# The Park Press

~ Positive news that matters ~

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







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

Baking Buddies At The Ronald McDonald House (at Orlando Health) By Jill Shargaa

Do you like to bake? Do you have a need for speed? How about consider volunteering at your nearest Ronald McDonald House and become part of the Baking Buddies.

You have two hours to bake and make something sweet for the residents of the house between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Speaking from experience, this is so much fun to do! You must bring all your ingredients, and you get to use a gorgeous, modern kitchen with three new ovens, and large islands to assemble your cookies. You have access to all of their appliances, utensils, baking sheets, bowls, spoons. If you prefer to bring your own hand mixer, you can.

You sign-in at the front counter with your driver's license or I.D. They print out a volunteer badge that you wear on your shirt. Once inside the kitchen, you have two hours to bake and then you must clean up afterwards. There are paper towels and cleaning supplies furnished for you.

The next meal is at 6 p.m. and is usually another team of volunteers coming in to cook supper. So you know that recipe you have that may



require you to "chill the dough overnight"? Forget it. Because of the two-hour window, think in advance about what you can make and include the clean-up time too.

We spoke to a resident who was from the Bahamas. Her child had been at the hospital since June 2022. He won't be able to come home until March 2023. You can imagine what a "home-baked" treat

was for her and her family who were staying there.

It can be slice-n-bake cookies, go full "greatgrandma's-recipe-for-holiday dessert."We made Halloween treats today:

Frankenstein Cake Pops

(Lil' Debbie Swiss Rolls), Oreo-Bat Treats (Oreos cookies and Reese cups), slice-n-bake Chocolate Chip cookies, and M&M cookies.

To sign up to bake or for more information please visit: https://takethemameal.com/meals. php?t=LBEZ8232

Or contact Katie Thomas, Operations Coordinator, 407-206-0957, ext. 109

Ronald McDonald House is located at 1630 Kuhl Avenue, Orlando, FL 32806

## **Community Canopy Program Delivers Free Trees** To Winter Park Residents

partnered with the National Arbor Day Foundapress, sweetbay magnolia, and live oak. The one-

tion and Florida Forest Service to present the Community Canopy Program. Winter Park residents can order a FREE tree from Urban Forestry by accessing

COMMUNITY An Arbor Day Foundation Program

cityofwinterpark.org/urbanforestry and clicking on the Community Canopy Program Information tab, through November.

City residents have the option to choose from

The City's Urban Forestry Division has again several different tree species including bald cy-

gallon tree will then be delivered directly to the resident's doorstep along with instructions on planting and care.

This fall is the perfect time for replanting trees

as some were lost during the recent visit from Tropical Storm Ian. According to a Chinese proverb, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now." Please join in the City's efforts to expand and maintain Winter Park's storied tree canopy by beautifying your property with a free tree that will benefit generations to come. It is important to always remember to choose the "right tree for the right location."

The National Arbor Day Foundation is the world's largest membership non-profit dedicated to planting trees. Its Community Canopy Program is designed to offer cities an easy solution for providing trees to residents in their communities.

For additional information regarding the city's tree canopy efforts, please contact Urban Forestry at urbanforestry@cityofwinterpark.org.

## INSIDE THE PARK PRESS

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## The Park Press

**PUBLISHER** RICK CABLE rick@theparkpress.com

**ART DIRECTOR JILL SHARGAA** 

#### **ADVERTISING SALES**

advertising@theparkpress.com 407-252-2382

#### **EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND WRITERS**

Janna McGowan, Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, George McGowan, Stephen and Kristin Pategas, Ayesha G. Shenk, M.A., Mayor Phil Anderson, MPO James Whitman, and Ron Frechette.

The Park Press, LLC, Winter Park, Florida

Office: 407-252-2382

E-mail: info@TheParkPress.com

VISIT US ON THE WEB www.TheParkPress.com

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## **Publisher's Message**



As we enter November of 2022 and head into the holiday season, I find myself in a period of reflection on the past year. No matter how many stores roll out the Christmas inventory and decorations pre and post Halloween, I'm a "one holiday at

a time" kind of guy. Perhaps it's rooted in my upbringing, or just the way my mind works, but I think celebrating Thanksgiving is necessary for the good of mankind. Think about it, the true meaning of Christmas has become harder to see thanks mostly to an overwhelming amount of commercialism and the pressures to "keep up with the Jones'." It's a hectic holiday with financial burdens, the tree, decorating, gift shopping, traffic, and the list goes on. Of course, the goal is always to focus on the positives, but it's not necessarily easy as the true meaning can get lost.

However, I believe that Thanksgiving's true meaning is still very easy to see. Since the earliest documented Thanksgiving in the U.S. in 1621 at Plymouth it has been a time to gather with family and friends to celebrate a good harvest. They gave thanks for life and health, and prayed that they had enough food to survive the long winter months.

From the time of our founding fathers until 1863, the date on which Thanksgiving was observed varied from state to state as dictated by their final seasonal harvest. And yes, credit must be given to the great Abraham Lincoln, as he set the presidential proclamation that Thanksgiving would be celebrated the final Thursday in November by all states.

While I'm certainly not a farmer, I will reflect on the past year and give thanks for my "harvest," the blessings in my life and the health and good fortune of my family and friends. I will look to show continued compassion for those who are less fortunate, and pursue opportunities to make a positive difference for others.

Please keep in mind that this can be a challenging time for many, and I kindly ask for those who are in a position to do so, to generously consider making contributions and donations to some of the fundraising efforts in our local community. Two of the many worthy and necessary efforts that come to mind are FeedTheNeedWP.Org to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank, and the ChristianServiceCenter.org to help their four interdependent programs that address the most prominent needs of those struggling in our community.

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

Rick Rick Cable Founder/Owner

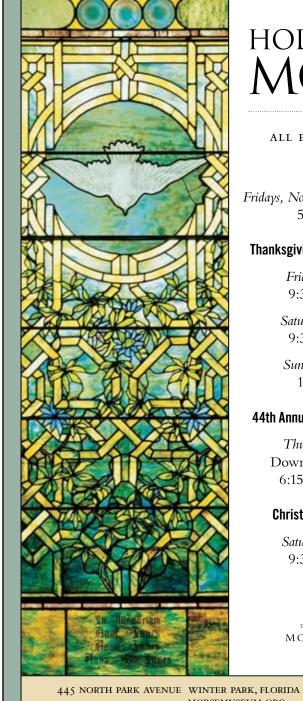
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## HOLIDAYS at the MORSE

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE

#### **Live Music**

Fridays, November 25 – December 30 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

#### **Thanksgiving Weekend Celebration**

Friday, November 25 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 26 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday, November 27 1 p.m. − 4 p.m.

#### 44th Annual Christmas in the Park

Thursday, December 1 Downtown Winter Park 6:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

#### **Christmas Eve Celebration**

Saturday, December 24 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.



THE CHARLES HOSMER MORSE MUSEUM of American Art

445 NORTH PARK AVENUE WINTER PARK, FLORIDA 32789 (407) 645-5311 MORSEMUSEUM.ORG

The Park Press | NOVEMBER 2022 NEWS

## City Commissioner's Message

Commissioner Robert F. Stuart, City of Orlando District 3



While we finally begin to enjoy cooler weather, at least in Florida terms, I am excited for the opportunity to share a little bit of what I am thankful for.

Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday, filled with fellowship, traditions, football, and great food! But it is also a time

where we get the opportunity to stop and focus on just being thankful for all we have been given.

One way we can put into perspective all we have to be thankful for is to assist those who are in need. As we also celebrate Veterans' Day this month, what better way to actively show your gratitude than by supporting our active troops, our veterans, and their families?

Please join us on Saturday, November 12th as we celebrate our veterans with the City's annual Veterans' Day parade in Downtown Orlando at 11 a.m. For

more details, please visit Orlando.gov/events.

While it may sound cliché, I am truly thankful for our city and its residents. As a lifelong Orlandoan, I am proud to call the City Beautiful

my home. It is the place that I miss when I am away and the place that I want to, for the rest of my life, dedicate my time and resources to improving. The City helps each other in times of need and I am so proud of the way our staff handled Hurricane Ian.

I am thankful for every team and department in the City of Orlando but let me take a moment to thank specific teams who worked day and night and went the extra mile for us all during Hurricane Ian. Our public works, solid waste, and parks team worked tirelessly to ensure that the city got back on its feet as soon as possible. Our emergency

our City Beautiful.

Orlando Veterans' Day parade will take place on Saturday, November 12 in downtown Orlando at 11 a.m. For more info, visit Orlando.gov/events.

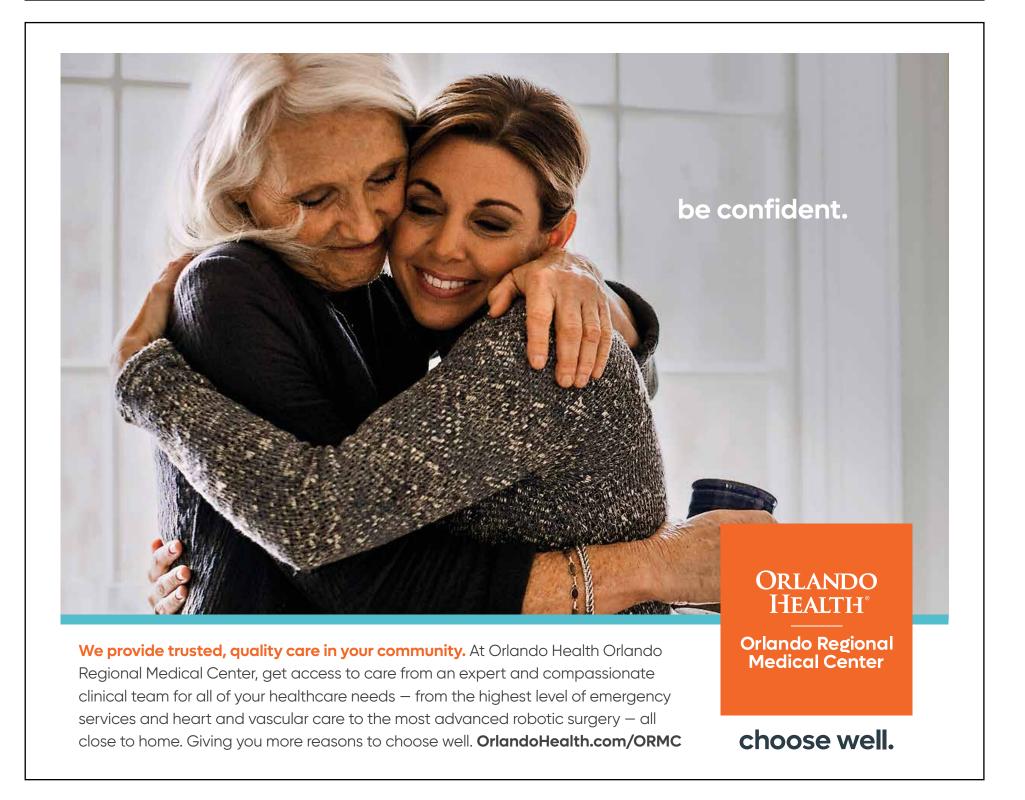
operations team and our communications serve you. I feel truly blessed every day to play department ensured that you knew what was a small role in building community throughout happening in our city and the recovery process. our Great City. Happy Thanksgiving to you and Our police department and fire department

rescued people during and after the storm, they always risk their lives for us in times of need. I can never say thank you enough to all the staff who worked at our emergency operations center during the storm, they were away from their families to ensure the safety of ours. A great way to thank them for all their hard work is with patience. As the city continues to pick up debris and trash and clean up our lakes, remember that people are working hard to ensure our safety and it may take longer than expected. Let's work together to help

> celebrate we Thanksgiving and start our holiday shopping, consider starting a tradition your family this year shopping locally in some of our great commercial districts on Small Business Saturday! Small Business Saturday this year will be on November 26th. You can get some great deals and support our local economy in the process.

> This month, I want to say a special thanks for the opportunity to

your family!



courtesy of

## Winter Park Mayor's Message Mayor Phil Anderson



#### Winter Park Resilience

I want to thank our community for your resilience and patience during Hurricane Ian, one of the most challenging storms and flooding situations to ever hit Winter Park.

I was pleased to report on October 2, at 1

p.m., all Winter Park electric customers whose outages were reported and repairable by city electric crews were restored. On the evening of September 28, sustained winds and torrential downpour from Hurricane Ian pelted our city and was unlike anything we have ever experienced.

At the height of the storm, approximately 3,800 electric utility customers were without power. In comparison, during the peak of Hurricane Irma in 2017, more than 9,000 customers were out of power. This difference in power outages from

2017 to 2022, and the city's ability to respond quickly, is due to the city's commitment to

underground its powerlines that began in 2008, three years after the city acquired the utility in 2005.

Thankfully, after the storm, our residents were in good health. Our roads were passable. We had much less wind damage and debris than Hurricane Charlie, and our water supply was secure.

The Commissioners and I thank our city team for their extraordinary service. Our Emergency **Operations Center** incident commander

was the assistant city manager, Michelle del Valle. Thanks to their work and preparation, we responded well to emergency calls and outages into the night until wind speeds and conditions became unsafe. When the weather conditions improved, the city and their contract crews sprang into action.

The bad news is that we did receive 12-18 inches of rain

(by some measures a 500-year storm). Our lakes had risen to historic high-water levels



and because of storm and lake water intrusion, our sewer pumps were working overtime. Tragically approximately 30 homes were inundated with

water and started the long process of recovery.

We have developed a resource for residents affected by flooding that suggests ways to get resident's homes dry as fast as possible. This can be access at cityofwinterpark.org/ hurricanes and is outlined in the document titled "FMEA Emergency Household Assistance Program."

To stay informed of all city updates, please access the city website at cityofwinterpark. org, sign up for the city's email system at cityofwinterpark.org/citEnews and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor.

Our city teams have been working overtime, as we enter into the Thanksgiving and holiday season, it is extremely appropriate to thank them for their efforts. The commissioners and I appreciate the opportunity to serve. Feel free to connect with us at MayorandCommissioners@ cityofwinterpark.org. Wishing you a safe and happy Thanksgiving!



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

## No Turkey Talk Here

Can you smell it? The smell of crisp air, burning leaves, freshly baked pumpkin pies? Can you hear the joyous laughter of people picking apples, children taking a hay ride, and the rustle of leaves as they are being raked into a big pile just before they are jumped into?....Yeah, I don't smell or hear it either. But that doesn't mean it's not fall here in Florida. I mean after all; we Floridians have our own signs of fall. Sure, they might not be

as romantic or evoke those traditional "Hallmark Card" feelings but we know.

You know it is fall in Florida when you no longer have to cut your lawn every week, when the orange blossoms on your tree have now formed into oranges, when you can finally put your hurricane tracking map away, and the colors of the license plates around you begin to change (to out-of-state).

That being said, November is a fantastic month. What other month do we get to celebrate National Calzone Day, National Deviled Egg Day and who could forget National Cook for Your Pet Day (it's a thing, really, November 1st). But November also signifies the ending of the year and the period when we get hit in the face with a barrage of holidays and all of the stress that accompanies them. So, as we enter this upcoming holiday season, remember to take a moment, slow down, and try not to be too impulsive.

This applies to all aspects of your every day life. The few moments that you take to ensure that you

locked your car doors or closed your garage door may make the difference as to whether you will have a merry holiday season or you will be visited by the Grinch. That slight hesitation you give yourself to check the validity of a website before clicking on that "limited time, once in a lifetime offer" on

the internet may prevent you from having your identity stolen or having ransomware maliciously installed on your device.

Of course, the holidays bring excitement which may cause us to make some poor choices. So, even though you may be running late to that holiday gathering, don't settle for that parking space that, although it may be closer to the event, is in a dark area of the street or parking lot. Arrive "fashionably

> late" and park where the lighting is brighter thus making it safer for you and your vehicle. And when you receive that phone call from someone telling you that, "your payment for your power bill has not been received and you are minutes from having your power turned off" unless you provide them your credit card information over the phone, remember that the power company is not going to call you to "warn you that your power will be disconnected" and they certainly won't take your credit card information over the phone.

> As we enter the busiest shopping period of the year, you most likely will be shopping online and having many of those packages delivered to you. In an effort to prevent the "Porch Pirates" that always seem to be waiting to pounce on those freshly delivered packages, please consider having your purchases delivered to your workplace or a neighbor who is usually home. Nothing ruins the perfect gift like finding out that it was delivered but then stolen right out from under you!

Enjoy your November and don't forget, National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day is November 15th! I'll be in a food coma because November 14th is National Spicy Guacamole Day!

Stay Safe!



## **Annual Fall Cleanup For Winter Park Residents**

The city is pleased to provide its Annual Fall Cleanup during the month of November. As many residents begin to clean and organize their homes after hurricane season and in preparation for the holiday season, this is the perfect opportunity to discard of large items during this annual offering.

The Annual Fall Cleanup, a city partnership with Waste Pro, provides an extra "bonus" day so that residents can dispose of old furniture, broken appliances, and other bulky items. To take advantage of this convenient service, residents must place their items curbside after 5 p.m. on the evening prior to their second regularly-scheduled household trash pickup day.

#### **CUSTOMER LOCATION**

#### **ASSIGNED PICKUP DAY**

North of Fairbanks/Aloma Avenues...... Thursday, Nov. 3, or Friday, Nov. 4 South of Fairbanks/Aloma Avenues ...... Thursday, Nov. 10, or Friday, Nov. 11

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

- Household hazardous waste and yard waste are NOT included in the Fall Cleanup.
- If you live in an apartment, townhome or condo that does not provide curbside service, please contact Waste Pro directly for a large item pickup (fees may apply).
- For more information regarding Winter Park's Annual Fall Cleanup, please contact Utility Billing Customer Service at 407-599-3220 or Waste Pro at 407-774-0800.

## City To Host Annual Veterans Celebration Of Our Country's **Military Heroes**



The City of Winter Park will host its 12th annual Veterans Day Celebration, Friday, November 4, 2022, at 10 a.m. This event will be held at the Winter Park Community Center Ruby Ball Amphitheater adjacent to Shady Park, located at 721 W. New England Ave.

All veterans who have served in any military campaign or branch in honor of our nation's freedom are invited to attend, for our community to pay tribute to their dedicated service to our country.

At 9:30 a.m., the public is invited to visit with organizations that offer resources specifically for veteran needs as the VFW Post 2093 Community Band entertains guests. At 10 a.m., the official program will begin with musical tributes, anecdotal speakers including guest speaker Master Sergeant Jesse Martinez, U.S. Air Force Retired, presentations of Quilts of Valor, and recognition of veterans according to the various military branches served.

Master Sergeant Martinez has 12 years of active service with the U.S. Air Force as a law enforcement specialist. After his active duty, Martinez served 10 years as a reservist. In his last year of his second enlistment, Martinez took a job as a hotel security supervisor for the Hilton Palacio Del Rio in San Antonio, Texas, and this revealed his love for the hospitality environment. Since 2014, Martinez has been serving the Winter Park community as general manager of the award-winning Alfond Inn at Rollins. The city is grateful for his service to our country and continued service to Winter Park.

The Veterans Day Celebration continues at the Winter Park Golf Course, located at 761 Old England Ave., with a Veterans Golf Play Day. Tee times begin at 12:30 p.m., and veterans play for FREE. Reserve your tee time for a patriotic round of golf by Friday, October 28, at 407-599-3419.

For more information regarding the city's 12th Annual Veterans Day Celebration, please call 407-599-3428. For more information regarding the Veterans Golf Play Day, please call 407-599-3419.







## Rollins College Announces New Board Chair

Rick Goings '12H was elected chair of Rollins' Board of Trustees. Goings succeeds the late Susan Whealler Johnston '75, who passed away in August.Goings joinedthe Board in 2000 and was a member of the College's Crummer Graduate School of Business Board of Overseers from 1996 to 2000.

Mr. Goings is Chairman Emeritus of
Tupperware Brands. Throughout his career, he
has held numerous global senior management
positions in Europe, Asia, and the U.S.
Additionally, he proudly served in the U.S Navy.
He started his first company, one of the nation's
first direct sellers of home security systems, at
24 years old. He was later recruited by Avon
Products, where he held numerous senior
management positions: President Avon Germany,
Group Vice President & Senior Operating Officer
Pacific Rim, and President of Avon USA. In
1992 he joined Tupperware as CEO, and was
ultimately named Chairman & CEO, serving in
that capacity for more than two decades.

Goings is on the national board of the Smithsonian Institution, a member of the Advisory Board of the Global Peter Drucker Forum, a member of The Economic Club of Washington, DC, and a 20-year member of Yale's Chief Executive Leadership Institute. He was an inaugural Champion of the United Nations' HeforShe women's initiative and a founding member of their Leadership Advisory Council.

He has been recognized with the Distinguished degree of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur presented by the former President of France, the prestigious Marco Polo Award by the People's Republic of China and the Herbert Hoover Humanitarian Award by Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

His work in the service of children, both in the U.S. and abroad, spanned three decades on the National Board of Governors for Boy & Girls Clubs of America, where he also served two separate terms as the organization's chairman. Goings led the initiative to open Youth Clubs outside the U.S. and co-founded the World Federation of Youth Clubs with his wife, Susan Porcaro Goings '78. He currently serves as the organization's Chairman with Affiliates in more than 35 countries representing more than 3,000 Youth Clubs.

Rick and Susan have been highly generous in their support of students in the Hamilton Holt School and the College of Liberal Arts who have demonstrated a financial need and have either a military background or an interest in music, art, or theater. They established this endowed scholarship in memory of their son Miles Porcaro. In addition, they have supported The Global Links Initiative since its inception. Rick was responsible for creating the partnerships that grew into this cross-cultural exchange program. The initiative provides in-depth business training in social

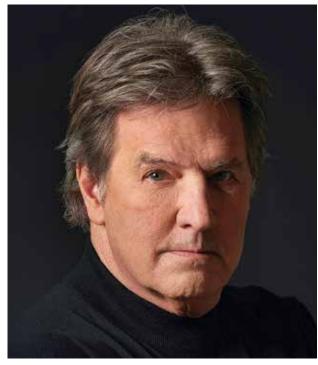


Photo: Rick Goings.

entrepreneurship and practical business skills to high-achieving female scholars in developing and post-conflict countries.

Rick and Susan are members of the Fiat Lux Luminaries, the College's lifetime giving society. "Rick and the Goings family's passion for Rollins is demonstrated in their service and support. It will be a privilege to work even more closely with Rick as chair of our board," said Rollins President Grant H. Cornwell.

## Lighthouse Works Named 2022 Employment Center Of The Year



From left to right: Ryan Brown, VP of Operations; Kyle Johnson, President/CEO; Joseph Pereira, Fulfillment Specialist and Employee of the Year Nominee for Rookie of the Year; Clifford Roberts, Fulfillment Specialist and Employee of the Year Nominee for Most Improved; Easton Ray, Contact Center Professional, Employee of the Year Nominee for Services; and Christina Carrier, VP of Finance.

Lighthouse Works, an Orlando-based organization that provides competitive job opportunities for people living with vision impairment or blindness, was recently recognized as the 2022 Employment Center of the Year in the Services category.

RESPECT of Florida presented Lighthouse with a plaque at the annual awards luncheon, which was held in Clearwater Beach on September 21st. The Employment Center of the Year in the Services category award is given to a center that consistently provides

excellent service to procuring agencies and demonstrates effective responsiveness.

"This is an incredible honor not only for Lighthouse but for our employees whose commitment and dedication has been recognized at the state level," said Kyle Johnson, president and CEO. "Each award Lighthouse receives further encourages our team to continue providing the highest quality of service."

Lighthouse Works is also nearing a major



Charting a course for living, learning, & earning with vision loss

milestone – hiring its 500th employee. The organization is still recruiting to fill more than 90 job openings. To browse the available employment opportunities, visit www. LighthouseWorks.org.

The Park Press | NOVEMBER 2022 **NEWS** 

## Local Firms Provide Hunger Relief Through Annual "CANstruction" Event

Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida received more than 16,000 cans of food from the annual CANstruction design event, sponsored in part by the Orlando Science Center.

This year, eight teams of local architecture and engineering firms designed canned food displays around the theme "Hungry to Learn." On September 10, members of each team assembled their concepts within an 8x8x8-foot space at Orlando Science Center. The annual exhibit's goal is to raise awareness about hunger which affects one in seven adults and one in five children

locally - while providing resources to Second Harvest Food Bank, Central Florida's largest network of partners working to feed Central







Photo from feedhopenow.org.

Floridians in need.

Upon "de-canstructing" their displays, teams from Orange and Seminole counties donated 16,871 pounds of food to Second Harvest. The firms that participated this year are Robins and Morton; Roger, Lovelock & Fritz; Finfrock; Huitt-Zollars; Fugleberg Koch; Cuhaci Peterson; Whiting Turner; SchenkelShultz; and Addition Financial-Seminole.

In the wake of Hurricane Ian, the food bank has been distributing enough food for 300,000 meals every day - an increase in 150,000 meals a day, which parallels levels from the height of the pandemic in early 2020.

To help feed hope to Central Floridians in need of assistance, visit www.FeedHopeNow. org. There are many ways to give, including volunteering and through financial contributions.

## Give Kids The World's Night Of A Million Lights Returns

Named by USA Today the "Number One Thing To Do In December In Orlando" when it debuted in 2020, Night of a Million Lights is back for its third year in a spectacular new venue - with more pizzaz, sparkle, and excitement than ever before!

From November 11, 2022 through January 1, 2023, Island H2O Water Park in Kissimmee will be transformed into a dazzling winter wonderland featuring millions of lights, luminous displays, festive family activities and live entertainment for a one-of-a-kind, fully immersive holiday experience. Nightly entertainment will include performances by Dueling Pianos Jingle and Jangle and the strolling a cappella group Santa's Dancing Reindeer, with DJ Jack Frost Ice Block Party leading an interactive holiday hits dance party. The Emmy Award-winning RWS Entertainment Group will once again partner with Give Kids The World and Island H2O Water Park to produce the event.

Tickets are on sale now at www.gktw.org/ lights/, enabling guests to stroll throughout the property to view the lights; watch an all-new dancing lights show on a five-story waterslide; visit an interactive children's holiday activities space; interact with strolling performers; explore themed lightscapes; and create priceless holiday memories during visits with Santa...all for a wonderful cause.

Proceeds from Night of a Million Lights at Island H2O will once again benefit Give Kids The World Village, an 89-acre, whimsical



Artist rendering from www.islandh2owaterpark.com

nonprofit resort that provides critically ill children and their families from around the world with magical week-long wish vacations at no cost. Discounts are available for groups of 25 or more, as well as Island H2O Water Park season pass holders. VIP experiences,

sponsorships and volunteer opportunities are also available.

Previously held on-site at Give Kids The World Village, Night of a Million Lights has been relocated this year to accommodate the influx of wish families to the Village - elevating the resort to pre-COVID occupancy levels.

"It has been a privilege to welcome in the public for a glimpse into our

storybook Village during the holidays the past two years. However, in order to preserve the lifechanging experience we provide to wish families as increased numbers of guests are able to visit, we have made the decision to move Night of a

Continued on page 8



## moved!

John Psomas RICP, Agent 4820 New Broad St Orlando, FL 32814 Bus: 407-277-2997 www.iohnpsomas.com

We have a new office, where (of course) you'll get the same great service. We're excited about serving you in our new space. Stop by and see us soon! Like a good neighbor. State Farm is there.®



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**NEWS** The Park Press | NOVEMBER 2022

## **An Evening Of Quintessential Jazz**

Caila Carter will debut her new solo jazz cabaret - In A Sentimental Mood - as part of The Winter Park Playhouse Spotlight Cabaret Series, November 16 and 17, 2022. Playhouse music director, Christopher Leavy, will accompany on piano.

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Ms. Carter, who has performed several times on the Playhouse Mainstage (A Grand Night For Singing, Crazy For Gershwin, The Florida Festival of New Musicals), will give patrons an evening of quintessential jazz as she pays tribute to legendary artists Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughn, and Ella Fitzgerald as well as modern jazz artists like Cecile McLorin-



Photo: Caila Carter courtesy of Winter Park Playhouse.

sought-after performing

artist whose talents have taken her all over the world. Her resume boasts credits from Hong Kong Disneyland, Norwegian and Oceania Cruise Lines, and Universal Studios Orlando. She has a genuine love for all facets of The Arts, and has extensive experience working as both a performing and teaching artist for numerous organizations throughout Central Florida.

"Caila is an incredible singer and we are thrilled to feature her on our cabaret stage! It's going to be a fantastic evening of jazz as she celebrates the great artists of today and yesterday. This cabaret will sell out so get your tickets early!" said Heather Alexander, Playhouse executive director.

General Admission tickets are \$20 plus a one-drink minimum. The cabaret performances will take place in the theatre lobby and seating is limited. Lobby doors and bar open at 6:30 p.m. and the cabaret begins at 7:30 p.m. Advance reservations and early arrival are strongly recommended. Tickets sell out quickly so call The Winter Park Playhouse box office for tickets at 407-645-0145 or purchase online at www.winterparkplayhouse.org.

The live cabaret will be filmed and available to be enjoyed virtually December 2-5, 2022. A private link will be sent at 5:00 pm on Friday, December 2. Virtual tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online or by calling the box office.

## Fox Fest Features Local Musicians, Artists, And Food

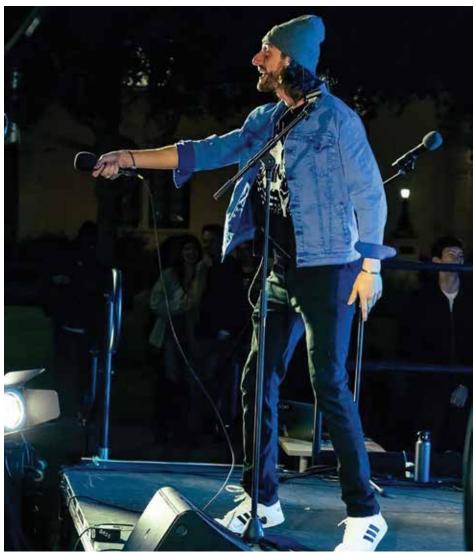
WPRK 91.5 FM, "the voice of Rollins College," announced the lineup for their annual Fox Fest, November 5, 6-10 p.m. on Bush Lawn at Rollins College. Fox Fest is open to the public and offers four hours of live music, artisans, food, and drinks. This event kicks off the celebration of WPRK's 70th anniversary since its founding and first broadcast in 1952.

This year's music lineup includes WPRK Whatever Wednesday host, DJ V; hyper pop artist, Anthony Argos; "The Hermit" performers, Twin Suns; Miami-based alternative band, Palomino Blond; and headliner, multiplatinum music producer Kaelin Ellis. The show hosts are Rollins' student government representatives, President Akheem Mitchell '23 and Vice-President Sendy Sejourne '23.

"In addition to the killer lineup, Fox Fest will offer Central Florida fare. Food trucks and vendors will be announced via our Instagram @WPRK later this month," said Jaianne Gilkey, WPRK coOperations Assistant and co-lead of this year's event with Dassika Gilkey. "It's awesome to promote local musicians, artists, and food."

Featured artisans include vintage seller and button manufacturers, Kickbright Shop & Buttons; organic plant-growth accelerator Wrigglebrew; Florida artist Jeff Goldblum Art; handmade jewelry from always4ever; and local music venues The Beacham and The Social. The venues are also sponsoring the event alongside The Annie Russell Theatre, Window World, and Fox Funds – we thank them for their support!

Rollins College students and employees receive complimentary entry with a reservation, and admission for the general public is \$10. To purchase tickets or make a reservation, please visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ fox-fest-2022-tickets-425271678037.



Above: photo of Jad Saad by Olivia Camacho

From Page 7.

Million Lights off-site - and truly appreciate Island H2O Water Park's generosity, hospitality and support," said the Give Kids The World president & CEO, Pamela Landwirth. "We look forward to joining with Island H2O, sponsors, volunteers and community members to celebrate the season of joy and giving while making an immeasurable impact on the families we serve."

"It's an honor to help Give Kids The World deliver happiness and hope to critically ill children and their families by hosting Central Florida's most popular new holiday tradition

at Island H2O Water Park," said the Island H2O general manager, Jim Kunau. "We invite the entire community to join us at Night of a Million Lights at Island H2O for 52 nights of family fun, live performances, delicious food and holiday cheer, while helping to make wishes come true for families in our community and around the world."

Island H2O Water Park is located at 3230 Inspiration Drive, Kissimmee, FL 34747. For information about Night of a Million Lights sponsorships, volunteer engagement or vendor opportunities, visit www.gktw.org/lights.



## Orlando Fringe Announces "Fringe ArtSpace" **Performing Arts Venue Coming Soon**

Pillar of Orlando's arts community and producer of the largest and longest-running Fringe Festival in the U.S. - Orlando Fringe - opens their year-round performing arts venue "Fringe ArtSpace" in Downtown Orlando on January 11, 2023. In addition to the Grand Opening Bash on January 11, 2023, all are invited to Orlando Fringe Winter Mini-Fest

January 12-15, with tickets going on sale on November 18, 2022. Both events, in addition to the spring season, are enthusiastically sponsored by Creative Studios by Norwegian Cruiseline Holdings and Florida Theatrical Association.

Orlando Fringe will operate Fringe ArtSpace as a yearround endeavor, in addition to continuing to run the annual Orlando International Fringe Theatre Festival

each May at Loch Haven Park and various venues around Orlando. Fringe ArtSpace will house two venues for the Orlando Fringe Festival May 16-29, 2023 and be the home of Winter Mini-Fest January 12-15, 2023.

The 9,100 square foot Fringe ArtsSpace (located at 54 West Church Street, Orlando, FL 32801) includes two performing theatre spaces: a mainstage with 166 seats and a black box with 40-60 seats. Programming in Fringe ArtSpace will be a mix of traditionally programmed theatre and concerts as well as a studio series featuring consistent weekly, monthly and popup events like workshops, classes, readings, performances, and artistic explorations. The main theatre will showcase full-run productions of emerging arts organizations that Fringe will foster and mentor as well as established touring shows and concerts. Learning experiences for youth and adults will be a priority, and the venue is looking to address affordable rehearsal

> and performance rental space. Fringe is also looking to activate the plaza on Church Street to help integrate arts into Downtown and provide lively entertainment on the street.

Fringe ArtSpace was cultivated after the City of Orlando asked Orlando Fringe to extend their current model by developing artist-focused programming and creating experiences that build upon the

amazing arts scene that exists in Central Florida. With generous support from the Downtown Development Board, Fringe ArtSpace is focused on building a dynamic, inspiring community of artists and arts lovers with the purpose of providing artists a safe environment to create, experiment, collaborate and showcase their creations. The programming for the space is developed from a series of continuing brainstorming sessions with Central Florida community members and artists.

"We've built the programming for this space by listening to the needs of the community,"



said the executive director of Orlando Fringe, Alauna Friskics. "After we conducted a series of listening sessions this past July and August, we took those suggestions and have created what we hope will be a unique theatrical experience for artists and audiences. We will open in January, get a feel for the space and continue to shift and mold how we fit into the building. There are thousands of ideas on the table, so we have lots of things to try. I am so thankful to the City of Orlando and the Downtown Development Board for entrusting us to lead this exciting adventure."

"The City of Orlando strives to have a strong presence of cultural arts and amenities within downtown Orlando for all to enjoy," said Mayor Buddy Dyer of Orlando. "I'm looking forward to Orlando Fringe in their new theatrical performance space on Church Street. Fringe has a long history of supporting artists across Orlando and will add to our burgeoning arts scene."

Leading the team for Fringe ArtSpace is: Orlando Fringe Board President Doug Davis and Orlando Fringe Executive Director Alauna Friskics. Also proudly joining the launch team are Interim General Manager Paul Oppedisano and Talent and Booking Partners Joshian and Kayla Morales of Kelsay + Morales Company.

## New Start Dates For Medicare Part B Coverage Coming In 2023

By Angelita Pacheco, Social Security District Manager in Orlando, FL

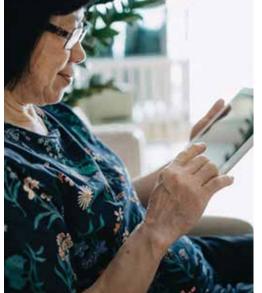
Changes are coming next year for when Medicare Part B coverage

#### What is not changing:

If you are eligible at age 65, your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP):

- Begins three months before your 65th birthday.
- Includes the month of your 65th birthday.
- Ends three months after your 65th birthday.

If you are automatically enrolled in Medicare Part B or if you sign up during the first three months of your IEP, your coverage will start the month you're first eligible. If you sign up the month you turn 65, your coverage will start the first day of the following month. This won't change with the new rule.



What is changing: Starting January 1, 2023, your Medicare Part B coverage starts **the first day** of the month after you sign up, if you sign up during the last three months of your IEP.

Before this change, if you signed up during the last three months of your IEP, your Medicare Part B coverage started two to three months after you enrolled.

If you don't sign up for Medicare Part B during your IEP, you have another chance each year during the General Enrollment Period (GEP). The GEP lasts from January 1 through March 31. Starting January 1, 2023, your coverage starts the first day of the month after you sign up.

You can learn more about these updates on our Medicare webpage at www.ssa.gov/medicare and our Medicare publication at www.ssa.gov/ pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf.

Please pass this information along to someone who may need it.



### pop culture detours by George McGowan

## **Thankful For Live Events**

I may have mentioned before that I do not like to see concerts in arenas. Just a preference, they seem more of an event than a concert or show. Some who attend are "dressed to the nines," helping me feel underdressed, or are absolute superfans of the artist who stand up to sing along with all the songs. Much too often for my taste, there are folks there to, number one: hang out with their friends; and way down the list: watch the show.

Two recent arena shows that I attended were both fun experiences in their way. And interestingly, they were both shows that were delayed by the pandemic. They were both so

enjoyable because of that fact
- both the artists came to the
shows to deliver an impressive
performance and seemed quite
grateful to be among their fans
and back on the road.

The first show was the pop/rock act the Killers. I was invited to join a friend for this show and I think I can name two songs by the group, although I know that they are very popular. The arena was full when they went on after their opening act Johnny Marr (of the 1980s band the Smiths who this old-timer knew much more about). The Killers put on a great show, their lead singer Brandon Flowers is a born performer

and engaged the crowd by striding across the stage from one end to the other – this person must be in fantastic physical shape! The most enjoyable part of the show, since I didn't know the music very well, was to watch the others in the crowd enjoying themselves. Fists were raised, friends and partners embraced to sing along, and there was dancing a-plenty. While the music and stage show could get overly bombastic, and there were one too many bursts of confetti, it sure was fun watching the others in the audience have a ball.

The other show was a comedy show and I have not been to a comedy show in an arena, so I was dubious that it would be as engaging as a show in a theatre or nightclub. But the main performer, Trevor Noah, is a household name. Even my ninety-three-year-old mother-in-law knows who he is! The most notable thing about this show was the sheer overwhelming sight of all ages, all creeds, all races, and everyone from a curmudgeon like me to the super-fans, laughing aloud at Trevor's insights as well as those of his two opening acts, who my Googling could not help me remember, but who were equally as funny. No exaggeration, I actually saw a woman collapse from laughter at one of Noah's bits. Again, just a pure, gifted performer at the top of his game. Another fantastic show.

So, in this month of Thanksgiving, I am thankful for live events happening in our great area once again! The evening of the Trevor Noah show was the same day as the Orlando Come Out With Pride parade and as we drove to the show, downtown was simply buzzing with activity. It was a wonderful sight and helped me remember just how lucky we are to live where the choices for entertainment are limitless. Get out there and enjoy our great venues this holiday Trevor Noah performing standup season!



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

## The Season Of Lights

The Killers

I was raised by a deeply devout Catholic mother. I found my way to a sort of neo Christian recipe of my own understanding.

There's some Unitarianism in there, a dose of Buddhism, and maybe even a dash of Sikhism, among other things.

I say this not to be irreverent, but rather to honor my belief system without disavowing others. I really believe there is an intersection where almost all thoughts/faiths/beliefs/Gods and cultures can intersect peacefully, respectfully and lovingly. I believe there is more that unites than divides, despite what we've, at times, been taught to believe.

Nonetheless, it is with that philosophical infrastructure that I welcome the holiday season.

Tonight, as I type this in fact, is Diwali.

Now, though I really wasn't raised with much insight into this holiday (despite my parents hailing from India) I do remember my (non-practicing) father sending me a text saying simply

"Om Shanti" on Diwali in his later years.

This is, loosely, an invocation of peace. Much like 'Peace be with you' in Christian practices, it calls for the good of one another to be

invoked and God's blessings to be shared with

It is a lovely and quiet, meditative extension of love.

It meant so much to me when he would send that text... he didn't express his vulnerability all that often or easily and it was gentle and stoic.



As Diwali is considered the 'festival of lights' and Thanksgiving and Christmas are rapidly approaching, I revel in this warm and twinkly

time of year. Flickering candles, abundant food, fires jumping and string lights shimmering. So much of what is about to unfold is about lighting the way for one another, for family, for those in need and for the joy and renewal of the human condition as we share it.

It's not perfect. In fact, it can get pretty silly and stressful much of the time. But if we could

focus on the light within each of us and find a way to harness that best part of ourselves and invoke peace for one another, what a glorious time of year it would be!

Shall we focus on giving rather than receiving, on offering rather than asking, on sharing rather than expecting? Could we work to light the way instead of watching as others do it or expecting it to be lit for us? Perhaps this Thanksgiving is a call to gratitude and generosity with the abundance being extended instead of overindulged.

Life is moving ever more quickly and this year has again brought highs and lows for so many. May this holiday season bring you and yours the light that is within you to share, savor and sparkle.

Happy November. With my gratitude 'til the next

time...

Be Well; Live Meaningfully. Ayesha

### in the garden by Stephen and Kristin Pategas



Stephen & Kristin Pategas

## Invasives – Worst Plants, Worst Places

Worst plants in the worst places is a good way to summarize the problem with invasive plants. Almost every corner of the world and your landscape

are touched. Invasive plants are greedy interlopers that would never get a visa if their full impact was known. There was a time when plants were brought into the country willy-nilly as the government actively searched for plants that could be viable as agricultural crops. Meanwhile, tourists legally brought back plants, cuttings, or seeds from exotic locales. Florida with its mild climate and high rainfall proves a ripe landfall for many plants that move in like an unemployed adult child.

Invasive plants rapidly colonize areas disturbed by natural disasters or construction. Seeds spread by wind, water, wildlife, and humans. They quickly find their niche and revegetate an area so rapidly native plants are crowded out. Since native flora has evolved along with the fauna and developed complex relationships, the invasives do not offer the same benefits.

Invasive plants are a problem even in well-tended gardens. They are so prolific they increase maintenance as they sprout wherever seeds can germinate. If there are weeds, there will also be invasives. Our neighbor has skunk vine in their soaring bamboo and when we see it in bloom, we know windblown seeds and the resulting sprouts will soon follow. Continually working to remove an unwanted plant is time consuming and can be demoralizing. If the worst plants in the worst places take hold in the garden, they suck up nutrients and water that could benefit the desired ornamental and native plants.

Avoid the purchase of invasive plants, educate others, and be vigilant with maintenance to create a lower maintenance and environmentally friendly garden to reduce the spread of invasives to natural areas. For more information on invasive plants in Florida, visit the Florida Invasive Species Council and find the latest list here.

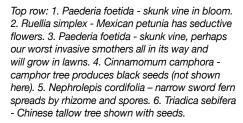
A short selection of invasive plants to never plant and to rogue out at first sight include:

Asparagus aethiopicus - Sprenger's asparagus fern
Cinnamomum camphora - camphor tree
Colocasia esculenta - coco yam, wild taro
Dioscorea bulbifera - air-potato
Epipremnum pinnatum cv. aureum - golden pothos
Eugenia uniflora - Surinam cherry
Melia azedarach - chinaberry
Nephrolepis cordifolia - narrow sword fern
Paederia foetida - skunk vine
Ruellia simplex - Mexican/Britton's wild petunia
Schinus terebinthifolius - Brazilian peppertree
Triadica sebifera - Chinese tallow tree
Xanthosoma sagittifolium - elephant ear



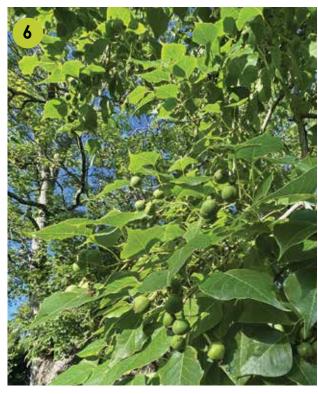












Hortus Oasis (FL0001090) in Winter Park is a boutique garden design company specializing in residential, commercial, and specialty gardens. Stephen is a registered landscape architect and Kristin is a certified landscape designer. Contact them at 407-622-4886/ garden@hortusoasis.com and visit www.houzz.com/pro/hortusoasis/\_\_public. All photography by Stephen G. Pategas/Hortus Oasis unless otherwise noted.





## COMING FALL 2022 TO THE PACKING DISTRICT

The new Leonard & Marjorie Williams Family YMCA, a part of the YMCA of Central Florida, will be a cornerstone of The Packing District, a **transformational redevelopment coming to life** through Dr. Phillips Charities.



YMCA of Central Florida ymcacf.org For a better us.®

The YMCA of Central Florida is a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening our community.