

Observer

Winter Park / Maitland

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Next stop: Central Park

Winter Park SunRail station celebrates grand opening

TIM FREED
Observer staff

Central Florida's vision of a new commuter rail seemed closer to reality than ever before on Monday as city, county and state officials cut the ribbon outside the Winter Park SunRail Station.

The train stop beside Central Park was the first of 12 stations opened along a 32-mile route that runs from Orlando, up through Seminole County and stopping in DeBary.

SunRail's double-decker trains are set to start carrying passengers on May 1.

"Isn't this indeed a special day? Not just special day in Winter Park, but a special day in our region," Mayor Ken Bradley said. "I would even say a special day in the United States."

Residents had the chance to tour a SunRail train after the ceremony and step inside the new station before it greets and sends off passengers. Winter Park's history of trains helped inspire the design of the new building, said John Cunningham, co-founder and creative design partner of ACi Architects Inc. A Craftsman-style ticket window and seating area inside greets visitors with an old-timey look while the city's signature peacock sits atop the roof, immortalized on a



Winter Park celebrated its SunRail station ribbon cutting with a ceremony on March 3.

PHOTO BY TIM FREED — THE OBSERVER

weather vane.

Bradley and local artist Ruth Attaway took a moment to unveil a stained glass window depicting the city's peacock crested seal. The artwork - created by Attaway - will sit above an archway inside, casting rays of colored light into the station's atrium.

The ribbon cutting marked a successful completion of a project Winter Park that began in 2006, when a task force was formed to determine the feasibility and benefits of a multi-county train system going through the city.

Residents voted in support

of adding a SunRail station two years later.

"SunRail was going to come through our city [whether we liked it] or not," Bradley said. "The question before us was whether we were going to have a stop."

"I can think of nothing worse than if SunRail was going by us without a stop today. This is going to make a huge difference in our city."

Residents could save on gas money and avoid heavy traffic by using SunRail, but advantages will come to residents even if they never hop aboard the new

■ Please see **SUNRAIL** on page 2

Meet the Maitland candidates

SARAH WILSON
Observer staff

With a recovering economy and increasing developer interest, the candidates in the March 11 Maitland municipal election could be the first to make good on longstanding goals to start to give residents what they've been asking for: a real downtown.

At a Meet the Candidates Night on Feb. 27 candidates Bev Reponen and Martha Bryant-Hall presented their thoughts on how to make Maitland's long-dreamed-of downtown a reality.

While residents and the candidates admitted the Feb. 27 event lacked the usual "debate" format, the Observer was there to get the scoop and follow up afterward. Meet the candidates for yourself below, as the Observer lets each of them offer their thoughts on Maitland's most pressing issues.

Downtown development

Downtown redevelopment has been on the minds residents for decades, as they've been stuck with a dilapidated Winn-Dixie and dwindling shops.

Longtime local activist Martha Bryant-Hall said she's focused on hearing the opinions of residents and on helping the city to develop as a place where all citizens have an equal seat at the table when it comes to voicing opinions.

"We need to make sure this is

■ Please see **COUNCIL** on page 6

Sprinkel, Womble to debate this week

City Commission candidates set for debate as election day approaches

TIM FREED
Observer staff

Election day for seat two on the Winter Park City Commission this Tuesday draws near as candidates Sandy Womble and City Commissioner Sarah Sprinkel continue to push their campaigns to gain voter support.

Sprinkel and Womble will have the chance to rake in more



PHOTOS BY TIM FREED — THE OBSERVER

Sarah Sprinkel and Sandy Womble will debate at the Winter Park Library on March 6.

votes today as they engage in a public forum at the Winter Park Public Library at noon.

The Observer spoke with both

candidates prior to the candidate forum to get their insight on some of Winter Park's pressing issues and endeavors.

■ Please see **COMMISSION** on page 2

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Publisher's statement on page 2.



Observer

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COMMISSION | Candidates go to bat over possible minor league baseball stadium

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

by Orange County Public Schools along U.S. Highway 17-92.

Womble saw a new baseball team as a positive opportunity, but didn't want to lose any green space in the process.

"I think the devil's in the details," Womble said. "Some of the issues concern me, like the Martin Luther King Park being used. I'm not in favor of putting a ballpark there ... That park belongs to the people that live here, not private enterprise."

Baseball could certainly bring an economic boost to the area, Sprinkel said, but funding the construction for a new stadium remains one of the biggest challenges. The cost will not fall on the backs of local taxpayers, she said.

Winter Park residents didn't hesitate to open their wallets for one historic cause last year. The local community's effort to save the Capen House from the wrecking ball brought historic preservation into the spotlight, leaving residents questioning the city's approach with designating historic buildings.

Winter Park should do whatever it can to bring more properties into the city's historic register, Womble said.

"The lack of plaques around

A public forum between Sarah Sprinkel and Sandy Womble starts at noon today, March 6, at the Winter Park Public Library. Winter Park's municipal election is Tuesday, March 11.

Visit cityofwinterpark.org for a list of voting locations.

the city as part of our important historic properties is quite frankly embarrassing," Womble said. "That's something I'd work on. Central Park is a historic park and it would be great to have a plaque there."

But Sprinkel didn't believe the historic designation process should be rushed, despite the outcry from residents that historic landmarks are being lost.

"There's a process we need to go through and we need to honor that," Sprinkel said. "Just because somebody doesn't agree with that doesn't mean we need to hurry up and rush. I don't go with this 'the sky is falling,' Chicken Little idea."

The state of Winter Park's tree canopy has also put the City Commission under scrutiny. A steadily growing number of dead trees and falling limbs prompted the city to reevaluate its tree ordinances.

City Arborist Dru Dennison told City Commissioners last October that between 10,000 and 13,000 trees need to be cut down for safety reasons.

The responsibility of maintaining trees along neighborhood roads falls on residents, but an Urban Forestry Management Plan passed in January could change that, Sprinkel said.

"I certainly would never be in favor of the residents continuing to be responsible," Sprinkel said. "People out there think the city has been responsible and they haven't been."

"Some of the residents can't take care of them. Whether they can't, won't or whatever it is, the reality is we need to make sure this tree canopy is here forever. In order to do that, we have to make some changes."

The city should be entirely responsible for maintaining the tree canopy, Womble said.

"I'd be in favor of retuning that right to the city and not placing that burden on the citizens," she said.

Other changes might be necessary to boost business along Park Avenue, where most merchants are forced to keep their doors open year-round to make ends

meet.

"The slower summer months are just awful; they really are terrible," said Womble, who formally owned an art gallery along Park Avenue called Palm House Gallery.

"The trademark for Park Avenue is the individual boutiques and eateries. We need to work to protect them and promote them... I think the rent is too high in certain parts of the Avenue."

Sprinkel said she too remembers first coming to the Avenue in 1972, back when merchants kept their doors open for only nine months out of the year.

This year's election proves more difficult than previous years, Sprinkel said. The election ballot doesn't include any charter amendments or other items - residents will only be voting on the City Commission seat. An expected 2,500 absentee ballots may also complicate the counting process.

The two women will need to work that much harder to gather support and bring out voters, Sprinkel said.

"You can't ever sit back and think 'Oh, if I just did one more thing' or 'What if I had just walked one more neighborhood or called one more person,'" Sprinkel said. "That's what keeps you going."

SUNRAIL | Mica predicts bright future and expansions for SunRail in coming years

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

train system, Bradley said.

"We have people who come from all four counties to work in our hospital, so the citizens of Winter Park are going to benefit whether or not they ever get on the SunRail," he said. "They're

going to benefit because people who serve them are going to use SunRail."

Local residents anxiously await the opening of Maitland's SunRail station on April 11, Mayor Howard Schieferdecker said.

"We have the Maitland Center which has 17,000 employees," Schieferdecker said. "...The key is getting east to west, getting passengers from the station to the Maitland Center and back."

A future FDOT project that would expand Maitland Boulevard to six lanes would help support a new transportation system to the center, he said.

The planned SunRail route from Orlando to DeBary will only be the beginning, U.S. Rep. John Mica said. The network of tracks could expand from the

downtown Orlando area up to the northwest, reaching cities like Apopka, U.S. Rep. John Mica said.

"It's the beginning of a new era for transportation in our region," Mica said.

"It's the beginning of a new era for transportation in our region," Mica said.

"The main thing is looking at the future and how it connects together. People will use it if it's convenient."

Future phases of the project are set to connect SunRail to local airports and form bus connections near the stations for residents who live farther east or west of the tracks, Mica said.

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Big Chiefs' Night Out Committee: Jacki Sobo, Jennifer Boone, Hope McDavid, Lanie Sandridge, Crissy Foglesong, Cynthia Story, CJ Burkey, Becky Dotson, Julie Wood, Kori Stevens, Heather Price



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FAMILY CALENDAR

MARCH 7

Story Time at Leu Gardens is held the first Monday of each month, excluding holidays. Hundreds of families visit Leu Gardens to participate in Orange County Library Systems' imaginative and inspiring story time event. The event runs from 10 to 11 a.m. and engages children in songs, rhymes and books for infants

through 5 years of age. Best of all, story time and Leu Gardens are free. This month's event is March 7. Visit leugardens.org for more information.

MARCH 8

The Baldwin Park Doggie Derby unleashes the dogs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Corrine Commons, 1913 Meeting Place in Orlando. Visit doggiederby.com to register. Get your kids active with the Smile Mile, a morning of fun and fitness for all kids age groups at Orlando Fashion Square, 3201 E. Colonial Drive in Orlando. It all starts at 8 a.m. March 8 and runs until after the fi-

nal 4-year-old runners at 11:30 a.m. Visit trackshack.com for more information.

MARCH 15

There's something for everyone at the **Winter Park Road Race** presented by Florida Hospital on Saturday, March 15, on Park Avenue, with a 10K road race, 2 Mile Fun Run/Walk and free Kids' Run! Winter Park/Maitland Observer readers receive a \$2 discount on online race registration. Register at TrackShack.com and use code "WPO2014". The registration deadline is Thursday, March 13.

Community Bulletin

Free tax help

Tax-Aide volunteers, trained and certified by the IRS, will provide free income tax assistance at the Winter Park Library every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through April 15. Individuals seeking assistance should bring pertinent tax documents such as a copy of last year's income tax return; forms showing income earned, pensions and Social Security; 1099 forms showing interest and dividends; photo ID of self; plus social security cards for all those listed on their return. Free electronic filing will be available. For additional information, call 407-647-5233 or our toll-free number at 1-888-227-7669 or visit our website at aarp.org/taxaide

Keepin' it real for kids

Maurice Johnson, division president of homebuilder Taylor Morrison, recently spoke at the Joe R. Lee Branch of Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida, located in Eatonville, about habits of successful people. He spoke as part of the club's "Keepin' It Real Series," an event that focuses on promoting dreams and hope for club members.

Art of development

The Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts has appointed Leah Shepherd vice president of development. In this role, she will oversee the capital and annual campaigns, and manage the center's philanthropy team.

Calendar

MARCH 6

Save the date for the **Economic Update Breakfast**, focusing on the state of business after the great recession, from 7:45 to 9:15 a.m. March 6. An economic overview will be provided by Dr. Bill Seyfried, professor of economics at Rollins College Crummer Graduate School of Business. Afterwards, Dr. Seyfried will moderate a panel discussion with local business leaders on "Life After the Great Recession." Registration deadline is Feb. 27, so act now. Visit winterpark.org for more information.

MARCH 7

It's **Date Night at Leu Gardens!** See a classic movie or current feature film on one of the largest outdoor screens in Central Florida. Come early and enjoy a stroll in the 50-acre garden before the movie. Movies are shown the first Friday of every month from February through December (no movie in July). Pack a dinner picnic basket and a blanket or chairs, alcohol is permitted. Grilled items, popcorn and drinks are available for purchase. This month's movie is "To Have and Have Not" starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. Garden admission is \$6 per adult, \$3 per child (K-12th grade) and free for Leu

Garden Members. The event is weather permitting. Leu Gardens is located at 1920 N. Forest Ave. in Orlando. For more information, please contact the Leu Gardens at 407-246-2620 and visit leugardens.org for movie selections.

MARCH 8

Rollins College's crew team's Spring Break Race starts at 8 a.m. March 8 at Lake Maitland. Visit rollinssports.com for more information.

Get ready for the **J Ball**, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Orlando's largest and most important fundraiser of the year.

This year's Ball will honor Bruce Gould for his active and dedicated service to the JCC. It's an incredible party with casino games, live entertainment, a silent auction, food and drinks. It all starts at 6:30 p.m. March 8 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel, 9700 International Drive in Orlando. Visit orlandojcc.org for more information.

flute and violin music live at the Morse Museum from 5 to 8 p.m. March 14. Visit morsemuseum.org or call 407-645-5311.

The Winter Park Public Library will present **"Top Ten Things you Don't Know About Your Library"** at 7:45 a.m. March 14 at the Winter Park Welcome Center as part of the Good Morning Winter Park series. It's at 151 W. Lyman Ave. Free continental breakfast will be served.

MARCH 14

Celtic Crossings will play **Celtic harp**,



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ARCHIVE PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE OBSERVER

Maitland residents will get the chance to vote on a charter amendment banning billboards next week.

A look at the city ballot



Maitland City Talk
BY HOWARD SCHIEFERDECKER
MAYOR

City council seats and City Charter amendment question

The city of Maitland will host a General Municipal Election on Tuesday, March 11, to fill Council

Seat 2. The person elected will serve a three-year term. At the close of the qualifying period two candidates qualified for City Council Seat 2: Martha Bryant-Hall and Beverly J. Reponen. One candidate qualified for City Council Seat 4: John P. Lowndes. Per the City Charter, Mr. Lowndes, being unopposed, is declared elected without being voted upon in the General Municipal Election. Therefore, only one Council race will appear on the ballot.

In addition to the election for Seat 2, the ballot contains one City Charter amendment question to voters. On Nov. 11, 2013, the Maitland City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1249 to amend the City Charter and adopt ballot language banning billboards and digital outdoor advertising in the city of Maitland. The adopted Charter Amendment (question) will appear on the March 11 ballot as follows:

“Shall the Maitland Charter be amended to include a prohibition on signs or groupings of signs in excess of thirty-two square feet in total sign area that publicize activities, ideas, products or services that are not conducted, associated or available on the premises on which the sign or signs are located when such signs are to be erected for a period in excess of thirty consecutive days?”

YES FOR APPROVAL
NO FOR REJECTION?”

If approved, this Charter Amendment will prohibit posting signs exceeding 32 square feet in sign area that advertise activities, ideas, products or services at a location other than where the sign is posted. This prohibition will only apply to signs erected for a period exceeding 30 consecutive days. In addition, this charter amendment will not prohibit the posting of off-site public safety signs. A complete copy of Ordinance No. 1249 is available on the city’s website at itsmymaitland.com.

For more information related to the proposed Charter Amendment, please contact Community Development Director Richard Wells at 407-539-6212 or dwells@itsmymaitland.com.

The polling places for the upcoming municipal election will be the Maitland City Hall, 1776 Independence Lane, and the First Baptist Church of Maitland, 1950 Mohican Trail. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For additional information regarding polling places, please contact the city clerk at 407-539-6219.

Sarah Sprinkel

FOR WINTER PARK CITY COMMISSION – SEAT 2



Educator. Mother. Public Servant.

Sarah has lived in Winter Park for over 40 years and has served on over 60 local, state and national boards and task forces. She is a wife, mom, educator and a constant advocate for families and children. Along with her desire to preserve and protect Winter Park’s unique quality of life, Sarah took office with a priority to return civility to the City Commission. Three years later, the fractious meetings have mostly turned to constructive engagement.

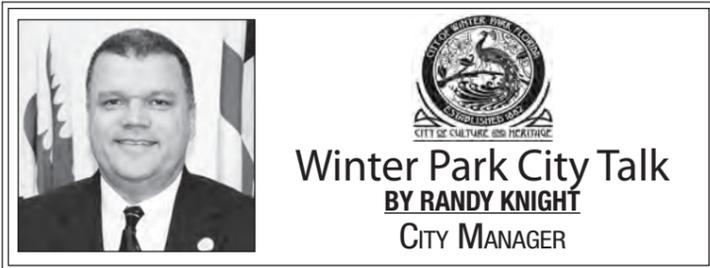
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- ★ Balance budgets without raising taxes
- ★ Rollback the unpopular pay increase Commissioners previously voted themselves
- ★ Increase reserves, Winter Park’s “rainy day fund”
- ★ Protect and preserve our cherished tree canopy, green spaces and parks
- ★ Continue undergrounding utility lines (5 miles per year)
- ★ Eliminate the dog park fees at Fleet Peoples Park

Keep Winter Park on the Right Track.
Keep Sarah Sprinkel on the City Commission
Vote Sarah Sprinkel on March 11th

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Sarah Sprinkel, candidate for Winter Park Commissioner, non-partisan.



Winter Park City Talk
BY RANDY KNIGHT
 CITY MANAGER

Rail ribbon cut

Train station celebration

The city, in partnership with Amtrak, the Federal Transit Administration and Florida Department of Transportation, celebrated the grand opening of the city of Winter Park Train Station on March 3. The City Commission was joined by Congressman John Mica, Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs, other regional dignitaries, and hundreds of community members.

Amtrak service is expected to begin at the new station within the next several weeks and Sun-Rail service will begin Thursday, May 1. Featuring Craftsman-style architecture, passengers will be surrounded by solid beams of rich cherry wood etched with delicate carvings. Shades of green, royal blue and brown swirl about a beautifully laid tile wall – reminiscent of the colors of a peacock. From the new public restrooms to the mission-style hardware on the fine wood cabinetry to the elegantly created stained glass window of the city seal, the city's new train station will warmly greet or bid farewell to rail passengers as they arrive and depart Winter

Park. It is also the newest LEED-certified, city-owned facility, furthering the city's commitment to sustainability.

Monday was another great celebration for the city of Winter Park that showcased the success of partnerships and teamwork from across the region. Special thanks to all the city staff that worked tirelessly to keep this project ahead of schedule and under budget.

March 10 City Commission meeting

There will be a City Commission meeting Monday, March 10, at 3:30 p.m. in City Hall Commission Chambers located at 401 S. Park Ave.

For the most up-to-date agenda, please visit cityofwinterpark.org under What's New. Below are a few topics of interest:

Consent Agenda

- Approve the minutes of 2/24/14.
- Approve various contracts and purchases (for a complete listing, please visit cityofwinterpark.org).

org/ccpackets).

- Waive the collection of various fees associated with connecting utility services to the Grant Chapel.

Public Hearings

- Second reading of the ordinance authorizing the issuance of Electric Revenue Bonds.
- First reading of the ordinance vacating and abandoning the easement located at 2020 W. Fawsett Road.

- First reading of the ordinance authorizing the conveyance of the city-owned property at 321 Hannibal Square West, in exchange for the property located at 325 S. Pennsylvania Ave.

- Resolution – Authorizing the city manager to enter into an Urban and Community Forestry Grant Memorandum of Agreement with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

You can find the City Commission's full agenda on the home page of cityofwinterpark.org under What's New.

Remember, if you are unable to attend City Commission meetings, you can watch them live, gavel-to-gavel, as they happen. During the meeting, simply log on to the city's official website at cityofwinterpark.org/cclive to easily stay tuned-in to official city business.

Remember to vote

The city will hold its municipal General Election for City Commission Seat 2 Tuesday, March 11. If there is one thing that you can do to ensure your voice and opinion is heard, stay informed during

the campaign process and make an effort to vote in this upcoming Winter Park election. If you would like more information regarding the city's 2014 election, please visit cityofwinterpark.org/elections or call the City Clerk's office at 407-599-3277.

Call to artists

The city of Winter Park and the Winter Park Public Art Advisory Board announce a call to artists for "Art on the Green 2014," an exhibition of outdoor sculptures in Central Park located in downtown Winter Park. Joseph H. Seipel, sculptor, educator and dean of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts, will serve as guest curator for Art on the Green 2014. The exhibition will run from Monday, Sept. 1, through Sunday, March 1, 2015.

Artists nationwide who have participated in at least three previous juried shows are encour-



PHOTO COUTESY OF EVOLVE DESIGN GROUP

aged to submit entries for the competitive selection process now through Monday, April 21, 2014. Complete details regarding artist entries may be found by visiting the city's official website at cityofwinterpark.org/AoG

Winning entries to be included in the exhibition will be announced Monday, May 19. Each of the six selected artists will receive a \$2,000 honorarium.

For more information regarding Art on the Green, a project of the Winter Park Public Art Advisory Board, please call 407-599-3498.

Visit the city's official website at cityofwinterpark.org, find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, watch us on Vimeo.



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COUNCIL | Traffic complaints plague candidates

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

a place we have a passion for ... we need to come together to build the city of Maitland," she said. "... We need to have inclusiveness. You have to have inclusiveness to make sure everyone gets a piece of the pie."

Former two-term council member Bev Reponen stressed that arts and culture be part of a successful downtown space, and making sure the plans coming in are Maitland-friendly.

"The most important area of business is the space from the front door of one business to the front door of another business ... because that's the area where all of us residents function," Reponen said. "We have to think about the comfort of the people and how they're going to get from place to place and have a comfortable experience."

That, Reponen said, comes from having convenient parking and open park spaces.

Both candidates issued concern over current proposed plans that would potentially put a five-story parking garage on the site of old city hall. Bryant-Hall suggested the garage be moved across Horatio Avenue to the Snodgrass-owned property, while Reponen mentioned revisiting having parking built into retail developments on the long-disused Winn-Dixie lot.

Transportation alternatives

Developing alternative modes of transportation to connect downtown to the rest of Maitland, candidates said, is also a must.

Reponen suggested pedi-cabs, golf carts or a trolley to get residents around, including back and forth from the SunRail station.

"We have to get transportation, a means of moving people around," Reponen said. "... I think we need to find an alternative means, we have to do it quickly and we have to do it the right way."

Bryant-Hall touched on the importance of also getting workers from SunRail to the

On election day Maitland residents will finally get their permanent say on the state of billboards in the city. If the only Charter Amendment listed on the ballot passes, off-property advertising signs exceeding 32-square-foot and erected for more than 30 days will be banned in the city charter.

Maitland Center and other major employers in the city.

"SunRail is going to be a draw for businesses in the city ... And you need to be sure that once the Rail goes in, people have a way to get from the station to work safe and on time," Bryant-Hall said.

Traffic talk

Also a top topic is that of mitigating ongoing traffic issues at the intersection of U.S. Highway 17-92 and Horatio Avenue.

Bryant-Hall said the city needs to work with residents to come up with plans to address traffic issues before they happen – and always assure necessary right-of-ways are open and flowing without hurting businesses or endangering lives.

"I know how to get things done. I know I don't have all the plans, but I'm willing to work with everyone in the city to help make them," Bryant-Hall said.

Reponen said to increase traffic safety the city needs to increase communication with residents to let them know of pattern changes beforehand so they can prepare before getting on the road.

"I think traffic is a big concern, on that I've seen put many people in very dangerous situations," Reponen said. "We need a policy of letting people know exactly what to expect during changes."

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Lifestyles

Meet Mini, a tiny dog with a big attitude

SARAH WILSON
Observer staff

At just 6 months old, she's already accumulated a closet full of custom-tailored clothes that could put even the most fashionable of collectors to shame.

From formal fur-collared polka-dot party dresses for the Christmas season, to handmade frilly fleece-lined onesie jammies for casual cold weather lounging, she's accumulated a rack of outfits doubling the quantity owned by any of her siblings.

As the youngest of 12, it'd be easy to assume the wardrobe accumulated courtesy of communal hand-me-downs. But sharing gets complicated when you wear a size so small they don't even make things in it for your species.

For many of her first few months, Mini was relegated to wearing only the finest of frocks fitted for ferrets – and other sized-down fashions finagled by her owner Lori Elrod. Dog clothes couldn't come small enough to fit the now 3-pound hairless Chinese crested, born 3-ounces and no larger than her owner's thumb.

"I didn't even know they made ferret clothes, but they do," Lori said. "And for a while they were all that would fit."

Lori and her husband Bill have bred the hairless pups (and their fluffy "Powder Puff" coated coun-



PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE OBSERVER
Mini spent many of her first few months in the running for the title of world's smallest dog. Now she's topped out at a whopping 3 pounds.

terparts) from their Orlando-area home for more than six years, but never birthed a surviving dog so small. Vets told the couple not to get too attached to the tiny newborn puppy – born so small she'd found ways to escape through the quarter-sized holes of her litter's laundry bin playpen.

But Mini quickly earned her sizably appropriate name, and a strong-willed reputation. She soon

gained fans online, who both rooted for her health and sent the Elrods the smallest of animal outfits they could find to fit her little four-legged body – the start of her ever-growing wardrobe.

After months of possible contention for the title of world's smallest dog, Mini surpassed

expectations, topping out at 3-pounds 2-ounces full grown – the average Chinese crested usually weighing in between 8 and 12

pounds. Mini wound up tripling the record, currently held by a 1-pound Chihuahua in Puerto Rico named Miracle Milly.

Though too big for the record books, she's still found a way to bring in awards, placing on top of many a pet costume contest this past October, including the annual Doggie Door-hosted event on Park Avenue. Her natural black-and-white coiffed Mohawk dyed pink flitted in the breeze as she drove around Central Park as a rock star sitting comfortably behind the wheel of a hot-pink Barbie car.

As Mini takes her tiny fur-trimmed feet to the sidewalks of Park Avenue today, Linda's quick to point out the notable prance in her dog's small-but-certain stride that just seems to scream diva. But Mini's happy to oblige passersby who frequently stop to question her breed and pose with her for pictures, her tiny tongue quick to lick any admirer's face.

"[Mini]'s a 150-pound Rottweiler in a 3-pound body ... She has no idea how small, or how spoiled, she is," Bill said. "It's a good thing too because it'd go straight to her head, and she's already got an ego the size of Texas."

See videos of Mini at [Youtube.com/wpmobserver](https://www.youtube.com/wpmobserver)

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Wildcats crowned state champions

Team comes from behind to win third state championship in school history

TIM FREED
Observer staff

Winter Park High School (33-3) shook the Lakeland Center Saturday night in a last-minute comeback win, capturing their third state basketball championship in

school history thanks to a little bit of luck.

Goodluck, that is. The Wildcats topped Maynard Evans High School 66-64 in overtime after Austin Goodluck made a tip-in with less than 10 seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 56.

Saturday's FH-SAA Class 8A state finals win marked Winter Park's third straight victory in extra minutes, outlasting John I. Leonard and St. Petersburg earlier that week.

"This win and this team - I'm humbled right now to be a part of that," Coach Donald Blackmon said. "About a month to two months ago, this became more than a



game of basketball. It became a group of men who came together to form a bond that was unbreakable."

"After three overtime wins in a row, I think we can all agree that this bond that they've created took a life of its own."

The Trojans were building on a six-point lead over the Wildcats at the start of the fourth quarter,



PHOTOS BY TIM FREED — THE OBSERVER



following a first half controlled by Winter Park. The Wildcats held a 13-point lead late in the second quarter before allowing the Trojans to score 26 points in the third.

But Winter Park fought back, eventually closing the gap with Goodluck's heroic late basket and riding their momentum to an overtime win.

The state tournament's most valuable player award went to Winter Park Wildcat Elijah Farley, who led his team with 25 points in the final matchup.

Winter Park senior Spencer Rivers knew his last name came with some added pressure. His older brother Austin created his own legacy after leading Winter Park High School to two consecutive state championships in 2010 and 2011. The former Wildcat went on to play for Duke University before getting drafted to the NBA after just one season.

But Spencer didn't let the spotlight throw off his game, putting up seven points and nabbing two rebounds.

His older brother and their father Doc weren't in the stands on Saturday; they were both on a court 2,500 miles away. Austin and the New Orleans Pelicans were in Los Angeles paying a visit to Doc's Clippers that same night.

"There's always pressure, but I knew that as long as we win, I'd be fine," Spencer said. "When we won there was a weight off my shoulders."

"It feels amazing, there's not a word that describes it. Our team fought so hard and no one expected us to even get here. When we did, we won it."

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WPV Voice

Susie Q brings chic boutique shopping



Susie Q is a women's classic and chic boutique owned by Susan Shea. The Boutique was designed with the idea in mind to create a personal shopping experience focusing on a woman's individual lifestyle.

Susan Shea's genuine passion and love for fashion has enabled her to help women identify their personal style and determine what is missing in

their wardrobe.

Winter Park Village offers individuals a first-class shopping and dining experience, which appealed to Susan Shea in her decision to opening the boutique at its current location.

The grand opening for Susie Q

Boutique is March 13.

The boutique is located at 460 N. Orlando Ave., Suite 108, in the Winter Park Village. Call 407-790-7988 or go to susieqboutique.com

— Submitted by Winter Park Village



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WINTER PARK VILLAGE

Susie Q will celebrate its grand opening in the Winter Park Village on March 13. The store offers classic and chic women's styles.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF WINTER PARK VILLAGE

Meet your new neighbors

Egg-citing things are happening at Winter Park Village! The Village recently welcomed Another Broken Egg—a breakfast, brunch, and lunch restaurant that is brand new to the Central Florida area. Based out of Louisiana, Another Broken Egg is Winter Park’s answer to the typical, generic breakfast you can find almost anywhere. Escape the everyday bacon and eggs and enjoy one of Another Broken Egg’s many signature creations. Whether you grab a seat at the full-liquor bar, or snuggle up in a booth, Another Broken Egg is a must-try in Winter Park.

Susie Q Boutique, the creation of Susan Shea, has opened its doors in WPV. The stylish boutique features a mix of fashionable brands at varying price points, making it a premier shopping destination in WPV. Check out the beautiful storefront full of amazing accessories, fashionable clothing, unique gifts and more.

For the beauty lovers, Ulta is featuring two new cosmetics counters — Benefit and Lancome — making it the only Ulta with a Lancome counter in the area. Stop in for a consultation with one of their beauty experts and experience these new additions.

Giveaways galore

Have you “liked” Winter Park Village on Facebook? They’re constantly running new contests, giving away great prizes, and keeping you updated on the latest deals and developments at WPV.

Did you know?

Winter Park Village now has gift cards. They can be purchased at the self-serve kiosk located in the breezeway near White House Black Market, and come in any denomination up to \$100. The gift cards can be used anywhere in Winter Park Village.

— Submitted by Winter Park Village



Loft



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White House Black Market



Pier 1



WINTER PARK VILLAGE

Carmen Davis of Windermere is wearing clothes from White House Black Market and accessories from Coldwater Creek.



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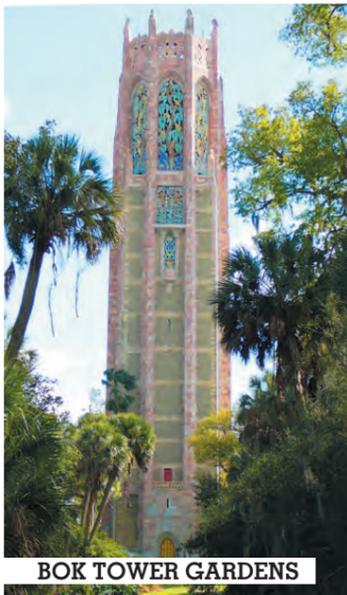




Josh Garrick Culture for your calendar

Now through mid-March – Flowers everywhere at Bok Tower

Peak bloom season has officially arrived at Bok Tower Gardens, and this is the best time of year to visit the National Historic Landmark. Visitors observe hundreds of varieties of camellias and azaleas along with orchids, irises, and other flowering plants throughout the Gardens. What began as 50 acres designed by Frederick Law Olmsted has grown to more than 600 acres of woodland gardens around the visual centerpiece of the 205-foot neo-Gothic Singing Tower, an architectural wonder that houses one of the world's finest carillons. Visit BokTowerGardens.org



BOK TOWER GARDENS

March 7 to 29 – 'Sisters of Swing' – The story of the Andrews Sisters

The Winter Park Playhouse excels with musicals that follow the lives of famous performers, so

we may look forward to the Central Florida premiere of "Sisters of Swing." The new musical follows Patty, Maxene and LaVerne Andrews from their early days on the road through their rise as



'SISTERS OF SWING'



NUCLEAR COWBOYZ

recording stars famous for entertaining American GIs during World War II. The score features more than 20 hit songs including "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy." Tickets to "Sisters of Swing" may be purchased by visiting winterparkplayhouse.org or by calling 407-645-0145.

March 7 to April 18 – Legendary abstract painter Harold Garde at Jai Gallery

Artist Harold Garde, a legend of the American abstract expressionist movement, recently celebrated his 90th birthday having added a work to the Metropolitan Museum in New York City, as the subject of a major documentary film, and having his work celebrated in a retrospective exhibit at the Museum of Florida Art. Now Jai Gallery will exhibit the bold and vivid creations of this legendary artist in an exhibit opening March 7 at 7 p.m. Jai Gallery is at 47 E. Robinson St. in Orlando. The opening is free to the public with an RSVP to 407-921-0693.

March 8 – Music of the Ballet with the Orlando Philharmonic

Composers including Prokofiev, Ravel and Tchaikovsky are often familiar to contemporary audiences thanks to the music they wrote for ballets. Those composers will be joined by Falla and Weber on March 8 at 8 p.m. at the Bob Carr PAC when dancers from Orlando Ballet will perform to several of the greatest orchestral ballet scores of all time with the music performed live by the Orlando Philharmonic. Excerpts

from "La Valse," "Swan Lake" and "Romeo and Juliet" promise an evening of multiple talents on the stage of the Bob Carr. Visit orlandophil.org or call 407-770-0071.

March 8 and 9 – Nuclear Cowboyz Freestyle Motocross at Amway Center

Vying for the title of "most explosive freestyle motocross touring production," the Nuclear Cowboyz make their first-ever stop at the Amway Center on

■ Please see **CULTURE** on page 12

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CULTURE | Learn the tips and tricks of social media marketing

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11
 March 8 at 7:30 p.m. and March 9 at 2 p.m. in a motorcycle epic of good guz (the Nuclear Cowboyz) committed to defeating an evil tyrant in this action-filled performance of more than 1,000 gravity-defying tricks. Complete with laser effects and a heavy metal soundtrack, the show also features the acclaimed Shaolin Kung Fu Warriors. Check out the action at nuclearcowboyz.com, and visit ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000 for tickets.

March 9 – Be a part of Florida history

With a spectacular view of the Capitol Dome, the Florida House is the only state embassy in Washington, D.C. Since 1973, the

beautifully restored 1891 Victorian Florida House has welcomed visiting Floridians, students and dignitaries to the nation's capital. The annual fundraiser for Florida House will take place March 9 in a private home in Orlando with a lakefront view, cocktails on the dock, locally grown and harvested foods, a silent auction and more. We can be part of Florida history as we support the fundraiser for our unique "home" in D.C. RSVP to Gayle Wirtz at 407-222-5535 or email her at gwirtz-real@aol.com

March 12 – Social Media Marketing – The Basics

If you are interested in using social media for your business but don't know how to start, or

if you are using social media but aren't sure you're doing it right, an interactive seminar set for March 12 at 6:30 p.m. will demystify the social media marketing basics no business should ignore. Covering strategies and best practices, the seminar will help you to help your business gain visibility, develop relationships and drive sales and responses. Total Wine at 2712 E. Colonial Drive is the host venue, and they will offer a complimentary wine tasting after the seminar. RSVP to Ken Countess at 407-242-4200.



March 13 – A Wine-A-Fare at the Lake Eustis Museum of Art

The Lake Eustis Museum of Art, Lake County's only dedicated art museum, will hold their annual Wine-A-Fare fundraiser on March 13. Supporting the varied activities of the Museum, the

■ Please see CULTURE on next page



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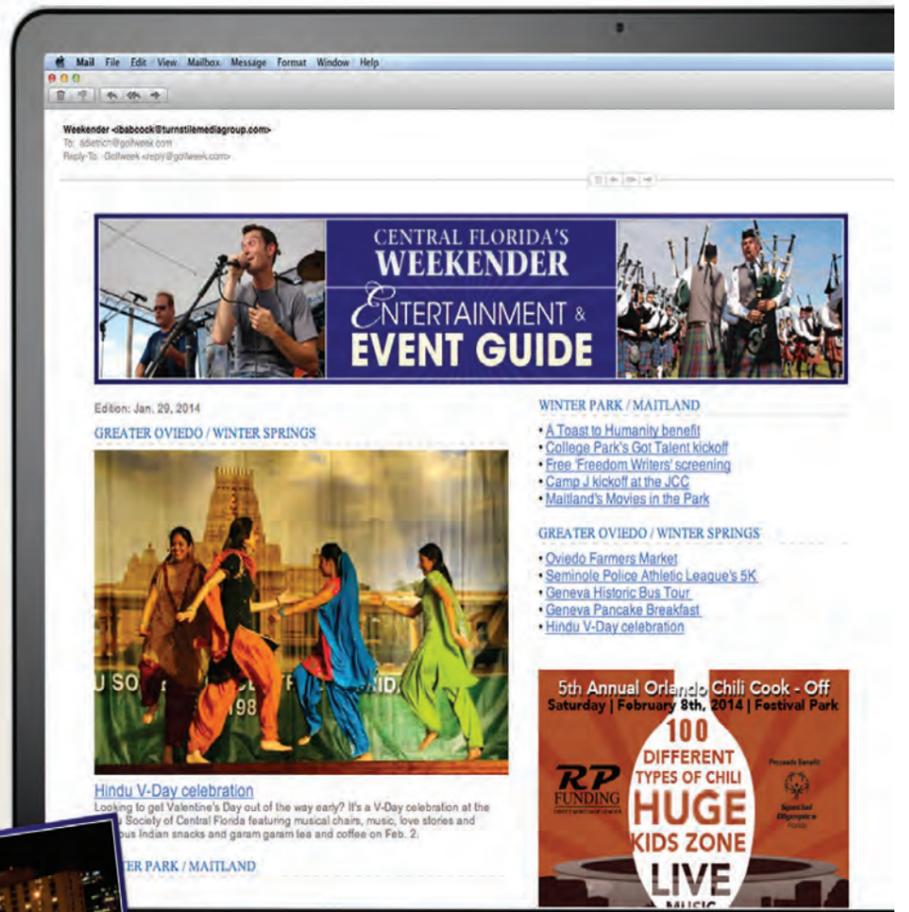
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CULTURE | Walk a mile in heels to help Harbor House of Central Florida raise domestic abuse awareness

■ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
 evening offers a wine tasting and heavy hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, and fine art sale. This affordable fundraiser is \$30 per person and \$35 at the door. The Lake Eustis Museum is on the lake at 1 W. Orange Ave. in Eustis. For tickets, contact Caroline Breuché at 352-589-9235.

In the unauthorized parody "Dog Sees God," the popular Peanuts characters are teenagers battling real-life issues. When CB's dog dies, CB questions the existence of an afterlife, but his best friend is "burnt out," his sister has gone Goth, his girlfriend is in rehab, and other friends are unable to give him any solace. A



chance meeting with an artistic kid (the target of the group's bullying) offers CB a friendship that pushes teen angst to the limits. Performed from March 14 to 16 at the The Venue in Orlando, tickets are available at DogSeesGodOrlando.com

Josh Garrick is a writer, photographer, educator, and fine art curator. He is a member of the Curatorial Council for the Museum of Florida Art. Garrick can be reached at joshgarrick9@gmail.com or 407-522-3906.



March 13 at 4 p.m. – Walk-a-Mile – in heels – to Benefit Harbor House

Bringing awareness to the issue of domestic abuse while



raising funds for Harbor House of Central Florida, hundreds of walkers (in high heels) will Walk-a-Mile on March 13 beginning at 4 p.m. Domestic abuse knows no boundaries of color or sexual orientation, and the statistics are staggering. Walk a Mile 2014 will begin at the Orange County Courthouse and walk to the Orange County History Museum. Lend your support at facebook.com/groups/WAMOrlando or visit harborhousefl.com

March 14 to 16 – The Orlando Ballet – 'Some Assembly Required'

"Some Assembly Required" is the name given to the world premiere performances being offered by the Orlando Ballet on the weekend of March 14 to 16 at the Bob Carr PAC. The ballet is the newest creation by Artistic Director Robert Hill, and it promises to showcase the dancers' physicality in movement as an evolving process. Additional works will be presented by guest choreographer Abdur-Rahim Jackson and Orlando Ballet's Arcadian Broad and Telmo Moreira. Visit orlando-ballet.org or ticketmaster.com for more information.

March 14 to 16 – 'God Sees Dog: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead' at the Venue



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Opinions



**Chris
Jepson**

Perspectives

A modest proposal

I've a modest proposal that I'll shortly outline. It's one that two of America's outstanding military leaders and presidents both came to similarly cautionary conclusions about. George Washington said in his Sept. 19, 1796 farewell speech to the nation that, "Over grown military establishments are under any form of government inauspicious to liberty, and are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty."

On Jan. 17, 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower — another wartime commander — spoke his now famous warning, "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists, and will persist."

Why is it that Washington and Eisenhower's prophetic warnings about an out-of-control military establishment are today largely ignored? Much is being said about Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel's recent Pentagon budget. Hagel is recommending that the army shrink to between 440,000 and 450,000 troops, a troop level not seen since before WWII. The U.S. military consumes 57 percent of the nation's discretionary spending, as opposed to say education, which receives 6 percent.

This figure doesn't include the obscene amounts of money spent on homeland security. By some estimates America will spend nearly \$1 trillion in 2014-15 on national security. If what America spends on national security were its own economy, it would be the world's 19th largest.

The only "good" war of the 20th century for America was WWII. Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Spanish American War, and all of other excursions into Latin America were ill-conceived ventures that wasted American morality, lives and trea-

sure. We muck around the world because we have the military "toys" to do so and an imperialistic mindset that patriotically runs-up-the-flag of U.S. exceptionalism.

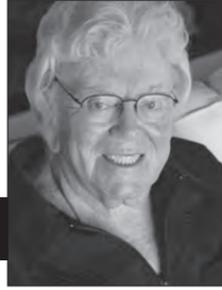
America's defense establishment has "plants" in 420 of the nation's 433 congressional districts. Consider that for a second. Plants equal jobs. Think of military appropriations as corporate welfare (full employment for engineers, technicians, etc.). When building a new weapons system, say the F-35 aircraft, make sure that you have sub-contracts for 1,300 suppliers in 45 states. America is spending \$400 billion to purchase 2,400 F-35 airplanes. That is twice the amount of what it cost for America to put a man on the moon. What? You want to cut the F-35 budget? We're talking national security. We're talking jobs.

What if we attempted to reduce military appropriations and homeland security by half? It wouldn't happen because the military-industrial complex Eisenhower so rightly excoriated would "lobby" against it, claiming that such reductions undermine national security and, well, jobs. Let's be real. What really drives the issue is that any reduction cuts into corporate profits.

Here is my proposal. If, hypothetically, you are The Boeing Company with nearly \$22 billion in annual military contracts, you have five years to shift half your production to non-military, societal-benefiting programs such as solar power, water treatment facilities, roads, bridges, etc. You get the same amount of federal money, you just invest it in programs (employ Americans) that help the nation meet its real challenges. Corporate profits remain intact. It's a win/win situation.

It'll never happen.

Jepson is a 27-year resident of Central Florida. Reach him at Jepson@MEDIAMerica.US



**Louis
Roney**

Play On!

A decisive trip

We came out of City Hall and grabbed a cab to Columbus Circle. We got my car out of the underground garage and drove over to Central Park South.

I double parked for a moment, dashed up to my apartment, and grabbed my dog and two packed suitcases inside the door. I made a U-turn on 59th Street and headed for the Lincoln Tunnel. I got on the Jersey Turnpike and headed south. Oh yes! The whole time there was a good-looking blonde next to me in the front seat, a gal with a brand new wedding ring on third finger left.

We spent our honeymoon night in Virginia Beach and the next day headed for Florida where b.w. wanted to see "the little town I came from." My old Orlando friend Sally Duncan Pace invited us to stay with her for a few days. Sally, a recent widow, was busy in "what else?" Yes, real estate, and soon she had showed us a Gamble Rogers lakefront house in Winter Park, which, minutes after we walked in the door, we bought! When we drove north, we left a place where we were now "homeowners!"

Natch, we soon returned to visit our real estate. My boyhood friend, Hope Strong, later mayor of Winter Park, threw us a nice party in his lovely home on Lake Osceola. His wife Peggy (Caldwell) had been my next-door neighbor in Forest Hills all through my earlier years.

B.w. and I returned to Winter Park a couple of times and soon bought a Steinway grand, which we put in our living room. With the piano, we had the makings of a party that we soon had. About 50 people came to renew old acquaintances, and b.w. played some songs for me to sing.

We had still not figured out exactly why we had bought a house in Winter Park, where we had no particular reason to be. But reasons soon surfaced: the University of Central Florida—which I had not known existed—offered me a position as a tenured Distinguished Professor of Voice, which was reason enough! And I ended up teaching on the faculty at UCF for the next 24 years.

Early on, b.w. and I founded the Orlando Celebrity Concert Association — an organization which we headed for 17

years before retiring — which brought five world-renowned symphony orchestras to the Bob Carr annually.

I retired from UCF at 85, where getting to know the students had brought me lasting pleasure.

Sometime later I started the Tuesday Evening Eating Meeting with a group of friends who meet for a pleasant evening out, good food and conversation at a favorite restaurant.

Life in Winter Park is about as good as it gets anywhere for people who own a house and have provided themselves with comfortable living in their later years. There are a multitude of cultured retirees here who are full of energy and the social graces. The Central Florida weather doesn't take long to convince people that it is much preferable to anything above the St. Johns River. And Orlando is, to boot, a big, convenient city with an International Airport that can get you almost anywhere you might want to go. Central Floridians have plenty of friends "up North" who are just "dying" to spend a few days in our sunshine and are just waiting for an invitation.

Memories flood back upon me when I drive by the old field where we practiced football at Winter Park High School, and when I see the Lake Virginia stretch of shore where there were formerly two wooden docks on the Rollins College lakefront that jutted far out into the lake and provided the location for the annual Florida State Swimming and Diving Championships.

The Dinky Dock has ceased to exist, along with the short trains of oranges the Dinky Railroad used to carry some 11 miles from Orlando to a loading zone. We kids used to hop on and off the train for short rides despite being told endlessly not to do so!

Lots of things I remember are gone — gone with my fond youth that I still recall with misty-eyed enthusiasm.

About Roney:
Harvard '42—Distinguished Prof., Em.—UCF
2004 Fla. Alliance for the Arts award
(Assisted by beautiful wife Joy Roney)

Letters to the editor

Send your thoughts (400 words or less) to Managing Editor Isaac Babcock at ibabcock@turnstilemediagroup.com

Capen currency has a shelf life

My marketing students have already figured out what needs to happen here. The question is ... have Winter Park residents?

City "fathers" and "mothers" who have spearheaded and supported the Capen House move are to be warmly congratulated for their incredible efforts. But there's nothing wrong with asking for something in return, especially when doing so benefits the entire community.

Rest assured that our mayor and city commissioners will have the last word on the way in which historic preservation plays out in Winter Park. That's how it works everywhere. It will be no different here. What is different in our town is that we're under the mistaken impression that a local government stacked against historic preservation can objectively react to committees, consultants, etc. trying to get a word in edgewise for historic preservation.

In Palm Beach, Fla., Newport, R.I. and Pittsburgh, a preservation foundation completely independent of local government formulates and advocates policy. Yes, a mayor and city commissioners weigh in later with a final determination, but in Winter Park historic preservation dies in a committee before it can even see the light of day. That's not an accident. Check your

calendars to see the date you first heard about the Capen House. And nothing has improved in how many months? Living in a historic house doesn't negate the need to execute on behalf of the entire Winter Park community, who did not move here to lose what attracted them to our town in the first place. Sorry, Commissioner Sprinkel, you haven't walked your talk. Why else would your close friend feel the need to run against you?

We need a preservation foundation of Winter Park that is not beholden to government and bought and paid for by deep-pocketed overdevelopment interests. Yes, we saved the Capen House, but government inaction on historic preservation guarantees that we'll be having to raise hundreds of thousands to save another house before too long.

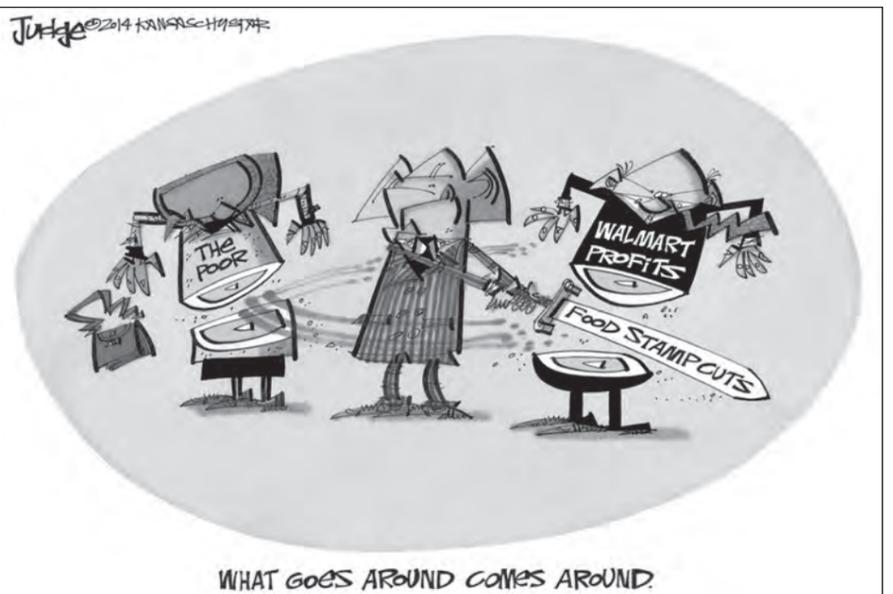
Now is the time for Capen House donors to insist that a room in the Capen House be designated the temporary headquarters of The Preservation Foundation of Winter Park. Donors have currency to spend that has a very limited shelf life.

Do you really think that anyone is going to designate that room in the Capen House after all of the Capen House funds have been raised?

Well, do you?

— Will Graves
Founder, Friends of Winter Park

EDITORIAL CARTOON



WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND.

THE MARKETPLACE



OBSERVER
Open Houses

KELLY PRICE & COMPANY

Sunday, March 9th

653 E. Marks Street, Orlando FL 32803
4 BR | 3.5 BA | 2,757 SF | \$829,000
Architecturally stunning Mediterranean home! Originally built in 1930, this home has been thoughtfully renovated and expanded for modern living. Features include hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen, spacious master suite with sitting area, and guest house with own kitchen and full bath. Truly spectacular outdoor living space with built-in Alfresco grill and gas fireplace.
Hosted by: Jennifer King with Kelly Price & Company from 1-4 PM

1003 Fleck Avenue, Orlando FL 32804
2 BR | 1 BA | 986 SF | \$132,000
Enjoy a quiet, College Park private neighborhood with access to Big Lake Fairview! Situated on a corner lot, this home features spacious bedrooms and an open kitchen. Hardwood flooring, fresh paint, new kitchen appliances, new plumbing and updated electrical complete this lovely home!
Hosted by: Jennifer "JJ" Mackle with Kelly Price & Company from 1-4 PM

225 Carolyn Drive, Oviedo FL 32765
5 BR | 5.5 BA | 5,378 SF | \$1,125,000
Fabulous Mediterranean lakefront home! Situated on a double lot with 82' of frontage on pristine Long Lake. Gorgeous finishes throughout. Formal living and dining rooms, chef's dream kitchen, family room with fireplace and huge 22'x23' game room. Oversized master retreat offers a separate sitting/dressing area and French doors that lead to the second floor balcony overlooking the pool and lake. Soaring two story screen patio encompass the paved deck, sparkling pool and soothing waterfall. Additional features include heated spa, outdoor shower, dock and boathouse!
Hosted by: Cindy Watson with Kelly Price & Company from 1-4 PM

960 Georgia Avenue, Winter Park FL 32789
4 BR | 4 BA | 3,654 SF | \$1,080,000
Picturesque location on a brick street at the corner of Georgia & Palmer ~ Walk to Park Avenue! Fantastic wall of windows in the family room overlooking the pool and spa. Spacious kitchen, plantation shutters throughout, gorgeous wood floors, high ceilings and three fireplaces. Private fenced backyard with mature landscaping.
Hosted by: Jennifer Sloan with Kelly Price & Company from 2-4 PM

SUNDAY 1-4
MEDITERRANEAN POOL HOME
1050 Aloma Avenue, Winter Park. 3BD/2BA, 2,112SF. Close to Rollins College and downtown Winter Park, WP Library and the new Alford Inn. This split-plan home features built-ins, wood floors, wood-burning fireplace, kitchen with newer appliances, dining area and terrific "flex" space. Two-car garage and guest pad parking. The private backyard pool and patio are perfect for entertaining and year-round fun! Mature landscaping! Move-in ready! \$389,000

PRIVATE BEACH ON LAKE SYBELIA
1110 N Lake Sybelia Drive, Maitland. 5BD/4.5BA, 4,517SF. Largest lakefront lot on Lake Sybelia. Custom boat dock with lift, open pool with refinished deck, and expansive lake views of ski lake throughout. Eat-in kitchen has granite counters and stainless appliances. Master bath offers Italian tile, custom cherry cabinets, and oversized Jacuzzi tub overlooking lake. Media room, library with gas fireplace and oversized two car garage. \$1,250,000

MEDITERRANEAN TOWNHOME ON TREE LINED STREET
541 Fairfax Avenue, Winter Park. 3BD/2.5BA, 2,095SF. Light and bright townhome with vaulted ceilings, wood floors, bonus loft and a private courtyard. Large downstairs master bedroom with fireplace and French door access

to courtyard. Large eat-in kitchen with breakfast nook. New interior paint, new carpet and refinished wood floors. Oversized two car garage. Great location just blocks from Park Avenue. \$450,000

SINGLE STORY CONDO IN COUNTRY CLUB AREA
904 Sussex Close, Orlando. 3BD/2BA, 2,060SF. Air conditioned two car garage, ten foot ceilings, parquet floors, completely repainted, new plantation shutters, new carpet, new electrical panel, re-piped and roof resealed. Crown molding, wainscoting, wood burning fireplace and brick patio. Community pool, night security guard and great location. \$259,000

HOME ON WATERBRIDGE CUL-DE-SAC
1300 Serena Drive, Winter Park. 3 BD/2BA, 2,342 SF. Full of natural light, this recently renovated single family home with open family room & kitchen has new tile floors, granite, stainless and pendant lights. New baths. Large living room with vaulted ceilings and wood-burning fireplace. French doors open to 3 courtyards. 2-car garage. \$449,900

NEW PRICE!
COUNTRY CLUB OF ORLANDO TOWN-HOME
2036 S Countryside Circle, Orlando. 3BD/2.5BA, 2,054SF. End unit with spacious rooms, plantation shutters and crown molding. Open porch off family room with brick accent wall leads to oversized two car garage. Community offers night security guard, common grounds and optional pool membership. \$204,500



OBSERVER
Just Sold Homes

KELLY PRICE & COMPANY

8848 Grey Hawk Point, Orlando FL 32836 sold by Jennifer Sloan with Kelly Price & Company

7728 Glenmoor Lane, Winter Park FL 32792 sold by Patrick Higgins

1239 Baypoint Drive, Longwood FL 32750 sold by Renee Dee Morgan

1563 Hanks Avenue, Orlando FL 32814 sold by Jennifer King & Jennifer "JJ" Mackle

MaryStuart Day & Megan Cross
3260 Ellwood Ct, Winter Park
\$155,000. 02/26/2014

Kelly Maloney **426 Torgiano Dr, Ocoee**
\$342,100. 02/25/2014

Patty Peelen **2167 Huron Trail, Maitland**
\$335,000. 02/27/2014

Maria Van Warner **1609 Jessamine Ave, Orlando** \$262,500. 02/28/2014

Meg Dolan **1356 Holly Glen Run, Apopka**
\$186,000. 02/28/2014

Kelly Maloney **10 Escondido Cir, Alt Springs**
\$70,000. 02/28/2014

Kim Galloway **5303 S. Atantic Ave, #68, New Smyrna Beach**
\$317,500. 02/28/2014

Joe Miller **3699 Derran Lane, Orlando**
\$488,750. 02/28/2014

Dawn Romance **1551 Oakhurst Ave, Winter Park**
\$870,000. 03/03/2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLEAR ROADBLOCKS TO YOUR BEST LIFE!

Energetic Clearing, March 12, 6-8pm, Winter Park Civic Center, Room B, 1050 Morse Blvd., WP. Clear detrimental energy patterns. Call Marcia today 407-306-0405 to reserve admission with Visa/MC (limited to 40); \$20/person; Next session 3/26. Must be 18.

United Rentals
is selling surplus equipment at no reserve internet auction on March 14. Bid now on service trucks, F350, F450, F550's, pickup trucks at www.purple-wave.com

Winter Park Benefit Shop:
at 140 Lyman Avenue, Winter Park needs items to sell: clothing, bedding, jewelry, kitchenware/bric-a brac. Need volunteers - contact Elizabeth Comer 407-647-8276. Open 9:30am-2pm every Tues & Fri (and Sat 10am-2PM). Proceeds support children's programs and the Orlando Blind Assoc.



Solution time: 21 mins.
Answers
King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Unexciting
- 5 Baby bear
- 8 Use a cleaver
- 12 Franc replacer
- 13 — budget
- 14 “Mary — Little Lamb”
- 15 First victim
- 16 Long-running reality game show
- 18 Gobi or Mojave
- 20 Harsh
- 21 Thy
- 23 Midmorning hour
- 24 Smith and Jones, e.g.
- 28 Kind
- 31 Eisenhower
- 32 Credit-card users’ problems
- 34 With 45-Across, a martial art
- 35 Fender bender
- 37 Made an educated guess
- 39 Foot part
- 41 Layer
- 42 Open out, as a flag
- 45 See 34-Across
- 49 Unexpected

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
15				16			17				
18				19		20					
			21			22		23			
24	25	26				27		28	29	30	
31				32			33		34		
35			36		37			38			
			39		40		41				
42	43				44		45		46	47	48
49					50				51		
52					53				54		
55					56				57		

- occurrence
- 6 Big name in Burma’s history
- 7 Taverns
- 8 Sour cream and —
- 9 Poorer folks
- 10 Smell
- 11 Rid of rind
- 17 Ex-soldier
- 19 Street
- 22 Argue against
- 24 Comedian Caesar
- 25 Guitar’s smaller cousin
- 26 Like the superintendent’s apartment, maybe
- 27 Picket-sign carriers
- 29 “Norma —”
- 30 Danson or Koppel
- 33 Small diving duck
- 36 Hairpiece
- 38 Pressed
- 40 Blunder
- 42 Abbr. on a B-52
- 43 — and void
- 44 Biographer’s subject
- 46 Actress Campbell
- 47 Slay
- 48 Sole
- 50 Male child

DOWN

- 1 Out of play
- 2 Cartoonist Goldberg
- 3 War god
- 4 One of Henry’s Annes
- 5 Halloween outfits

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PUBLIC NOTICE Cemetery Lots

Posted March 3, 2014. If you have any right, title, estate, lien or ownership interest in any of the unclaimed burial spaces in **Palm Cemetery** described below, you must file a claim with the **City of Winter Park Cemeteries Division** by July 2, 2014, or you will lose your interest in the unclaimed burial space(s).
Palm Cemetery Manager at jbaumann@cityofwinterpark.org
or by mail at Palm Cemetery Historic Spaces Project, 1005 N. New York Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789.



Owner	Purchase Date	Block	Lot	Spaces
Guenn, Frances	No Record	7	D	NW, SW, CW, NE, CE, SE
Lee, William Justice	No Record	9	A, B, C, D	All of Lot A; All of Lot C; Lot B NW, CE, SW, SE; Lot D NW, SW, SE
Reed, Sarah	7/12/20	12	B	NW, CW, SW, NE, CE, SE
Read, Frederick D.	3/22/23	14	C	NE, CE, SE
Sample, R. J.	3/15/23	14	D	NW, CW, NE, CE
Healey, Claire	4/29/21	25	D	NE, CE, NW, CW, SW
Aldis, Graham	11/24/33	26	B	NW, NE, CE, SE
Reid, U. E.	12/4/34	31	A	NE, CE, SE
Barnes, George	8/6/12	55	D	NW, CW, SW, NE, CE
Stillman, Helen P. (Malcolm Oakes Esecutor)	3/9/38	58	D	SE, CW, SW
Blackman, W. E.	No Record	58	B & C	Lot B - NW, NE, CW, CE
Hayes, Charles S.	12/29/23	58	A	NW, NE, CW
Sims, Mr & Mrs Charlie	11/18/46	69	B	CW, SW, NE, CE, SE
Rumbaugh, John D.	4/7/47	85	AA	10, 11, 12
Haine, Louis & Tennie	10/3/45	85	C	NW, CW, SW, NE, CE, SE
Rumbaugh, John D.	3/27/45	90	D	NE & SE

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Winter Park Real Estate - Offices for rent
 (Winter Park/Goldenrod/University). Doctor's office w/5 exam rooms + extra features. Other office units available from 800-3000 SF. New Orleans style bldg; great prices. Call Ann 407-293-1934. annpolasek@cfl.rr.com

REAL ESTATE: FOR SALE
 Up to 9 acres from \$14,900. Mountain cabin only \$89,900. Access to lake and trout stream. Views of the Atlanta skyline. 45 minutes from Northern Atlanta. Priced below developer cost! Call 866-950-5263 Ext. 17.

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It's FREE to place estate sales, garage sales and yard sales on this page! Visit **WPMObserver.com** and click "Create Your Classified"

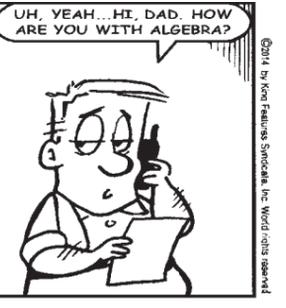


ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although you tend to bore easily and leave others to finish what you start, this is one time when you'd be wise to complete things on your own. Then you can move on to something new.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your indecision about a personal situation might come out of those mixed signals you're getting. Best not to make any commitments until you have a better sense of how things are going.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A dispute appears to be getting out of hand. But you should be able to step in and bring it all under control soon. Be patient. News about a potential career move might be delayed.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Career obligations could interfere with important personal plans. But using a combination of common sense and compromise helps resolve the dilemma to everyone's satisfaction.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) A stressful situation drains some of your energy reserves. But you soon bounce back in time to finish your tasks and enjoy a well-deserved weekend getaway.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) This is a good time to throw a party for friends and colleagues and surprise them with your dazzling domestic skills. You also might want to reconsider that career move you put on hold.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A sudden change of mind by someone you relied on could cause a

delay in moving ahead with your plans. But those whom you've helped out before are prepared to return the favor.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You start the week feeling too shy to speak up in front of others. However, your self-assurance soon takes over, giving you the confidence you need to make yourself heard.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) One way to deal with a pesky personal dilemma this week is to meet it head-on. Insist on an explanation of why the situation reached this point and what can be done to change it.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The creative **Capricorn** finds several outlets for her or his talents this week. Also note that while a romantic connection looks promising, remember to allow it to develop on its own.
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You stand out this week as the best friend a friend can have. But be careful that you don't take too many bows, or you might see gratitude replaced with resentment.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) What seems to be an ideal investment should be checked out thoroughly before you snap at the offer and find yourself hooked by an expensive scam.
BORN THIS WEEK: Your wisdom is matched by your generosity. You are a person who people know they can rely on.

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Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

5 DAY SAVANNAH, JEKYL ISLAND & ST. SIMON'S
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 K I W F D G A C X V T U Q O M
 J H F G C A G Y Y W U L R P N
 L J R Y E R R U S C H L F T D
 B Z D E L S B O B X R D V R D
 T R Q O T M R K T I H O F A E
 D B Z Y P O L A J C Y Z T K P
 W V T Y R R O L E R A E Q O O
 O N L Y E N K C A H K R I G M
 H F D C A Z X W S K N A T V U

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Bobsled	Hackney	Moped	Surrey
Buggy	Hearse	Motorcycle	Tank
Bulldozer	Jalopy	Scooter	Tractor
Go-kart	Lorry	Segway	

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VEHICLES

Star★Map By Linda Thistle

Draw a star in exactly 10 of the empty squares in the diagram below so that each numbered square accurately indicates how many immediately adjacent squares (horizontally, vertically or diagonally) contain a star.

	2				
				1	2
		3		1	
	2		2		
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3	1				
					2

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Pet Rescue by Judy finally finds forever home

The new Pet Rescue by Judy Animal Resource Campus will open March 23

BRITNI LARSON
Central Florida Senior

It's finally Judy's time. In this place, her legacy is secured; her "babies" will always have a home. She'll always have a home.

"She's found all these animals a forever home and now finally she has a forever home," said Susan Elliott-Rink, project manager for the construction of the new location for nonprofit, no-kill rescue organization Pet Rescue by Judy.

Judy Sarullo, founder of PRBJ, received her certificate of occupation on the new 6,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Pet Rescue by Judy Animal Resource Campus on Feb. 27. Within minutes she was already moving in. The grand opening is tentatively set for March 23, where the public can meet the famed animal lover, who has saved tens of thousands of abandoned animals, and see her new home. The Sanford facility was made possible over the last year through \$704,000 of donated money, labor and materials.

"To to see all these people who came forward to help the animals is just kind of life building," Sarullo said. "It's



PHOTOS BY ISAAC BABCOCK — CENTRAL FLORIDA SENIOR
Judy Sarullo, left, inside her new adoption facility, poses for the camera with Totally Wired's Peter Iwanowski, one of many who volunteered to help Sarullo's pet rescue dream come true.

going to take me so much time to really inhale this; that it's here, after 21 years."

It's been a dramatic 21 years. There've been 11 moves — one leaving Sarullo with nowhere to go, caring for her rescues in a warehouse in the woods for seven months without running water. She had to have the water brought in by

van. But with this building that will never happen again. It was an incredible amount of money to raise, and it was possible because people believe what Sarullo does is worthwhile, Rink said.

"You can't not be inspired being around her, her passion and her commitment," she said.

At the new facility, 100 dogs can wait for their forever homes in spacious kennels with natural light shining in from the sun and stars, and cats can jump from branch to branch on life-like cat trees adorned with butterflies and cardinals. One of the very first residents of the new cat space is Buster, who raced to claim

his spot on an extra wide window sill — custom made for the cats' lazing enjoyment — to gaze outside and feel some warm sun trickling in.

For Cheryl Zambrano, a volunteer from PRBJ's beginnings, it's hard not to cry with happiness every time she walks in the new shelter. She'll be crying for weeks, she said, smiling as her voice cracked in emotion.

"It's overwhelming because I know it's going to make their quality of life better," she said. "When it gets dark at the other shelter, it's just pitch dark, so now when it's nighttime they'll get to see the stars, they'll be able to see the moon shine."

"I get goose bumps," Sarullo said. "I always get the chills; every time I come in here I get the chills."

The building was donated to PRBJ along with the one next door, which will be torn down to build a low-cost spay and neuter clinic, and has come a long way from the falling apart, holes in the floor place it once was. Sarullo cried when she got new poured cement floors, and loves that she can pump in serene music for her babies to listen to all day.

They have a room for puppies with nearly floor-to-ceiling windows so that the kids who come by can look right in, Sarullo said, and a living room area for people to relax and

■ Please see JUDY on page 2

For now, it's business as usual at the Oviedo Mall, where you can check out pets to adopt and drop off much needed supplies for the rescue animals, while they continue the finishing touches and move all the animals to the new location over the next few weeks. The public is welcome to celebrate Pet Rescue by Judy's grand opening at the new location, 401 S. Laurel Ave. in Sanford, on March 23. For more information about the construction process, and how you can help the nonprofit, visit savethetails.com.
To see adoptable pets, visit petrescuebyjudy.com or facebook.com/petrescuebyjudy

PEACE OF MIND... [AND PRICELESS MEMORIES]



"We couldn't ask for anything more."

When Ruth McDaniel and her son David agreed she needed a lifestyle with more security, she visited The Mayflower on the recommendation of friends. "Everyone there was so friendly and interesting, and the amenities were so far beyond what I saw at other communities. In the end, the choice was clear." Now living only a mile apart, Ruth and her three granddaughters enjoy cultural outings and Sunday brunches in The Mayflower's dining room. "The memories we've made here are priceless," she says.

"Mom is just as independent as always," adds David. "At the same time, it's reassuring to know she'll always be well cared for. As a family, we couldn't ask for anything more."

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 Quality First

More proof that exercise pays off for seniors

Have you noticed that your muscles seem to get weaker as you get older? It's thought that starting at age 40, we lose about 1 percent of muscle mass each year. Multiple studies have questioned whether that muscle loss is true aging or whether it's from disuse.

One particular study compared "master athletes" (recreational athletes who seriously exercised four to five times a week) who were 40 to 80 years old. Researchers

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

measured leg strength, muscle mass and fat content of their muscles. They even took MRI scans of cross sections of the muscles of those at various ages who exercised versus those who didn't.

They discovered that the loss of muscle mass and

strength was not due to aging alone. Senior athletes had almost as much leg muscle as the younger athletes. There was little fat in the muscles of senior athletes. There was little loss of strength.

Which means there's hope for the rest of us.

Here's my theory, after viewing the photos: We might not get back all the muscles and strength we had when we were very active and younger, but we can get back some of

it, even if we've been sedentary for years. At the very least we can maintain what we have and avoid further loss of strength.

Here's what we get with regular exercise:

- Physical stability: Our core muscles and legs can hold us up, keeping us strong and agile. Without that strength, we're more likely to suffer from falls and broken bones.

- Calcium remains in our bones, which gives them strength.

- Self-confidence: When we can continue to do things for ourselves; we keep our independence.

Ask about classes at your local senior center. Even yoga or tai chi would be a good place to start.

Matilda Charles regrets that she cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into her column whenever possible. Send email to columnreply2@gmail.com © 2014 King Features Synd. Inc.

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JUDY | Pet rescue dream comes true

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
get to know their future pets before they adopt.

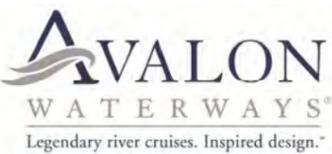
They also have an enrichment center open to the public where Sarullo wants to teach the community how to care for animals and educate future pet fosterers and volunteers. That's why it's called the PRBJ Resource Campus – they want to be more than just a shelter.

During the day Sarullo lives PRBJ constantly, dog and cat fur always under her fingertips as she pets animals eager for attention, her phone glued to her ear, professing genuine

love to each person who helps her cause. But it's only started to feel real in her dreams, what she's finally accomplished – and it feels pretty good.

"All of sudden I'm dreaming and I'm doing like a cheerleader, and my arms are stretched out and I'm flying in the air," she said. "... And everybody was applauding me and I was just out there screaming and jumping up in the air, and then I wake up and I'm going 'Was I dreaming?' I get the chills."

"This is Judy's dream; it finally came true," Zambrano said.



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New education tool for vets getting benefits

Whether you're a veteran or a family member using GI Bill benefits or the Department of Defense Military Tuition Assistance Program, if things go wrong, it's hard to know where to turn. The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a new complaint system online, in partnership with the departments of defense, education and justice, as well as the Federal Trade Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau — big guns all of them.

This reporting system will help in three ways: Veterans can report negative experi-

VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

ences with a school; the government can identify unfair or misleading practices; quality academic support will be available.

The range of complaint topics is broad and includes problems with credit transfers, changes in degree requirements and unfair recruiting practices, all covered by the Principles of Excellence that

schools must follow if they receive government money for veterans programs.

The reporting program can be reached on the GI Bill and DoD websites. Once a complaint is received, the agencies will contact the school and work at a resolution. Go to benefits.va.gov/gibill and click on GI Bill Feedback System. For DoD, go to militaryonesource.mil and put "school complaints" in the search box to reach the Postsecondary

Education Complaint System.

At the same time, the VA has opened up the GI Bill Comparison Tool. This is quite a site, even though it's in Beta testing (still being tried out). In one place you can explore your career, compare schools, choose a school, apply for benefits and more. Just by answering a few questions, you can get an estimate of your benefits and information about the school's value (how much you'll earn in your career).

For the comparison tool, go online to www.benefits.va.gov/gibill and click on GI Bill Comparison Tool. If you don't know exactly the direction you want to take, start with the CareerScope assessment tool.

Freddy Groves regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Send email to columnreply2@gmail.com © 2013 King Features Synd. Inc.

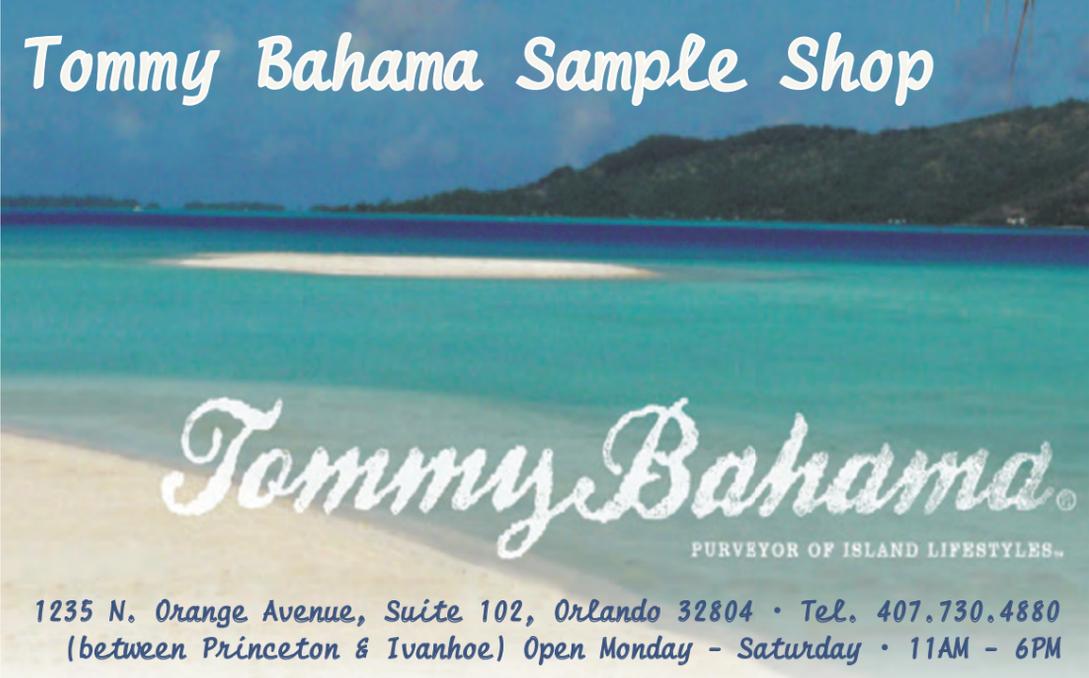
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- CarePlus Health Plans
- Harmony Hearing Centers of America
- On Target Web Solutions
- Family Physicians Group
- The Law Office of Kathleen Flammia
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- Physician Associates
- Orlando Family Physicians
- WellCare Health Plans, Inc.
- LTC Advisors
- Growing Bolder Magazine
- Certified Financial Group
- Compass Research
- Long Term Care Insurance Services
- Orlando Healthcare Guide
- Exit Real Estate Results
- MSA Home Health
- Freedom Health
- Florida Blue-McBride Insurance Agency
- Harmony Mediation

Meet these Senior Living Communities and Resources

- One Senior Place Care Management
- Orlando Senior Health Network
- Creating Divine Order
- After 55 Housing & Resource Guide
- Senior Living Guide
- Elder Move Managers
- Serenades by Sonata
- Longwood Healthcare Center
- Life Care Centers of Orlando and Altamonte Springs
- Savannah Court & Cottage of Oviedo
- Brookdale Senior Living
- Villa Grande on Saxon
- Eastbrooke Gardens
- Grand Villa Senior Living
- Orlando Senior Services Directory
- Emeritus Senior Living
- Village on the Green



March Calendar of Events

EDUCATIONAL

Ask Granny: Create a Genealogical Gift for Your Descendants Tuesday, March 4th 10am-12pm
By Central Florida Genealogical Society. Limited Seating. RSVP Required 407.949.6733

Ready, Set, GO! Conquer Your Clutter!
Thursday, March 13th 11am-12:30pm
By Creating Divine Order. RSVP 407.699.5600

FUN & EXERCISE

Senior Club

Every Monday 10am-12pm
By Family Physicians Group
March 3rd – Bingo
March 10th – Computer Club
March 17th – St. Patrick's Day Celebration
March 24th – Movie Day
March 31st – Casino Day

Chair Pilates

Friday, March 7th & 21st 1:30pm-2pm
By VITAS. RSVP 407.599.2522

Crafts & Conversation

Tuesday, March 11th 2pm-4pm
By VITAS. Limited seating, must RSVP 407.599.2522

Bingo Bash

Wednesday, March 12th 11am-12pm
By Orlando Family Physicians. Open to the Public

March Birthday & Massage Celebration

Wednesday, March 19th 10am-1pm
By Freedom Health. RSVP 407.488.6766

HEALTH RELATED

Is It Wax or Is It My Hearing?

Wednesday, March 5th 3pm-4:30pm
By Harmony Hearing. RSVP 407.949.6737

Your Lungs – Keeping Them Healthy

Thursday, March 6th 10:30am-1pm
By American Lung Association & VITAS.
RSVP 407.599.2522

FREE- I Quit Tobacco Program

Wednesday, March 12th 10am-12pm
By AHEC. RSVP 1.877.252.6094

Free Ear Cleaning & Checks!

Wednesday, March 12th 3pm-4:30pm
By Harmony Hearing. RSVP 407.949.6737

Are Your Hearing Aids in the Drawer?

Wednesday, March 19th 3pm-4:30pm
By Harmony Hearing. RSVP 407.949.6737

Healthy Aging with Chelsea Mabry, PhD.

Thursday, March 20th 10am-11:30am
By Compass Research. RSVP 407.218.6220

Hearing Aids Users Improve Relationships & Self Image!

Wednesday, March 26th 3pm-4:30pm
By Harmony Hearing. RSVP 407.949.6737

INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE

The Real Estate Specialists Are In!

Monday, March 3rd 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st
10am-1pm
By Exit Real Estate Results.
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New to Medicare? Know Your Options!

Tuesday, March 4th 10am-11:30am
By Medicare Plan Options. RSVP 407.949.6723

The Real Estate Specialists are In!

Thursday, March 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th 9am-12pm
By EXIT Real Estate Results

Health Care Reform & How It Affects Seniors

Friday, March 7th 10am-12pm
By Medicare Plan Options. RSVP 407.949.6723

Selling Your Home & Moving Made Easy

Tuesday, March 11th 10am-12pm
By EXIT Real Estate Results. RSVP 407.949.6714

AARP Medicare Complete

Tuesday, March 11th & 25th 2pm-3:30pm
By LTC Advisors. RSVP 407.949.6722

BlueMedicare 2014

Wednesday, March 13th 3pm-4pm
By Florida Blue-McBride Insurance Agency.
RSVP 407.949.6735

LEGAL & FINANCIAL

Truth about Medicaid Planning

Tuesday, March 18th 9:30am-12pm
By The Law Offices of Hoyt & Bryan.
RSVP 407.977.8080

Truth about Estate Planning

Tuesday, March 18th 2pm-4pm
By The Law Offices of Hoyt & Bryan.
RSVP 407.977.8080

Senior Survival Workshop

Tuesday, March 25th 2pm-4pm
By Kathleen Flammia, P.A. RSVP 407.478.7800

Evaluating Your Tax Rate

Wednesday, March 26th 12pm-1pm
By Price Financial Services. RSVP 407.339.4500

Mistakes to Avoid Your RMD's

(Required Minimum Distributions)
Thursday, March 27th 10am-11am
By Estate & Business Planning Group.
RSVP 407.389.1122



Bingo Extravaganza!

Friday, March 14th 1pm-3pm
By One Senior Place. Limited seating,
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Do big dogs mean a stronger economy?

Is our growing preference for larger dog breeds a sign that the economy is recovering? According to the American Kennel Club, that's a possibility.

"Owning bigger breeds — an economic indicator of sorts — [has] been on the rise during the past five years," said Lisa Peterson, an AKC representative. "As the economy has improved, people are turning back to the big dogs they love, which cost



more to feed and care for than the smaller breeds that saw a rise in popularity in 2007 and 2008."

That's an odd statement to

make, considering the most popular large dogs have never been out of the AKC's annual top-10 breeds. The Labrador retriever has held the No. 1 spot for 23 years, and the German shepherd and Golden retriever consistently make the top five. The Dachshund and the Yorkshire terrier are the only small breeds to consistently break into the top 10.

It raises questions about what the AKC thinks of dog owners. What were we doing when we were supposedly out of love with big dogs six years ago? What about own-

ers who prefer smaller dogs?

While financial problems are often cited as a reason for owners to neglect or abandon their dogs, the size of the dog isn't the biggest cause. Smaller breeds can cost just as much or more to care for, and I've met many owners who would gladly go hungry to make sure their pet has food.

Owners have many reasons for choosing the pet they bring into the family. Economic concerns are an important consideration, but responsible owners consider a lot

of factors, such as the breed, its size, potential behavioral or health issues, apartment or homeowner association rules, and local pet ordinances.

It's irresponsible of the AKC to correlate breed size with growth or dampening of the economy and smacks of bias by the organization.

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com. Did you know mosquitos can transmit heartworm larvae to dogs, but fleas don't? Find out more in my new book, "Fighting Fleas," available now. © 2013 King Features Synd. Inc.

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Senior Calendar

MAITLAND SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS

Join Audrey every Tuesday in March at 10:30 a.m. for **Line Dance Lessons**. Class is 1.5 hours and perfect for all levels of dancers. Beginners are always welcome! Cost of the class is \$4 to the teacher.

Join us every Monday and Friday in March at 1 p.m. to **see your favorite movies!** Check our calendar online to see what movies are showing in March. Please call to reserve your seat!

Join John every Monday, Thursday and Friday in March at 9 a.m. for **Yoga**. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring your own mat. The cost of the class is \$2 to the teacher.

Join us every Monday in March at 1 p.m. for our **Conversational French group**. Spend some time chatting with others and making new friends.

Join Esther every Tuesday in March at 9 a.m. for **Tai Chi classes**. Cost of the class is \$10 per month to the teacher. Please wear

a white shirt, black pants, and comfortable shoes.

Join us every Tuesday in March at 1 p.m. for our **Conversational Spanish group**. Spend some time chatting with others and making new friends. Must be fluent in Spanish to participate.

Join Sher're every Wednesday in March at 10 a.m. for Instructor's Choice. This class is a **combo of mat and chair yoga** that is great for all levels. Cost of the class is \$5 to the teacher. Please bring a

■ Please see SENIOR CALENDAR on next page

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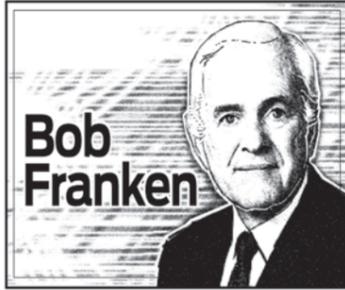
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Hard-line politics and the losing game

I've described politics as the dark side of government, but, as usual, things have gotten worse: Politics is just about all there is to government these days, certainly on the national level. The sad election choice for Americans has degenerated into "Pick Your Poison." Republicans largely offer a field of bizarre extremist candidates who not only should be laughed off the stage, but shouldn't have been in the theater in the first place. They are enabled by Democrats, who are so inept that they waste every opportunity to advance their progressive agenda.

Their standard-bearer for now is Barack Obama, of course, but he and his peeps are blowing their chance to shape the country in their image. The most glaring example is Obamacare. Ron Fournier, who proves that "respected journalist" is not necessar-



ily an oxymoron, cites in the National Journal how, "It's getting difficult and slinking toward impossible to defend the Affordable Care Act." His frustration boils over at the latest decision to delay another employer mandate until after the midterm election, which Fournier describes as further proof that, "The White House has politicized its signature policy."

Setting aside the criticism that the law itself was twisted by special-interest lobbyists and a ruthless GOP opposition into a Rube Goldberg substitute for genuine reform,

it still offers some improvement for millions of people who had been shut out of their right simply to be well. The administration's carelessness between passage and reality has undermined its credibility. It's worsened even now by a White House that lurches, blinded by shortsightedness.

Even with the latest report that more people are signing on, the mixed messages give powerful ammunition to those whose passion it is to destroy the current presidency by demonizing Obama and flogging him with his signature program. He makes it easy by symbolically wearing a "Kick Me" sign.

Sen. Ted Cruz and others of his ilk have learned that they can have it both ways. They can demagogue the debt ceiling issue, for instance, knowing full well that their weary leaders will see to it that a disaster is avoided. In the

House, Speaker John Boehner is taking heat for rescuing the crazies from themselves. In the Senate, it's Minority Leader Mitch McConnell fending off Cruz, who couldn't care less that McConnell's re-election is endangered back home in Kentucky.

The hard-liners can vote against new borrowing authority and brag to their voters back home that they did, secure in the knowledge that they will not take the blame for forcing the nation into financial disgrace. While there will be some distractions this year, like immigration reform (don't bet on that one), the thicket has been cleared. The campaign is about Obamacare.

Democrats will have to play defense, mired in the garble from the White House. Cruz and the others can lick their chops as they contemplate the real possibility of controlling the entire Congress for two years and then taking the whole shebang in 2016, stuffing even Hillary. She, of course, saw her own effort at health-care reform go down in flames.

Maybe it has become a political fourth rail, but now that Barack Obama has grabbed it, he can't let go. Ted Cruz and the others won't.

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Senior Calendar

■ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
yoga mat.

Join Ty every Wednesday in March at 11 a.m. for **Yoga Nidra**, a sublime conscious sleep (meditation) class. Cost of the class is \$5 to the teacher. Please bring a yoga mat, something to cover yourself with (if you tend to get cold), and a small pillow.

Join Donna every Thursday in March at 11:30 a.m. for **Chair Yoga**. Cost of the class is a \$2 donation to the teacher.

Join Ann every Friday in March for **Recorder classes** at 12:30 p.m. Lessons are free! Please call the Senior Center at 407-539-6251 for specifics on this class. (There will be no class on March 2.)

The Maitland Senior Center presents a program for elders on the second Friday of the month (March 14 this month) that is staffed by counselors from S.H.I.N.E. (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders). The program provides **free unbiased counseling about Medicare, Medigap, HMOs, Medicaid, prescriptions drug plans, and long term care.** For more information, email information@elderaffairs.org, call 1-800-96 ELDER, or visit floridashine.org

The Maitland Senior Center is located at 345 S. Maitland Ave. in Maitland. We are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information please call us at 407-539-6251 or visit us on the web at itsmymaitland.com

CASSELBERRY ADULT FITNESS CLASSES

Back 2 Basics is a **low-impact workout** at noon on Tuesdays

and Thursdays, and 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays. It's \$49.99 a month for unlimited classes.

Chair Yoga is at 10 a.m. every Monday and will get you moving again! The cost is \$2 per class.

Gentle/Restorative Yoga is from 8:45 to 10 a.m. on Sundays. Cost is \$10 per class. Senior citizen's discount is \$5 per class. For more information, contact Alice Gomes at 609-290-8195 or email alice@imagineyoga.net

Yoga Technique is 8:45 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays. Cost is \$10 per class. Senior citizen's discount is \$5 per class.

Chairobics is from 11:05 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Wednesdays. The class is free. For more information, contact Claudia Laine at 407-718-9066.

Tai Chi for Beginners is at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays. An intermediate class is at 2 p.m. For more information, contact Eric Raboy at 407-731-9130. Cost is \$5 per class or \$20 per month.

For more information on classes and registration, contact Mario Algarin at 407-262-7700, ext. 1576, or malgarin@casselberry.org or visit casselberry.org/register

■ Please see SENIOR CALENDAR on page 8

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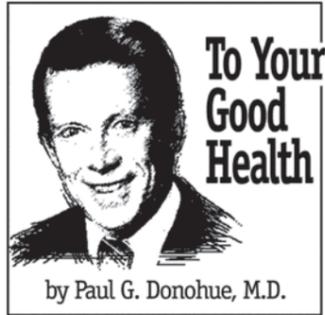
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Does smoking increase hemoglobin count?

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My blood count showed that my hemoglobin is too high. All else is normal. My doctor says the hemoglobin is high because I smoke. The doctor is on me everytime I see him to stop smoking. I want to, but I haven't been able to. Is he putting me on with another scare tactic? — S.C.



ANSWER: Hemoglobin is the stuff inside red blood cells that grabs onto oxygen as the blood cells pass through the lungs. Determining a person's hemoglobin is a surrogate for determining the number of red blood cells.

The carbon monoxide in cigarette smoke prevents the attachment of oxygen to the red blood cell. The body senses an oxygen deficit. It ups the production of red blood cells to compensate. The hemoglobin count rises. Your doctor is telling you the

truth. Now you've got two doctors harping on you.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: What is the best way to get rid of tonsil stones, besides sticking my finger down my throat as far as I can and trying to dislodge the smelly things? More importantly, what is the way to prevent tonsil stones? I never had them until a year or so ago. — S.M.

ANSWER: Tonsil stones, or tonsilloliths, are the not uncommon (one study reported them in 7 percent of young adults) but seldom discussed clusters of calcified material that lodge in the tonsils. Your tonsils, those oval-shaped

swellings on the sides of the back of your throat, are important for the cells of the immune system.

Tonsilloliths form in the crypts (deep valleys) of the tonsil, and sometimes are visible as white or yellow spots when looking in the mirror. They become bothersome if they are large enough to cause discomfort or difficulty swallowing, but often they are noticed because of their unpleasant odor. Tonsilloliths often spontaneously come out of the tonsils; they usually are described as waxy or hard, with a peculiar odor.

I don't recommend sticking

your finger in the back of your throat. The gag reflex can be very strong, and the tonsils have a very good blood supply, so damaging them can be very bloody. Some authorities recommend removal using the tongue attachment of a Waterpik (or similar device), but I have had general success with saltwater gargles. Very large or recurrent tonsilloliths are an indication for a visit to the ENT doctor.

Dr. Donohue is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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Senior Calendar

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7
WINTER SPRINGS SENIOR CENTER

Learn ceramics 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays at the Winter Springs Senior Center at 400 N. Edgemon Ave. in Winter Springs. Call 407-327-6556 for more information.

Have fun and get moving at **yoga classes** at 10 a.m. every Friday morning. Chair yoga is also available.

Bingo is Wednesday, Friday and the last Sunday of the month. Lunch is 11:45 a.m. then Bingo at 1 p.m. There is no bingo prior to the last Sunday of the month.

A bridge class meets at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays to help your game.

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., we will start a **"Guided Meditation"** class. This will be a 30-minute class. We are excited about this class and want to thank Robin Ward for taking the time to offer it. Hope to see you all then!

St. Dorothy's Catholic Community

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