or complementary color and a tailored container overflowing with blooms, colorful foliage, or textured foliage. A good story is a journey and the stroll to your front door should be a journey that tells a tale about you.



The brick contrasts with the concrete

The arrival sequence starts at the curb.



The destination is in sight.

The well-maintained entrance is framed with lush textured plants.

Hortus Oasis (FL0001090) 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 them at www.houzz.com.

All photography by Stephen G. Pategas/Hortus Oasis unless otherwise noted. Landscape and hardscape design by Hortus Oasis.





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

# **Put A Bow On It!**

As we close out this year, we can look back and say, "Whew, I'm glad that is over!" We have learned to adapt to supply chain issues and mask edicts but we still can't seem to take care of the "little" things. Just like that little pebble in your shoe that causes you to limp, the little things that we forget can often cause great pain. Those little things I am referring to are things like locking your car after parking, removing valuables from inside the car (or at least moving them into the trunk so they cannot be viewed from the exterior), and never leaving unsecured firearms inside. Remembering to close your garage door whenever you are not inside your garage, setting your home alarm even if you are "just going next door," and checking your home's exterior lights to make sure they work, are just a few more things you can do to help prevent those "little" things from becoming painful.

It wouldn't be December if we didn't remind you to use a little extra caution while out holiday shopping. Please remember to be mindful of the individuals around you while in-person shopping. Always ensure that you cover the keypad when

entering any codes at registers and make sure you place all cash back in your wallet or purse before walking away from the cashier or ATM. If making multiple stops while shopping, plan on purchasing the most expensive and/or largest items last and driving directly home after the purchase so as to limit your exposure to anyone who may have watched you make those purchases. You need to remain vigilant when making online purchases as well. Prior to entering any personal information or bank or credit card information, double check for

the padlock symbol in the URL to ensure you are on a secure site. Try to have those purchases sent to an address where someone will be there to receive them and not left unattended where an opportunistic "porch pirate" could strike.

Lastly, when discarding the boxes from any of those new televisions, computers or gaming systems, make sure you break the boxes down and place them inside a trash can or take them to



a recycling area to dispose of them, so as not to advertise to any potential burglars of new valuable additions to your home.

Now, back to the problem at hand. If anyone has a recipe for turkey and cranberry pizza or knows what to do with some leftover green bean casserole, please let me know!

Happy Holidays from the Winter Park Police Department!

Stay Safe!

# schools

# Winter Park Presbyterian PreSchool

Our annual Audubon Center Birds of Prey event was very exciting! We were visited by Laura VonMutius, education manager, and Sabrina Sachlis, docent volunteer, who talked to the children in our three-year-old and VPK classes about the Eastern screech owl and bald eagle they brought from

the Center. They sang a song about birds together and learned many facts about each type of bird, but the best part was seeing them up close. The children were amazed by the talons and beaks! We have always believed in connecting children to nature, and the Birds of Prey presentation is an excellent example of incorporating an outdoor learning experience into the school day.

Information and tuition rates are available on our website winppc.org/preschool. Photos of our classes and their

Many parents are already making preschool choices for the 2022-2023 school year. We will offer classes for children who are age one through VPK-eligible as of September 1, 2022.

Information and tuition rates are available on our website winppc.org/preschool. Photos of our classes and their activities can be found on our Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool Florida Facebook page. Registration opens to the public on February 1.





Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool students learned about a bald eagle and an owl from the Audubon Center's Birds of Prey sanctuary.

