

Observer

Winter Park / Maitland

Thursday, May 8, 2014

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Ring in SunRail

PHOTO BY TIM FREED — THE OBSERVER
Winter Park Mayor Ken Bradley rings the bell to announce the arrival of SunRail, which launched with ceremonies at each stop on April 30. See more photos of the commuter rail's kickoff on page 11.

Will the road run through it?

City proposes alternate Lee Road extension

TIM FREED
Observer staff

Winter Park officials discussed a new approach to realigning Lee Road on Monday – hoping to solve local traffic problems without creating new ones.

The City Commission held a work session to look at three potential realignments for street, trying to manage traffic along U.S. Highway 17-92 to the south. The section of road fills up with drivers heading north and south on 17-92 along with others trying

to head further east on Webster Avenue from Lee Road.

A project to extend Lee Road has been on the Florida Department of Transportation's to-do list since 2003, back when they conducted a Preliminary Development and Environment study suggesting a realignment punching the road through to Denning Drive and Railroad Avenue.

UP Development from Nashville recently had a study conducted and proposed a similar alignment of their own – referred to as "Alignment A" – connecting to Carver Street. The developer had pushed for that study in 2003 in hopes of getting a traffic light

placed near their future Whole Foods Market location along 17-92.

On Monday city staff presented the Commission with a new alternative, which extends Lee Road toward Denning before curving south and connecting to Webster Avenue.

The new route – referred to as "Alignment B" – came in response to residents concerned



PHOTO BY TIM FREED — THE OBSERVER
Three options were on the table for Lee Road extension plans.

about more cut-through traffic in neighborhoods to the north along

■ Please see **ROAD** on page 2

City says development size matters

Winter Park Commission votes down amendment to allow bigger buildings

TIM FREED
Observer staff

Winter Park residents wary of more development breathed a sigh of relief last Monday after a proposed change to the comprehensive plan, which could have opened the door for more development of a larger size, came down to a single vote by the City Commission.

The amendment voted down by City Commissioners would have allowed all city property next to a four-lane road – outside the box of property surrounded by Fairbanks, Interlachen, Pennsylvania and Webster avenues – to be zoned for planned developments, larger projects usually made up of mixed land uses.

Other language from the ordinance would have excluded parking garages when calculating a development's floor area ratio (FAR), a regulated percentage of a building's size compared to its lot.

The amendments were largely influenced by planning consultant Silvia Vargas' study of the comprehensive plan last year. Planning and Community Development Director Dori Stone said the recommended changes would give developers more flexibility and room

to negotiate, allowing the City Commission a better chance of getting the developments they want.

"When you have the garage as part of the FAR, you never really are able to capitalize on the total FAR of that building," Stone said. "You have to allocate some of that space to the parking garage. If we're going to do that, then we're really not truly getting a 200 percent FAR, you're really getting 150 or 130 or 100 percent FAR."

■ Please see **DEVELOPMENT** on page 2



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ROAD | Cut-through traffic is issue No. 2

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
Denning Drive.

"One of the main advantages is it puts the traffic on Webster where we feel like this dogleg traffic is going anyway," Public Works Director Troy Attaway said. "It also severely alleviates the potential for people to travel north on Denning and impacting neighborhoods around Park Avenue — we heard that as a concern."

FDOT approved of the alignment, but on the condition that left turns onto Webster from 17-92 would be prohibited, Attaway said. A traffic light at the extended road and Webster would be proposed by the city as well.

But City Commissioner Carolyn Cooper said the city shouldn't be so quick to extend Lee Road, which she believed could cause more cut-through traffic in other neighborhoods.

The completion of the Ravaudage planned development nearby could offset the extension, she said, bringing in 3,200 more peak hour trips to the Lee Road intersection.

"For me, to jump right to cutting through our neighborhoods

really gives me heartburn," Cooper said. "If we're going to make this decision, let's make sure we completely understand."

Taking out existing traffic lights, she said, might be a better solution.

Mayor Ken Bradley said the Lee Road intersection and the cut-through traffic in neighborhoods should be treated as separate issues.

"If we're going to make this decision, let's make sure we completely understand."

much of it's caused by this intersection and I don't know how much is going to be fixed by this intersection," Bradley said. "Ravaudage has just one restaurant to it and we're complaining about cut-through traffic."

City Commissioners eventually agreed that Alignment B had the most potential of the three options and should be sent to FDOT as their primary choice.

The City Commission will be presented with a resolution formally supporting the alignment at a future meeting date, City Manager Randy Knight said.

Cars cutting through neighborhoods could be given a study all its own, he said.

"I don't know how

DEVELOPMENT | Garages still count

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"You're not really giving the development that opportunity to see what they can bring in and see what we can negotiate."

City Commissioners voted down the changes 1-3. Mayor Ken Bradley's absence from the meeting put a final deciding vote on the shoulders of Vice Mayor Steven Leary.

A vote in support of the item would have tied the count at 2-2 and moved the item forward, but Leary instead chose to oppose the ordinance.

Leary had spoke in favor of the changes moments earlier, supporting the increased flexibility.

"There's a way to do it gracefully and I think if we can turn that over to staff and give them the flexibility to do that, we can get what we want," Leary said.

But Commissioner Carolyn Cooper showed concern over the ordinance, claiming that planned development should be limited and parking garages should be part of the FAR.

Cooper said the comprehensive plan identified specific

areas to test that level of density without damaging residential areas or the city core. She said sticking to that concept is crucial to maintaining the desirability of Winter Park.

"What we're now doing is we are saying that, 'Unless you're in the area from Pennsylvania to Interlachen and from Webster to Fairbanks, you are eligible for this planned development zoning,'" Cooper said.

"I believe we are opening the aperture way too wide."

Cooper said planned developments are at risk of becoming even bigger when taking parking garages out of the FAR calculation, which ultimately

"I believe we are opening the aperture way too wide."

determines a building's size.

"The only thing that controls the size of the building is the size of the

building lot," Cooper said.

More than a dozen Winter Park residents stepped forward prior to the City Commission vote to voice their disapproval and fear of widespread development in the city.

Resident Linda Eriksson said that more developments of increased size would eventually turn Winter Park from extraordinary to generic.

"I don't want this to become anywhere, USA," she said. "I want us to stay a village."

Resident Sally Flynn stepped before the podium holding a homemade white flag — a symbol of her lost hope if the ordinance were to pass.

"This is for surrender," Flynn said. "If any of these proposals are passed, I will put this white flag in front of my house and I hope others will follow."

"This is showing that this town no longer belongs to the residents, but is in the hand of the developers and those who think money is more precious than Winter Park."

Had the ordinance been passed, the changes would have gone for review from the state before coming back for a second approval from the City Commission in August, Stone said.

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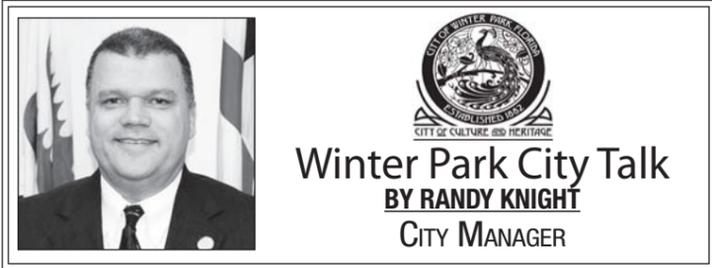
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Market milestone

May 12 City Commission meeting

There will be a City Commission meeting Monday, May 12, 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:

Mayor's Report

- Presentation - Winter Park High School State Championships
- Presentation - Best of Show from 2014 Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival
- Presentation - Healthy Weight Community Champions Award
- Proclamation - Building Safety Month
- Proclamation - EMS Week
- Proclamation - North American Occupational Safety and Health Week
- 2014 board appointments
- Non-action Items
- Financial Report – March 2014

Consent Agenda

- Approve the minutes of April 28, 2014.
- Approve various purchases and contracts (a complete listing

can be found at cityofwinterpark.org/ccpackets)

- Approve the lease agreement with National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) for occupation of the new Winter Park train station located at 148 W. Morse Blvd.

Public Hearings

- Request of Benjamin Partners, LTD and the Sydgan Corporation representing Bubbalous Inc. on the properties at 970/1000/1008 and 1306 Loren Ave.; 1141 Benjamin Ave. and 1313 Lewis Drive, in conjunction with the Ravaudage Planned Development:
 - Second reading of the ordinance amending the "Comprehensive Plan" Future Land Use Map to change the Future Land Use Designations of Commercial and Low Density Residential to Planned Development Future Land Use designation.
 - Second reading of the ordinance amending the Official Zoning Map to change the Commercial and Low Density Residential District designations to Planned Development District zoning.
 - Second reading of the ordinance governing garbage collection service in the Center Street business

corridor.

- Resolution – Communicating support of an extension of Lee Road east of U.S. Highway 17-92 and turning south to intersect with Webster Avenue; authorizing the transmittal of this resolution to the Florida Department of Transportation.
- Resolution – Requesting the Orange County Board of County Commissioners to extend the life of the CRA for five years.

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 cityofwinterpark.org/cclive to easily stay tuned-in to official city business.

Sustainability Action Plan survey

In 2008, the city adopted a resolution to become a certified Green Local Government. Since then, in 2011, Winter Park achieved the Gold Level status, which shows the city's commitment to being "green." Now the city is striving to reach Platinum Level status and has developed a draft Sustainability Action Plan to help reach that goal. Currently in draft form, the city is looking for public input to help fine-tune the plan that will ultimately help the city have a more sustainable future. Please help the city shape this plan by sharing your feedback at one or more of the following opportunities:

- Sustainability Action Plan Survey at cityofwinterpark.org/SAP
- Complete survey by Monday, June 30.

- Sustainability Action Plan Public Forum

- Tuesday, June 24, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Winter Park Community Center, 721 W. New England Ave.

The Sustainability Action Plan is designed to address seven core areas:

1. Community engagement and green economy
2. Waste diversion and recycling
3. Mobility and urban form
4. Buildings, energy and water
5. Natural resources and systems
6. Local food and agriculture
7. Local government operations

For more information regarding the Sustainability Program or the action plan, please visit the city's official website at cityofwinterpark.org/sustainability or call 407-599-3364.

"Art in Chambers" exhibition featuring Sarah Ali

The city of Winter Park Public Art Advisory Board is proud to announce the newest "Art in Chambers" exhibition featuring paintings by Sarah Ali. The exhibition will be open for public viewing from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, in City Hall Commission Chambers and the adjacent Chapman Room, at Winter Park City Hall located at 401 S. Park Ave. The exhibit will be on display through Monday, Sept. 8.

Ali's entry into the world of art was one that found her and almost saved her. Diagnosed with Lupus, she was encouraged to paint by her uncle Jamali - one of the most respected contemporary artists of today. Ali soon realized that painting was an act of meditation that brings about a great sense of euphoria and harmony. This collaboration

of emotion is what she ultimately hopes to achieve.

"Art in Chambers," a project of the Winter Park Public Art Advisory Board, showcases works by local artists or works borrowed from local museums. For more information regarding "Art in Chambers," please call 407-599-3498.

Winter Park to celebrate Farmers Market 35th anniversary

The city of Winter Park is proud to announce the Winter Park Farmers Market 35th Anniversary Celebration will be held Saturday, May 17, at 10 a.m. The Farmers Market is located at 200 W. New England Ave. Festivities will include door prizes, live music, vendor discounts, free market bags, and kid-friendly activities such as face-painting, a bounce house and more. A doggie fashion show will be held on the main stage at 9 a.m. for dogs dressed in their favorite baked good, produce or farmers market attire. Fashion show participants can register at 8:30 a.m.

Winter Park Farmers Market began when former City Commissioner Jerry Donnelly suggested that the city initiate a Saturday morning market at the train depot. On May 19, 1979, the Farmers' Market opened with approximately eight vendors. Thirty-five years later, the market hosts more than 80 vendors with approximately 5,000 visitors shopping for diverse kitchen and garden items, from bay leaves and bratwurst to bagels and butterflies. For more information, please call 407-599-3275.

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FAMILY CALENDAR

MAY 8

The Winter Park History Museum is proud to unveil its latest exhibition, **"Whistle in the Distance: The Trains of Winter Park,"** and will be hosting a grand opening party on Thursday, May 8, from 5 to 8 p.m. The event is open to the public and will take place at the Winter Park History Museum and Farmers Market, located at 200 W. New England Ave. Whole Foods, YumYum Cupcakes and Sassafras Sweet Shoppe are among those in-kind sponsors who will be providing hors d'oeuvres and a decadent selection of sweets and treats. This is a free event and will include family-friendly activities.

The classic film **"Mary Poppins"** will return to the silver screen at 8 p.m. May 8 at Winter Park's Central Park as part of the Popcorn Flicks series presented by the Enzian theater. Bring a picnic basket and a blanket or some chairs and enjoy free popcorn as you enjoy cinema under the stars.

MAY 10

The American Lung Association's **Fight for Air Run/Walk** starts at 7:30 a.m. May 10 at Harbor View Park in Baldwin Park. It's a 5K or 1 mile, for runners or walkers. Come out and run for a cause. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. Visit lungfla.org for more information.

It's Disney's "Frozen" at **Maitland's Movie in the Park** this month. It's at 8 p.m. May 10 at Quinn Strong Park. Bring a blanket, chairs or a picnic basket.

Join the Maitland Public Library on Saturday, May 10, for **Free Comic Book Day!** This event is free and open to the public, and runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring completely free comic books, snacks, crafts, a superhero movie marathon and our special guests: Stormtroopers from the 501st Legion. The 501st Legion is an all-volunteer "Star Wars" re-enactment group that uses only the highest qualities costumes. They will be there from 2 to 4 p.m. Don't miss it!

The Emil Buehler Perpetual Trust Planetarium at Seminole State College of

Florida will hold the **2014 Star Party** on Saturday, May 10, in honor of **Astronomy Day.** The Star Party will take place from 6 to 11 p.m. on the Sanford/Lake Mary Campus. The event will include food trucks and telescope viewings. There will also be several planetarium presentations inside the dome and outside under the stars. Admission to the event is free. There will be plenty of space in the Star Party area for visitors to bring chairs and blankets.

The event will take place in the faculty and staff parking lot adjacent to building B and the planetarium, just off College Drive on the Sanford/Lake Mary Campus. The planetarium is located in B-117 (building B) on the Sanford/Lake Mary Campus. For more information and a full schedule of events, please visit seminolestate.edu/planet or call 407-708-2360.

Calendar

MAY 9

Good Morning Winter Park will feature Dick Batchelor from the Change 4 Kids charity and Orange County School Board Chairman Bill Sublette starting at 8:15 a.m. at the Winter Park Welcome Center at 151 W. Lyman Ave. in Winter Park. Networking begins at 7:45 a.m.

MAY 15

Leadership Winter Park will present a **Graduation Celebration Luncheon** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, at the Rachel D. Murrah Civic Center, 1050 W. Morse Blvd. in Winter Park. The speaker will be Belvin Perry Jr. chief judge of Florida's Ninth Judicial Circuit.

It's time to network and have fun at the **Business After Hours event** at Wells Fargo, 275 S. New York Ave. in Winter

Park. It's only \$5 for Winter Park Chamber members and \$15 for non-members to eat, drink and get to know the business community after work. It's from 5:30 p.m. onward on May 15. Visit winterpark.org for more information.

MAY 16

Want to learn how to negotiate in business? It's coming up at the Small Business Education Series from the Winter Park Chamber. Mark Van Valkenburgh will walk you through effective negotiation techniques that also help build relationships. It's from 8:15 to 9 a.m. on May 16 at the Winter Park Welcome Center, 151 W. Lyman Ave. in Winter Park. Visit winterpark.org for more information.

May 17

Nicole Curtis, star of the DIY and HGTV Networks' "Rehab Addict" will headline the **eighth annual James Gamble Rogers Colloquium on Historic Preservation.** The event, scheduled for Saturday, May 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., is sponsored by the Friends of Casa Feliz. The Colloquium's morning session will be held at the Tiedtke Auditorium at Rollins College from 10 to 11:30 a.m. with Curtis speaking on the topic "Restore, Repurpose, Reuse!" Her lecture will be punctuated with visual, real-life examples from her hit television show. After a lunch break, the program will resume with a tour of some of Winter Park's loveliest remodeled historic homes, mostly located in the Virginia Heights and Forest Hills neighborhoods. Shuttle buses will be provided by Mears Transportation. Full details and registration information are available on the Casa Feliz website, casafeliz.us. Cost of attendance for the day's events will be \$50 per ticket.

Community Bulletin

Attention scholarship seekers

Rollins College and the Hispanic Heritage Scholarship Fund of Metro Orlando recently announced the establishment of a partnership to award one full-tuition scholarship each year to a new student entering at the Hamilton Holt School at Rollins in the fall under the Rollins Evening Emerging Leaders Scholarship Program. The scholarship will cover the cost of tuition up to five academic years from the time of the award or until graduation, whichever occurs first.

The full-tuition scholarship will be award-

ed to an undergraduate adult student seeking a degree within the Hamilton Holt School at Rollins College. Scholarship applicants must live within a 60-mile radius of Rollins College and be a Florida resident. Although a goal of both partners is to increase the number of Hispanic students at Rollins College, the scholarship award will be made based on applicant qualifications, not ethnicity or racial characteristics. To learn more about the Rollins College REEL Scholarship and other scholarship offerings at the Hamilton Holt School, please visit <http://bit.ly/1nhmf10>. Applications for the REEL scholarship are due May 31.

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Maitland City Talk
BY HOWARD SCHIEFERDECKER
 MAYOR

Honoring first responders

Emergency Medical Services Week

Emergency Medical Services is an essential component of the services provided by our Fire/Rescue Department that makes our community stronger and more resilient. Each year, Maitland's Fire/Rescue Department responds to 2,900 medical or trauma related calls annually and transports more than 1,000 patients to local hospital emergency rooms. The members of the Fire/Rescue team engage in thousands of hours of specialized training to enhance their lifesaving skills and become the best care providers possible. Each and every hour of every day, Maitland's citizens and business owners benefit from the work our firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and our EMS Director Dr. Todd Husty, perform for our community. Dr. Husty has been providing exceptional and innovative medical direction for the Maitland Fire Department for the past 25 years. His dynamic leadership has enabled Maitland paramedics to provide superior

quality emergency medical customer service to the residents, businesses, and visitors of the city of Maitland.

This year's theme: "EMS: Dedicated. For Life" reflects the idea that EMS practitioners (EMTs and paramedics) have made a lifelong commitment to uphold and provide the highest standards of EMS service to others. So, to honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services as medicine's front line to the citizens and visitors of the city of Maitland, the city has proclaimed the week of May 18 through May 24 as "Emergency Medical Services Week" and invites all residents to stop by Fire Station No. 45 on Independence Lane or Fire Station No. 47 on Fennell Street, to meet your emergency medical providers and to tour the facilities. While you are at it, have your blood pressure checked for free!

— By Fire Chief Kim Neisler, Maitland Fire/Rescue Department

National Police Week

Each year the nation honors



ARCHIVE PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE OBSERVER

Maitland will honor its first responders for two weeks in May with Emergency Medical Services Week and National Police Week.

those police officers whose sacrifices help keep us safe. This year, National Police Week will be held May 12 to 16. As part of this important week, Tuesday, May 13, will be the 25th annual candlelight vigil that will be held at the site of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Local events are also planned in Orange County.

Each year more than 60,000 police officers are assaulted, resulting in more than 16,000 injuries. Our own officers in Maitland are not immune to this violence as several of our officers are assaulted each year. So far this year 32 police officers have paid the ultimate price for protecting us. Unfortunately, Florida is once again one of the

states with the most deaths, and Central Florida has proven to be the most dangerous place to police in Florida. Orange County is leading the state in officers killed in the line of duty.

Our own police officers answer more than 26,000 calls for service each year and are on duty

24 hours a day 365 days a year to keep us safe. The city of Maitland is doing its part by proclaiming the week of May 12 through May 16 as "National Police Week" in the city of Maitland.

— By Deputy Chief of Police Bill McEachnie, Maitland Police Department

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Lifestyles

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ALLISON OLCSVAY
Observer staff

"How am I going to compete with the disco ball?" asked Rachael Marino during rehearsal for the upcoming Florida Opera Theatre production of Leonard Bernstein's "Trouble in Tahiti."

"You're not," replied the director Eric Pinder with a wicked grin. "The disco ball has top billing."

"That's the way it always is," said Marino, laughing.

Marino plays the female lead Dinah a 1950s-era wife and mother, discontent in her personal life.

But unlike her character, Marino is living her personal dream, finding fulfillment after leaving behind the workaday world in 2011 to focus fully on her musical career.

"I grew up dreaming about a career in musical theater," she said. "It wasn't until I got to college that I discovered opera."

"Opera is like musical theater on steroids. For me, it's very real, the intensity of emotion is what I find really exciting."

Marino glances around the room while rehearsing an intense scene as if looking for sympathy, exhausted by the difficult emotions of her character. Dinah's exasperation with her selfish husband has reached its peak.

"Just like real life, opera doesn't require a happy ending," Marino said. "I think that's what I like



PHOTO BY ALLISON OLCSVAY — THE OBSERVER

Singers both students and professionals team up for Opera performances throughout Orlando.

about it, it's raw and real."

Gabe Preisser plays her husband Sam a moody man caught up in his own interests, ignorant of the needs of his wife and family.

Preisser grew up in Apopka as the son of educators in a self-professed "sports family" — an unlikely beginning for an up-and-coming opera star.

"I took chorus and piano because it was what my mom wanted me to do," Preisser said. "Besides, there were a lot of girls there."

A fact that proved all too true when Preisser later met his future wife in the music program at Flori-

da State University.

Preisser appears to be the opposite of his character as well — family takes priority, he said. He returned to Florida after grad school in Texas to be close to home.

Sitting alone on the sidelines, he quietly goes over his music as he waits his entrance in the next scene.

His turn on set arrives and he asks several questions, making his own suggestions and displaying the attention to detail that makes his performance so believable.

Director Eric Pinder welcomes such collaboration.

"I like to listen to actors' suggestions," he said. "The singers bring things I never thought of."

Twitching his high top Converse sneakers to the beat of the music, Pinder takes notes as the performers rehearse the last few scenes in the one-act opera.

His suggestions at this point are like icing on the cake, smoothing over any rough spots, encouraging and tweaking as needed.

"There is a beautiful irony to this opera, it's about regular people with relationship issues, something we can all relate to," Pinder said.

"Because of its modern themes and the fact that it is written in English, it is a very accessible opera, something even non-opera fans can get into."

The show will open with opera's greatest hits followed by "Trouble in Tahiti," giving the audience a taste of opera's great variety.

Morgan Davis, Anthony Ciaramitaro and Sean Stork make up the 'Greek Chorus.'

The trio adds a touch of irony and humor to the production, breaking in at inopportune moments with bursts of song, reminiscent of early television commercials.

On stage their voices harmonize

perfectly as one voice.

Off stage they check their phones, laugh together and kid around like old friends.

The easy camaraderie may be due in part to the time both Davis and Ciaramitaro spend together on campus at Rollins.

Davis is a professor of voice and Ciaramitaro is a music performance major.

At 22, Ciaramitaro sings and acts well beyond his years, displaying a maturity and grace one would equate to more experienced performers.

Perhaps that's because he spends so much time performing all over town.

"I'll go anywhere they'll have me," Ciaramitaro said. "Just to keep singing."

He started as a choirboy in seventh grade, singing all the way through middle school and high school before auditioning for Rollins and Miami.

"Rollins won out of course, so here I am," he said.

Ciaramitaro may be the shortest one on stage, but he makes up for it with his impressive range, reaching up into the higher octaves with ease.

Mingling with his fellow performers, one would think he was a seasoned pro.

"Opera feels like home to me,"

■ Please see **OPERA** on next page

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Cora Boyett Evans celebrates her 100th birthday

ANN HICKS MURRAH
Guest writer

What better way to celebrate a 100th birthday than with a tea party at Casa Feliz?! Fourth-generation Floridian Cora Boyett Evans was the center of attention as friends and family from near and far gathered on April 23. A festive tea was especially appropriate, as Cora co-hosted and created her special sandwiches for annual tea parties for the Rollins Women's Association for years. For this party, Arthur's exceptional catering prepared the treats.

With a remarkable memory and a natural gift for storytelling, Cora entertained friends with recollections of her personal Florida history. The stories began with her grandparents' move by wagon from Cassia to Terra Ceia Island,

on the southern shore of Tampa Bay, after the terrible freeze of 1895.

Cora's father became an overseer of extensive vegetable farms as well as the shipping operation for Ruskin tomatoes on the mainland.

Even though he had just a third-grade education, he was determined that his five children would go to college. Cora was the oldest, and was able to attend Florida State College for Women (now FSU) in 1931 in spite of the challenges of the Depression. She is grateful for the assistance of a 4H



scholarship, work at the school, and her mother's first job at the packing house.

With a degree in home economics, she took a teaching job in Macclenny, which she remembers as "the most forgotten place in the world." Her principal was a wonderful man who introduced her to the love of her life, Ross Evans. His persistent courtship led to marriage in 1936, with the wedding in the house her father built on Terra Ceia.

Their love of travel and exploration of unfamiliar places began early in their marriage, as they spent summers in New York so Ross could complete a Master's degree in accounting at Columbia. They lived in New Orleans, Atlanta, Gainesville, then Puerto Rico for a year while Ross taught at

the University there. In 1949 they moved to Winter Park and Ross began his career at Rollins College, continuing full-time for more than 30 years as a much admired and appreciated professor.

In the 1950s Cora taught home economics again, this time at Winter Park High School. She appreciated the classroom equipment, which was much improved over the oil stoves in her first job in Macclenny. She has fond memories of the students, many of whom still live here and welcome her to their reunions.

With Ross's work at Rollins and his CPA practice in Orlando and their thrifty habits, Ross and Cora were able to take long trips during college vacations. Before his death in 2004, they were pleased to be able to establish scholarship endowments at the three schools that were so important in their lives: Florida State University, the University of Florida, and Rollins' Crummer Business School.

In 1962 an unanticipated request from a friend, to provide a short period of shelter for a

child whose family couldn't care for him, led to the adoption of a beloved son, Howard. He; Cora's niece Marilyn Annan; and two of Ross's former students, Guy Colado and Dodi Fox, planned the celebration.

While great-nephew Walker Hamby attended Rollins in 2006, he conducted a long interview with Cora, and then gave the recording to the Rollins archives. In it Cora refers to the personal history that Ross wrote, titled "The Story of My Life - So wonderful that if I could live it over, I would not change a thing."

Cora agreed. "As I think back I really don't know how I could have been any more blessed. I always said that if I didn't have anything special happen to me after I was 21, I had been so blessed with my mother and my father and my upbringing and living at Terra Ceia Island, it had been all such a wonderful experience." Add to that four years at FSCW, 67 years as Mrs. Ross Evans, and the "Rollins family" years. It is still a wonderful life!

OPERA | Rollins teacher takes lessons from fellow performers

■ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
said Ciaramitaro, a senior set to graduate in May.

"I sing everywhere, because I love it. I've performed in churches, at the Macaroni Grill in Altamonte Springs, with The Villages Philharmonic, the Bach Festival Society. I'm in three ensembles at Rollins. I don't have a regular job; singing is it for me."

Davis may teach at Rollins, but for now she's the student, listen-

ing, watching and learning from her director and fellow performers.

"Doing this makes me a better teacher, the things I learn here, I put right back into my students," she said.

"I feel blessed to be doing both, [teaching and performing]. It's nice to see both sides."

As Pinder wraps up the rehearsal for the night, he congratulates the entire cast on a successful evening.

"We're almost there guys; in just a few days, this thing is on stage and all this hard work will pay off," he said.

Despite their different backgrounds and career paths, all have their love of performance, especially opera, in common.

Gabe Preisser may have spoken for the entire cast when he said, "It's a big risk to put yourself out there and it's very gratifying to me to have 'made' it."

Performances with the Orlando Philharmonic of "La Traviata" will be Friday, May 9, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 11, at 2 p.m. at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center. Tickets start at \$30. Visit floperatheatre.org or call 407-718-4365.

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Running of the Chihuahuas



PHOTOS BY SARAH WILSON
— THE OBSERVER

More than 100 Chihuahuas took to the track racing to celebrate Cinco De Mayo at Cocina 214 for the second annual Running of the Chihuahuas on May 4 in Winter Park.

Josh Garrick Lecture and Book Signing at Winter Park Public Library

Observer Arts Editor Josh Garrick recently returned from making Art History as the first American in the 125-year history of the National Archaeological Museum of Greece, to be invited to exhibit in that World's Top Ten Museum ...

On May 18 and June 1, Josh will sign his new book and share insights about his decades-long love affair with the Parthenon at two FREE events at the Winter Park Public Library.

Sunday, May 18 at 2 pm

How the Parthenon Came to Be – Recognized through millennia as the world's greatest synthesis of Art and Architecture, the Parthenon may have also been the most expensive building ever created by human hands. Josh will share insights on HOW one ancient city — 2400 years ago — could come together to create this renowned temple.

Sunday, June 1 at 2 pm

The Parthenon – Over 2400 years — From the most famous of temples to the Olympian gods, the Parthenon has endured through the world's transition to Christianity, looting, and even bombardment by the Venetian Doges. Josh will share the highlights — and low-lights — of the Parthenon's enduring history.

Mr. Garrick is represented by JAI GALLERY at 47 East Robinson Street in Orlando. Please visit jaigallery.com



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Choosing the right tree for your family's nest

It's an age-old adage. You know the one: location, location, location. Switch on any of those home buying shows and you'll probably see a happy couple calmly sorting through three charming but uniquely different homes in three different neighborhoods in the same city and picking one by the end of the half hour. Oh that it were so easy! Not that it sometimes isn't, however. I just had the pleasure of helping a couple purchase their first home right here in Maitland, and it happened to be the first home we saw. There are many so-called lucky buyers like that in today's market. Only luck doesn't have much to do with it. While we are still in what is considered by most to be a "seller's market" with about four and a half months of available housing inventory in the greater Orlando area, rates are still relatively low and buyers do have options. So how does one end up as "lucky" as my aforementioned buyers, and how to determine where to buy?



Christina Rordam
Keepin' it Real Estate

deal in my decade in real estate, "We're not in a hurry. We'd like to look all over the Greater Orlando area and we'll buy whatever the best deal is. We don't have a particular neighborhood that we favor and can take our time." Taking your time when buying a home is important and perhaps not in the way most homebuyers initially consider. Another familiar request is "What is the best neighborhood for my family to live in?" The answer is specific to your family and your needs. There are fair housing regulations that prohibit Realtors from steering consumers toward certain areas or scaring them away from others by proclaiming neighborhoods to be either "good" or "bad," and I think that's a good thing. Today the data consumers want is available on the World Wide Web and I think it's a great idea for anyone buying a home to do some digging online.

What I also advise my buyers to think about when picking a location is what they will want from their neighborhood. Create your own personal wish list and go from there. Do you want a short commute? Is walking to the park and the grocery store a priority for you? Google Maps and ZipMap.net can help you see the surrounding towns near your office while WalkScore.com ranks areas by their walkability. Is your child in a particular school and you would like to keep them there? The school they attend or the county it is situated in will have a website where you can enter your potential address to check if it's within range. Your agent

can also assist you in learning the current boundaries for your child's school. Once you have a location wish list, make one for your future home. Focus on the big picture items first such as one story or two, house or condo, pool or no pool, garage and square footage. Once you have the more permanent feature requirements out of the way you can focus on the finishes such as cabinetry, flooring and paint. I personally love Pinter-

est for creating "boards" where I pin architecture, home décor and design ideas. Remember, cosmetic items are far easier to change than adding on a room, so don't pass on a great find because you don't like the paint color or carpet.

Knowing exactly what you want increases exponentially your odds of finding it and prevents time being wasted looking at homes you would never consider. A little forethought

goes a long way here. Finding a home is much like finding a partner or success. The luckiest people are the ones who do their homework and know what they want. I'll end things with another famous quote from the philosopher Seneca, "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity."

Christina Rordam is a local Realtor. Contact her at 407-928-8294 or ChristinaSellsOrlando.com

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Serve breakfast in bed on Mother's Day

Pssst. Mother's Day is coming on May 11. With busy spring schedules on family calendars, it's not too early to begin preparations to pamper Mom.

Why not start her day by serving a memorable breakfast in bed?

Find a large tray to hold her breakfast and other thoughtful items. (If you don't have a tray, a large and sturdy rimmed cookie

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

sheet also works.) Think of the tray

as an empty canvas that your kids will fill with tasty food, special mementos and mom's favorite things.

Just as you would tablescap a dining-room table with pretty objects and floral bouquets for a fancy meal, start collecting special objects now to decorate the tray. Call it trayscaping — anything and everything that's small and special to mom, goes. Here are some sim-

ple ideas to help you prepare for a bright start to her day:

—A mini bouquet of spring blooms arranged in her favorite teacup will look fresh and spring-y. It'll be just what she needs to "stop and smell the flowers." Or, tuck a small herb plant in a painted flowerpot for a gift that keeps on grow-ing and giving.

—A variety of special nature

finds from neighborhood walks and hikes in the woods or along the seashore adds an artistic flare. If your child has a "nature nook" in her bedroom displaying her collections, she can put them "on loan" from her museum to deco-rate the tray. Twist a piece of soft birch bark to create a napkin ring. Set a pinecone, feathers and a small stack of flat stones here and there. Weave a mini paper banner with "Mom" printed or stamped in the center onto a stick or pussy-willow branch. Anchor it in a jar of sand or pebbles.

—For eats, pick up a fresh, flaky croissant or pastry from her favorite bakery. Spoon marmalade or jam into a tiny dish and set it to the side. Or, use a real clam seashell collected at the beach as an eye-catching container.

—Serve mom's favorite juice in one of the kids' baby cups, all shined and polished.

On Mother's Day morning, present the tray and play her favorite CD, or make her a mix with a personalized playlist typed on a colorful label. "Frame" a photo of the family by fitting the print inside the clear plastic case.

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. Find more family recipes and activities at donnasday.com and a link to the new Donna's Day Facebook page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families." © 2014 Donna Erickson. Distributed by King Features Synd.

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PHOTOS BY **TIM FREED**
— THE OBSERVER

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Mom's porch swing showing its age

Q: My mother's house has an old wooden swing on the front porch that we enjoyed as kids. But it doesn't look very safe anymore — the wood seems to be rotting, the paint has mostly peeled off, and it doesn't swing straight. Is it worth convincing her to replace it? — David H., via email

A: That depends on a couple of factors, besides convincing your mom to let you replace it. One, is there enough interest among the family to continue to have a porch swing? And two, is the porch structurally sound enough to safely put up a new swing?

The reason I ask is that older homes, while probably pretty sturdy, may have developed hidden problems structurally. Porches usually are built outside any



By Samantha Mazzotta

load-bearing points, so they don't present a threat to the house itself, but they are sometimes built with less-durable materials and therefore deteriorate faster. There's nothing more embarrassing than putting up a sturdy, heavy porch swing only to have to anchor bolts tear out of a rotting beam, dumping out the

swing's occupants.

Have a construction professional who specializes in outside attachments like decks and porches inspect and evaluate the condition of the porch. Tell him your plans to replace the swing and ask about the best places from which to anchor it.

Another option: If the porch doesn't check out, or if you or your mom simply doesn't want a swing on the porch, try a freestanding swing in the yard. Again, look for a sturdy, durable model with good supports that will stand up to outdoor weather for several years.

Q: My kids have discovered roller-skating, which is great. However, it's been kind of rough on my old hardwood floors, especially near the front door, where they come in and take off their skates. There are a lot of scuffs, scratches and dings. Any way I can get rid of them?

And is there a way to prevent these scratches? — Tammy in Baltimore

A: The fastest way to reduce those scratched areas by the front door is to make the kids take off their skates outside. And while I'm sure you already have a mat just inside the door, consider buying one that is much wider so that outside

dirt and sand will land on the mat and not scuff up the floor's finish.

Without an idea of how bad the scratches and scuffs are, I can't say exactly how you should resolve the problem. So I'll tell you how to deal with a few scratches, and how to deal with a bigger problem.

■ Please see **HAMMER** on page 14

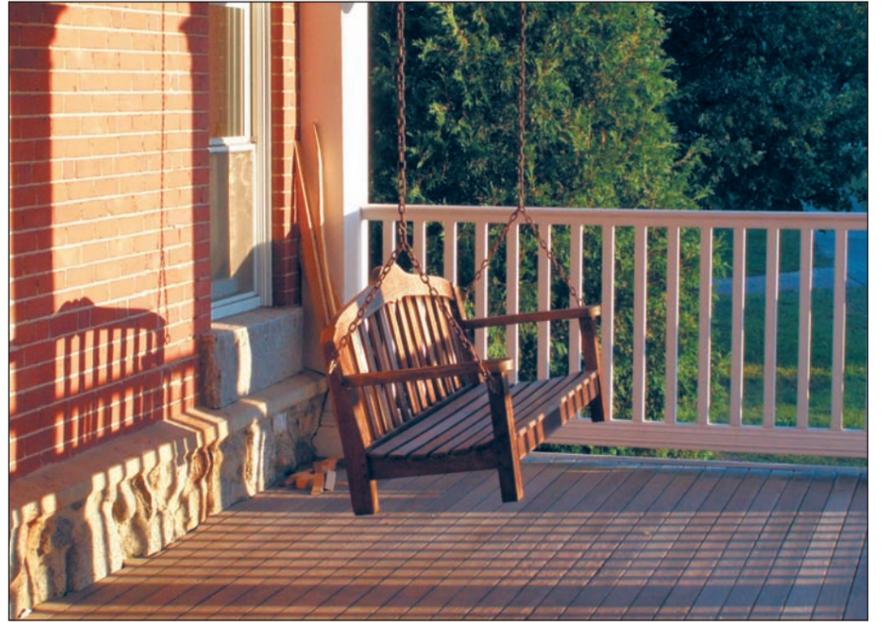


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Check on the structure of your home's porch for hidden problems before installing a new swing.

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Sales hop kicks off the home-buying season

Orlando's housing market took its traditional month-to-month springtime sales hop in March, with 17.28 percent more closings taking place in March than in February. "Normal" transactions led the way with a month-to-month increase of nearly 24 percent.

Buyer demand is continuing to also drive increases in the area's median price. The overall median price (all sales types and all home types combined) for the month of March is \$160,000 – a 1.27 percent increase over the February 2014 median price of \$158,000.

In addition, the March median price is a 14.29 percent increase compared to the \$140,000 median price in March 2013.

Orlando's overall median price (all sales types and all home types combined) has recorded year-to-year gains for 32 consecutive months and has risen 38.53 percent since July 2011.

Each individual sales type and home type saw a median price increase in March. "Normal" sales experienced a year-to-year 11.37 percent jump, while the median price of short sales increased 4.59 percent and foreclosures increased 9.46 percent.

The median price of single-family homes increased 16.13 percent when compared to March of last year, and the median price of condos increased 12.83 percent.

Completed sales

Members of the Orlando Regional Realtors Association participated in the sales of 2,342 homes (all home types and all sale types combined) that closed in March 2014, a decrease of 13.58 percent compared to March 2013 and an increase of 17.28 percent compared to February 2014.

"Normal" home sales increased by 3.69 percent when compared to March 2013 and now make up 68.45 percent of the sales pie. Closings of short sales decreased by 68.37 percent while closings of foreclosures decreased 3.99 percent.

Orlando Regional Realtor Association Chairman Zola Szerencses, RE/MAX 200 Realty, says the percentage of foreclosure closings is expected to rise in the near future due to a tremendous injection of foreclosures into inventory over the past few months. "For example, in March the number of foreclosures available for purchase was 125 percent more than in March 2013," explains Szerencses. "For buyers who have struggled to find a suitable home within Orlando's tight inventory and who have been worn down by competition and bidding wars, foreclosures represent a new avenue of opportunity."

Single-family home sales decreased 11.56 percent in March 2014 compared to March 2013, while condo sales decreased 28.01 percent. Compared to last month, single-family home sales increased 18.75 percent and condo sales increased 6.51 percent.

Homes of all types spent an average of 76 days on the market before coming under contract in March 2014, and the average home sold for 96.50 percent of its listing price. In March 2013 those numbers were 79 days and 96.03 percent, respectively.

The average interest rate paid by Orlando homebuyers in March increased to 4.43 percent. Last



There were 17.28 percent more closings on home sales in March than there were in February of this year.

PHOTO BY TIM FREED — THE OBSERVER

der contract and awaiting closing – are currently at 7,530. The number of pending sales in March 2014 is 14.42 percent lower than it was in March 2013 (8,799), but 6.28 percent higher than it was in February 2014 (7,085).

Short sales made up 42.46 percent of pending sales in March 2014. Normal properties accounted for 37.94 percent of pendings, while bank-owned properties accounted for 19.60 percent.

for purchase in March is 49.10 percent above that of March 2013, and now rests at 10,343. Inventory increased in number by 159 properties over last month.

The inventory of single-family homes is up by up by 50 percent when compared to March of 2013, while condo inventory is up by 44.03 percent. The inventory of duplexes, townhomes and villas is up by 50.70 percent.

Current inventory combined with the current pace of sales created a 4.42-month supply of homes in Orlando for March. There was a 2.56-month supply in March 2013 and a 5.10-month supply last month.

Affordability

The March affordability index is 180.26 percent, a decrease from February's index of 183.65. (An affordability index of 99 percent means that buyers earning the state-reported median income are 1 percent short of the income nec-

■ Please see ORRA on page 14

month, homebuyers paid an average interest rate of 4.37 percent; this month last year, homebuyers paid an average interest rate of

3.65 percent.

Pending sales

Pending sales – those un-

Inventory

The number of existing homes (all sales types and all home types combined) that were available

Yvette Waters Photography

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HAMMER | Quick fixes for wood floors

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

You can blend in minor surface scratches using a stain marker (available at home-improvement and flooring stores) in a matching color. A video by The Rosebud Company (<http://bit.ly/1rVFAn2>) shows a couple of ways to blend in the color, particularly by blotting the marker on a cloth and then rubbing the cloth over the scratch to more seamlessly blend it in.

For small dents where the wood is compressed downward slightly, you can try a couple of methods. On unvarnished floors, you can try to steam out the dent. (Always test this method first in an inconspicuous area, and don't do it if the finish in the test area turns white or very cloudy.) Take a clean, lint-free cloth and a steam iron. Spritz a bit of water directly onto the dent, place the cloth on top, and with the iron on its maximum setting and the steam turned on, press it over the cloth and move in a small circular pattern for about a minute. Lift up the iron, check under the cloth, and then repeat the steps.

A second method, particularly

if you're worried about ruining the floor finish, is to cover the dent with wood putty and stain it to match. Apply the putty one small amount at a time, smoothing it completely into the depression, until it's filled and flush with the surrounding floor. Then use a stain marker in a color matching the wood — either apply directly to the putty or blot a cloth with the stain and dab or rub into the putty and surrounding area. Allow the area to dry undisturbed for at least a day.

If the scratches and dents are deep and numerous, or if the wood is seriously damaged, warped or splintered, bring in a wood flooring professional to evaluate the problem and provide an estimate for repairs. Wood floors can have a lot of impact on a house's value, so take care of them and get professional help for a complex job.

Send your questions or home tips to ask@thisisahammer.com. My new e-book, "101 Best Home Tips," is available to download on Amazon Kindle! Pick it up today for just 99 cents.

ORRA | Sales of existing homes dropped this year over last

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

essary to purchase a median-priced home. Conversely, an affordability index that is over 100 means that median-income earners make more than is necessary to qualify for a median-priced home.)

Buyers who earn the reported median income of \$55,670 can qualify to purchase one of 5,180 homes in Orange and Seminole counties currently listed in the local multiple listing service for \$288,418 or less.

First-time homebuyer affordability in March decreased to 128.19 percent from last month's 130.60 percent. First-time buyers who earn the reported median income of \$37,856 can qualify to purchase one of the 3,079 homes in Orange and Seminole counties currently listed in the local multiple listing service for \$174,332 or less.

Condos and town homes/ duplexes/villas

The sales of condos in the Orlando area were down 28.01 percent in March, with 311 sales

recorded in March 2014 compared to 432 in March 2013.

Orlando homebuyers purchased 226 duplexes, town homes and villas in March 2014, which is a 4.64 percent decrease compared to the 237 purchased in March 2013.

MSA numbers

Sales of existing homes within the entire Orlando MSA (Lake, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties) in March were down by 12.19 percent when compared to March of 2013. Throughout the MSA, 2,897 homes were sold in

March 2014 compared with 3,299 in March 2013. To date, MSA sales are down 10.18 percent.

Each individual county's monthly sales comparisons are as follows:

- Lake: 2.13 percent above March 2013
- Orange: 17.92 percent below March 2013
- Osceola: 15.47 percent below March 2013
- Seminole: 5.82 percent below March 2013

— ORRA

Dog can't seem to quench thirst

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My golden retriever mix Benny seems to be drinking a lot more water lately. Every time we're near a water dish or a running tap he is lapping water like crazy. This doesn't seem normal, even though the weather is now much warmer. What could be wrong? — Lane Y., Columbia, Md.

DEAR LANE: While it could just be excess thirst due to the hot weather, anytime you feel something is not right with your pet, you should act on that feeling. I recommend taking Benny in to see the veterinarian as soon as possible.

A number of health issues can cause excessive water drinking among dogs and cats. I'm not going to speculate about Benny's health, because he could be just fine. Diseases like diabetes can make pets thirsty, as can emergencies like bloat (which can occur in dogs that eat too much at once, and must be dealt with immediately by a veterinarian). A number of other conditions can cause excessive thirst, too.

The vet will check for any immediate causes of concern, and may do blood tests to determine if anything systemic is going on. If Benny seems OK, he will tell you to keep monitoring his water intake. You may want to keep a journal — carry



around a small notebook or use your smartphone's note-taking app — to jot down the time and place that Benny takes a drink and how long he drinks. You also might want to note any changes in Benny's coat, his behavior (overly excited or lethargic), or even if everything seems normal. If Benny's excessive drinking continues or worsens, his overall condition worsens, or if you still just don't feel right about how things are going, contact the vet again to continue testing and monitoring him.

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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\$400,000.	\$24,000.	\$14,000.	\$10,000.	\$4,000.	\$20,000.
\$500,000.	\$30,000.	\$17,500.	\$12,500.	\$5,000.	\$25,000.
\$600,000.	\$36,000.	\$21,000.	\$15,000.	\$6,000.	\$30,000.
\$700,000.	\$42,000.	\$24,500.	\$17,500.	\$7,000.	\$35,000.
\$800,000.	\$48,000.	\$28,000.	\$20,000.	\$8,000.	\$40,000.
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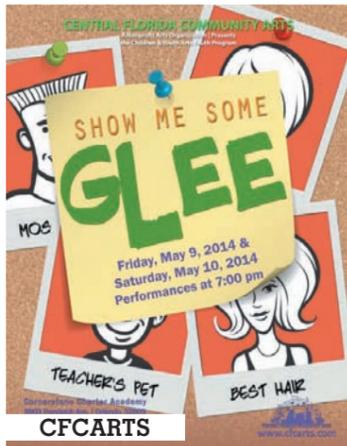
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Josh Garrick
Culture for your calendar

May 9 and 11 – The Orlando Philharmonic presents Verdi's 'La Traviata'

The Orlando Philharmonic has created a series of brilliantly produced operas – with the unique



idea of placing the Orchestra on-stage with the singers performing in front of the orchestra. On May 9 at 8 p.m. and May 11 at 2 p.m., the Philharmonic will present Giuseppe Verdi's most melodious and popular work – "La Traviata." Sung in Italian with English subtitles, Elizabeth Caballero and Brian Jadge will perform the



SCHOOL OF ROCK

lead roles. "Verdi's score contains some of the most beautiful music ever written," says Conductor Christopher Wilkins. Call 407-770-0071 or visit orlandophil.org

May 9 and 10 – CFCArts presents 'Show Me Some Glee!'

Performed by young artists of the CFCArts' Children and

Youth Arts programs, songs from the beloved hit TV show "Glee" will be presented live on stage as these talented young performers hit the stage – singing and dancing from the top of the charts. "Show Me Some Glee!" will be presented at Cornerstone Academy at 5903 Randolph Ave. in Orlando at 7 p.m. on May 9 and 10. Tickets are \$10 each, and children age 12 and younger admitted free. Tickets are on sale at cfcarts.com/show-me-some-glee



CHEF'S GALA

■ Please see CULTURE on page 16

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CULTURE | Learn about wine and drink some too at the Science of Wine gala at the Orlando Science Center

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

May 10 – The School of Rock at BB King's Blues Club

Demonstrating its concept that gets kids and adults rocking

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Tribute to **JIMI HENDRIX** @ 2:30 PM
BB King's Blues Club, Pointe Orlando
9101 International Drive

to the classics while performing live with their peers, the performance-based School of Rock will have young Orlando-area musicians rocking on-stage at BB King's Blues Club on May 10 at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Oviedo School of Rock will give its students the opportunity to show fans what rock 'n' roll is all about as 40 students, ages 8 to 18, perform live concerts featuring the music of Queen (1 p.m.) and Jimi Hendrix (2:30 p.m.). BB King's Blues Club is at Pointe Orlando at 9101 International Drive in Orlando. Visit oviedo.schoolofrock.com

May 10 – The Science of Wine at the Orlando Science Center

I'm a big fan of galas where you learn something ... and that's only one of the more than 100 reasons why I love The Science



SCIENCE OF WINE

of Wine at the Orlando Science Center. On May 10 at 7 p.m., we get to drink wine and learn about it too! This oenological odyssey, with presentations on wine growing and tasting, offers us the opportunity to sample 100 fine wines from around the world. Presented by Akerman and Southern Wine & Spirits, and featuring renowned wine educator Luis Torres, gourmet foods will be offered to accompany the wine selections. Call 407-514-2000 or visit osc.org/wine



May 10 – The Chef's Gala for United Way

An alarming one in five families in Central Florida need help with basic necessities, and the most tasteful way to help United Way help all those thousands of Central Floridians is by purchasing a ticket to the annual Chef's Gala – United Way's signature gala. Foodies and philanthropists come together to sample the creations of our region's top chefs, and thanks to the generosity of host Walt Disney World, 95 percent of all funds raised go directly to help those in need. Call 407-429-2129.

May 11 – The Fab Four – The Ultimate Beatles Tribute

With note-for-note renditions of Beatles' songs, the Fab Four will make you think you're watching the real thing in an incredible stage show that includes three costume changes representing each era of the Beatles ever-changing career. This loving tribute to the Beatles amazes audiences with record-perfect live performances of such classics as "Can't Buy Me Love," "Yesterday," "Penny Lane," and

■ Please see CULTURE on next page

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CULTURE | Next week brings Il Divo and Cher to the stages of Orlando with one-night-only concert events

■ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
 "Hey Jude." The show is set for May 11 at 8 p.m. at Plaza Live in Orlando, call 407-228-1220 or visit plazaliveorlando.com

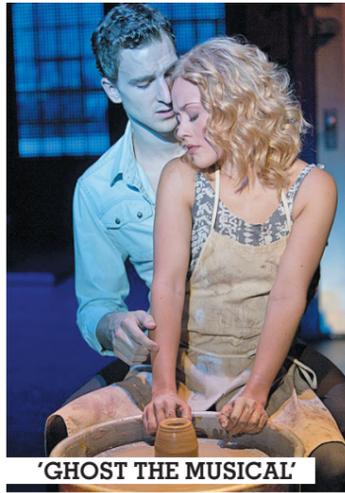
May 12 – Il Divo at Hard Rock Live

Let the swooning begin – Il Divo is headed to Hard Rock Live on May 12 to perform songs from Broadway drawn from their latest album, "A Musical Affair." The multinational operatic vocal group includes French pop singer Sébastien Izambard, Spanish baritone Carlos Marín, American tenor David Miller, and Swiss tenor Urs Bühler. Having sold more than 26 million albums worldwide, Il Divo toured with Barbra Streisand and released "A Musical Affair" in 2013, giving that name to their current tour. Visit hardrocklive.com or call 407-351-5483.



May 13 to 18 – 'Ghost the Musical' at the Bob Carr

For one week only, "Ghost the Musical" delivers a visual experience that allows us to relive the magical moments from the Oscar-winning movie in a Broadway musical. In this adventure with the afterlife, we'll see holograms and back-screen projections, inanimate objects that move, and other amazing special effects accompanied by an original pop score from Grammy Award-winners Dave Stewart and Glen Ballard. Adapted from the hit film by its Academy Award-winning



screenwriter Bruce Joel Rubin, this "eye-poppingly brilliant" musical is at the Bob Carr from May 13 to 18. Visit orlandobroadway.com

May 14 to 27 – The 23rd annual Orlando International Fringe Festival

The wacky, weird and always-wonderful Festival of plays called Fringe will present 100 performance groups in Fringe 2014. The oldest, non-juried festival in the United States, the Orlando International Fringe Festival's philosophy is to be 100 percent uncensored, 100 percent non-juried, and 100 percent accessible. This celebration of the performing arts takes place at Loch Haven Park in the last two weeks of May offering uncensored performances, an outdoor stage, Visual Fringe (fine art) and Kids Fringe! Note: You'll want to check the schedule for plays that are adults only and

which ones are (age-appropriate) Kids Fringe! Visit orlandofringe.org for a complete schedule.

May 15 to June 14 – Redefine Gallery presents 'Dualities'

Redefine Gallery, located within the CityArts Factory at 29 S. Orange Ave. in Orlando, will present "Dualities," a two-person show featuring paintings

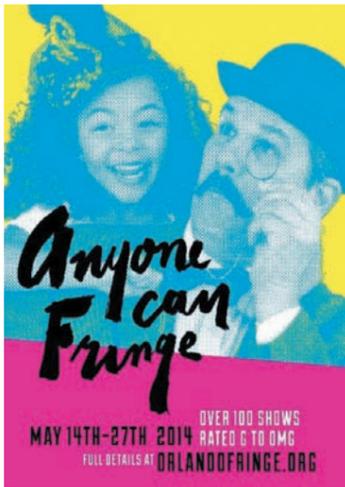
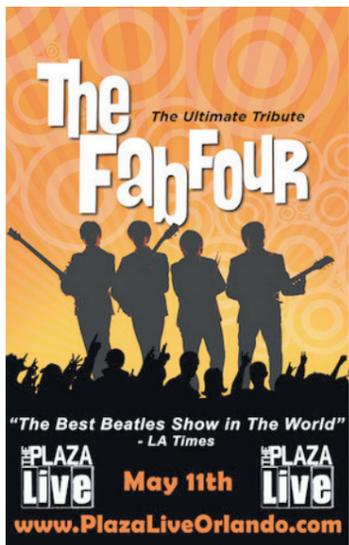
by artists Loaf Ninja and Chad Pollpeter. Both artists paint subjects of a surrealistic nature with works focusing on concepts of time, life and death, beginnings and endings, religion and science. The public is invited to an opening reception set for May 15 beginning at 6 p.m. Call 407-648-7060 or visit redefinegallery.com

May 16 – Cher comes to the Amway Center

The original one-name diva – Cher – comes to the Amway Center on May 16. 'Nuff said. When I can write one syllable, and everyone in the world knows exactly who I'm writing about, this is a celebrity who truly needs no introduction. So the simple fact is Cher will appear at the Amway Center in Orlando on May 16. Cher's special guest



■ Please see CULTURE on page 18



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One Senior Place ...

Calendar of Events May 2014

FUN & EXERCISE

SENIOR CLUB

Every Monday 10am-12pm
By Family Physicians Group
May 12th - Computer Club
May 19th - Movie Day
May 26th - Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

CHAIR PILATES

Friday, May 23rd 1:30pm-2pm
By VITAS Innovative Hospice Care
RSVP 407.599.2522

CRAFTS & CONVERSATION

Tuesday, May 13th 2pm - 4pm
By VITAS. Limited Seating
RSVP 407.599.2522

HEALTH RELATED

FREE EAR CLEANING & CHECKS!
Wednesday, May 14th 3pm-4:30pm
By Harmony Hearing
RSVP 407.949.6737

INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE

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Monday, May 12th & 19th 10am-1pm
By Exit Real Estate Results
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AARP MEDICARE COMPLETE

Tuesday, May 13th 2pm - 3:30pm
By LTC Advisors. RSVP 407-949-6722

LEGAL & FINANCIAL

TRUTH ABOUT ESTATE PLANNING

Tuesday, May 20th 2pm-4pm
By The Law Offices of Hoyt & Bryan
RSVP 407.977.8080

TRUTH ABOUT MEDICAID PLANNING

Tuesday, May 20th 9:30am-12noon
By The Law Offices of Hoyt & Bryan
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M-F 8:30am - 5pm

CULTURE | Celebrate all things 'Star Wars' select weekends at Disney theme parks

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Cyndi Lauper (in 2013) became the first solo woman to win the Tony Award for Best Original Score for "Kinky Boots," itself a Tony Award-winner for Best New Musical. Visit Amwaycenter.com

May 16 to Aug. 29 - 'Honoring, Gratitude and Guilt' - The art of Linda Brant

Recent artwork by Linda Brant will be featured in an exhibit at the Winter Park Welcome Center with an opening on May 16 from 4 to 6 p.m. The exhibit, titled "Honoring, Gratitude and Guilt," showcases Brant's multi-year investigation into the subject of 'honoring' animals. Maps, diagrams, photographs and bone-sculptures coalesce as Brant presents us with the contradictions and inconsistencies in our treatment of non-humans. The Winter Park Welcome Center is at 151 W. Lyman Ave. Visit cityof-winterpark.org

May 16 to June 15 - Star Wars Weekends at Disney

Grab your light saber and join an intergalactic event packed with out-of-this-world entertainment at Disney's Hollywood Studios on the weekends from May 16 to June 15. Guests will encounter "Star Wars" characters for special shows, presentations, and autographs by joining host James Arnold Taylor (the voice of Obi-Wan Kenobi). New adventures include intergalactic dining

and a state-of-the-art evening finale featuring characters, fireworks and Glow with the Show elements. Visit disneyworld.com

May 17 - The James Gamble Rogers Colloquium on Historic Preservation

Nicole Curtis, star of HGTV Networks' "Rehab Addict," will headline the eighth annual James Gamble Rogers Colloquium on Historic Preservation set for May 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of Casa

Feliz, the morning session will be held at Rollins College with Curtis speaking on the topic "Restore, Repurpose, Reuse!" After lunch, the program will resume with a tour of Winter Park's loveliest remodeled historic homes. (Shuttle buses provided). At \$50 per ticket, registration information is available at casafeliz.squarespace.com



STAR WARS WEEKENDS

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THE SPRINGS CONCERT 2014

CHICAGO

EARTH WIND & FIRE AND BLOOD SWEAT & TEARS

ORLANDO PHILHARMONIC

May 17 - The music of Chicago, Earth Wind & Fire, and Blood Sweat & Tears

May 17 is the date for the always popular Orlando Philharmonic's annual outdoor concert at The Springs at Woodbridge Road in Longwood. This year the concert features the Orlando Philharmonic rocking to popular hits like Chicago's "Does Anyone Really Know What Time It Is?" and "25 or 6 to 4," Blood Sweat & Tears' "You're The One" and "Spinning Wheel" and Earth Wind & Fire hits like "Boogie Wonderland" and "Let's Groove." Bring a picnic! Gates open at 5 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m. Call 407-770-0071 or visit orlandophil.org

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.

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Opinions



**Chris
Jepson**

Perspectives

50 shades of gray from sex to aging

Sex. Ha! Made you look. Humans live for sex. Literally and metaphorically. I think you'd have to be dead or nearly so to have no interest in sex. That may not even be entirely true if necrophilia is to be believed. Even the dead participate, willingly. Well, that's a stretch. I've even seen zombie movies about sexual attraction but it was, shall we say, merely rebound zombie sex. Is there sex after death? Well, as the song suggests, "In heaven they have no beer that's why we ..."

No, this column is not about sex, it's about aging. I was sprucing up recently for a party and noticed my first gray hair. In my nose. Oh, the indignity of it all. Gray nose hairs. I

unceremoniously, eyes watering, plucked it out. As if that will stem the tide. I've been going gray hair-wise for 10 years, but since I hit age 65, all of me is fading to gray. Sigh.

Actually, that is too strong a characterization, the fading part. I've never been a reluctant participant in life. A shrinking violet. Ask me (or not) and I'll give you my two cents. And then some. It's the luster that inevitably leaves one, the effervescent shine that fizzles slowly away. That great Hollywood mind Gwyneth Paltrow summed it up so succinctly, "Beauty fades! I just turned 29, so I probably don't have that many good years left in me." Horrors! Yet, I'm of the generation who coined, "Over the Hill at 30."

Women seriously argue that aging is much harder on "them" than it is for men. There's a nuance at play here. It's about what constitutes beauty, when you have it and how gracefully you transition from youthful beauty to embracing the homily, "Youth is the gift of nature, but

age is a work of art."

No, aging can be as unsettling for men as it is for women. Granted, there has always (and I mean always) been a premium on female beauty (See: Marlowe, "Was this the face that launch'd a thousand ships And burnt the topless towers of Ilium? Sweet Helen, make me immortal with a kiss.") True, the physical equivalent for men — handsomeness — has never been the premium beauty bestows upon women. But diminishment is not strictly confined to the metaphorical

fading of the flower, nor is it any less a disappointment for men.

Why, I remember a time when I could work physically hard all day, shower and party to the wee hours. Now, it's but four or five hours

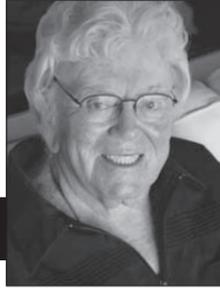
of heavy lifting, shower, a nap, and then party to the wee hours. Did I mention, nap? Alas, I am not the man I was at age 30.

But it's more than that. My face, I fear for my face. Some people are sinkers and some are saggies (skin tone), it turns out I'm both a sinker and a sagger. I've watched as slight creases have formed into deep craters at the corners of my mouth and I wonder, just what is the point of that? I'm afraid to share the following with my younger readers for fear of frightening them. Kids: As you age you get ear hairs and graying nose hairs and behind the ear cheese unfit for consumption or anything else.

Fortunately, my mind remains sharp, all the better, I tell myself, to remember what once was. Hmmm? What was it I said humans live for? Haha!

Jepson is a 27-year resident of Central Florida. He's fiscally conservative, socially liberal, likes art and embraces diversity of opinion. Reach him at Jepson@MEDIaAmerica.US

Humans live for sex. Literally and metaphorically.



**Louis
Roney**

Play On!

The curious art of conversation

• Does anyone wonder whether the American public was sharp enough to pick up on the slick removal of the true facts of the Benghazi affair from the news spotlight? This affair, of course, is covered up to shield Hillary Clinton from the blight of anything that might endanger her planned run for president. In this upcoming campaign, expect more of this sort of propaganda that will include on-going protection by the media, for all of Hillary's past "unfortunate missteps." The lady may well rue a thousand times in connection with the Benghazi affair having said the words, "What difference does it make?" Well, she may now find out!

• My father was smart. I thought he knew everything about everything that was. When I read Edgar Allan Poe's "The Purloined Letter" in school, I asked Dad what "purloined" meant. Quick as a whip he said, "Stolen. When something is stolen from you, it is distanced from you, and 'loin' means 'afar' in French." I said, "Why didn't Poe use words that American kids could understand?" Later I knew something about Poe because I often drove by the Richmond house he had lived in. But despite Poe's big bunch of big words, it never quite occurred to me what all of them meant. At 12 I had written down 400 words on a tablet, words enough to suffice me for my whole life in anything I thought I might want to say.

Then I met the beautiful Magdalena and she said something like, "It is coincidental that I should make your acquaintance just at the opportune time, for you have a simplicity that is enchanting for a complicated person like me." That's when I sensed I would need a bigger vocabulary! Magdalena and I ran across each other often in school, and soon I found myself taking on her big nouns and verbs, and particularly her adjectives.

Communication via human speech is really quite a mysterious invention. When you first heard, "I was curious to comprehend what he said," how did you know what "curious" and "comprehend" meant? If the other person said, "I'm sorry about your misapprehension" ... did you know what in heck she was talking about? It appears that we take on

understanding of many abstract words by the dramatic situation in which they first occur.

When I was a little kid, I said to my grandmother, "I love peanut butter." She answered, "You don't love peanut butter, you like it! You love people." "You mean," I said, "I don't love my dog?"

"Yes, I guess you can love your dog—but not peanut butter!"

Niceties are nowadays often sloughed over in daily speech, but there is pretty good reason to be careful about

them in serious written communication.

I often call my b.w. "Darling pie, the most darling of all pies." She may smile a bit, but she hasn't divorced me yet. "You Call Everybody Darling" is worth singing to a person who qualifies. "Darling" and "sweetheart" are words too often used on Broadway and in Hollywood. Actors seem to call each other "darling" even when it's man to man. And, if it's meant really caustically, one might even say, "Listen, sweetheart..." I seem to remember instances where James Cagney, Humphrey Bogart and Edward G. Robinson said things like that to each other.

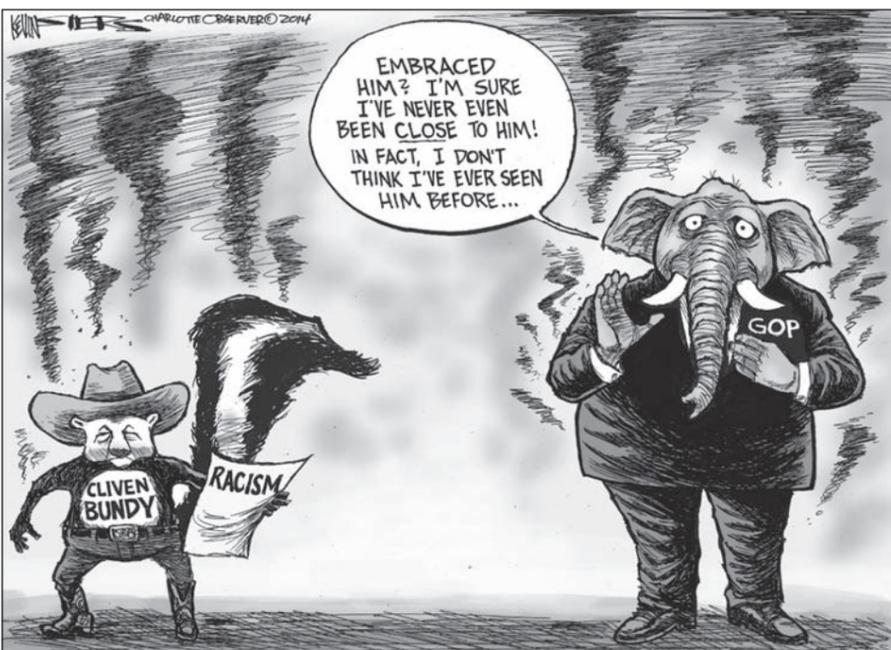
Lauren Bacall made her introduction in movies famous with the words, "... just whistle. You know how to whistle don't you, Steve? You just put your lips together and blow." With those words she snared Humphrey for life — marriage, that is.

Clark Gable said to Vivian Leigh upon walking out on her in "Gone With the Wind," "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn." Vivien Leigh had the last words saying, "I'll think about that tomorrow..." Did her "tomorrow" ever come? Did Rhett come back? When asked, even author Margaret Mitchell would answer only, "How should I know?"

• We enjoyed a lovely time at lunch with Gene Hawkins in his beautiful home on Lake Maitland. We renewed our friendship with Chichina, who took care of the vittles — a helpful person who makes life easier for our dear friend Gene.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Letters to the editor

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

Stopping undergrounding would be a step in the wrong direction

Barrett M. Williams' Letter "Stop burying the electric system" was like arguing against putting new tires on our old 1970 Ford Fairlane. Isn't it time to ditch the Fairlane and go to modern technology? Do you realize we are, or should be, just around the corner of implementing a new energy producing system? Can you imagine having a unit under your workbench in the garage, which produces all the electricity your home needs? No more smoke stack or nuclear energy plants.

No more high tension lines disgracing our landscape. No more "V-ing" of our street canopy and beautiful oak trees. The ideas are there. The incentive to build such units is gaining ground. Electric cars are, now, where gas-guzzling cars were in 1920. Yes, we have a long way to go; but the future is within sight. Where is the modern day Thomas Edison? Put a prize of \$1 billion to the inventor of a new, compact, but safe, energy system and you will have it in service within two decades.

— Donald L. Thompson

THE MARKETPLACE



OBSERVER
Open Houses



SATURDAY 1-4

GATED WINTER PARK TOWNHOUSE COMMUNITY
2527 Passamonte Drive, Winter Park 3BD/2.5BA. Townhome featuring granite, stainless steel energy star qualified appliances and an open floor plan. First floor consists of formal dining room, powder room, open kitchen/family room/breakfast area with sliding doors to a screened porch. Upstairs has a large master bedroom with a walk-in closet, bath with dual sinks, garden tub and separate shower, also two additional bedrooms, a bath and laundry room. \$185,000

SUNDAY 12-3

TOP RATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
9258 Bent Arrow Cove, Apopka. 3BD/2BA 2,057 SF. Well-maintained home in "A" Rated Lake Brantley school district. Home features high ceilings, split floor plan, and real wood floors in living, dining, family room, and master bedroom. Spacious master bedroom with French doors to patio, and oversized bathroom with corner garden whirlpool tub, separate shower, toilet room, His & Hers sinks, linen closet, and walk-in closet. Large fenced-in backyard. \$242,000



OBSERVER
Just Sold Homes



263 Minorca Beach Way, Unit 404, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169 sold by Kelly L. Price with Tiffany Prewitt Grindstaff

920 S. Kentucky Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789 sold by Sherri Dyer

1134 Bella Lago Cove, Winter Park, FL 32792 sold by Sherri Dyer

2431 Versailles Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789 sold by Padgett McCormick



Trish Sanders **1352 Sassafras Ave, Altamonte Springs** \$180,000. 04/25/2014

Bagby Team **685 Mayo Ave, Maitland** \$762,500. 04/25/2014

Judy Doster/Lauren Clark **4558 Lower Park Rd, Orlando** \$450,000. 04/28/2014

Bagby Team **1545 Holts Grove, Winter Park** \$1,920,000. 04/29/2014

Maria Van Warner **4203 S. Atlantic Ave, NSB** \$305,000. 04/28/2014

Bagby Team **1100 Yates St, Orlando** \$615,000. 04/29/2014

Melissa Woodman **2036 S Countryside Cir, Orlando** \$190,000. 04/30/2014

Lisa Fleming **3083 Carmello Ave, Orlando** \$430,000. 04/30/2014

Bagby Team **2154 Park Maitland Ct, Maitland** \$245,000. 04/30/2014

Maria Van Warner **2521 Euston Rd, Winter Park** \$255,000. 04/30/2014

Sharon Helsby **5972 Paxton Court, Apopka** \$315,000. 04/28/2014

Sharon Helsby **607 Colby Court, Altamonte Springs** \$203,000. 04/30/2014

Meg Dolan **2427 Branch Way #207, Maitland** \$48,000. 04/30/2014

MaryStuart Day/Megan Cross **812 Granville Dr, Winter Park** \$648,775. 05/01/2014

MaryStuart Day/Megan Cross **690 Osceola Ave #301, Winter Park** \$205,000. 05/01/2014

Bagby Team **551 Genius Dr, Winter Park** \$790,000. 05/02/2014

Ann Elizabeth Christensen **1574 Almond Dr, Orlando** \$325,000. 05/02/2014

MaryStuart Day/Megan Cross - Sarah Hsiao **151 S Phelps Ave, Winter Park** \$1,280,000. 05/02/2014

Maria Van Warner **1800 Via Palermo, Winter Park** \$1,035,000. 05/05/2014

Catherine D'Amico - Meg Dolan **2919 DeBrocy, Winter Park** \$380,000. 05/05/2014

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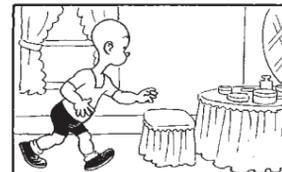
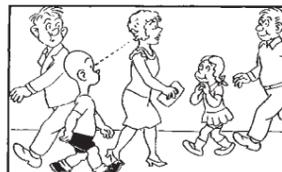
- 1 Standard
- 4 Plate
- 8 Dog's annoyance
- 12 Id counterpart
- 13 Garfield's pal
- 14 Wander
- 15 Attendance check
- 17 Gaelic
- 18 Allow
- 19 Tissue brand
- 21 Jinx
- 24 Sphere
- 25 Pt. of speech
- 26 Knock
- 28 Staffers
- 32 "Piggies"
- 34 Afternoon affair
- 36 Pennsylvania port
- 37 Glitch
- 39 Do sums
- 41 Coffee shop vessel
- 42 Bagel topper
- 44 Went in a hurry
- 46 "Bloodied but —"
- 50 Auto
- 51 Rani's garment
- 52 Wad of cash
- 56 Heroic verse

King Crossword

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- 57 Actress
- 8 Falco
- 58 Writer
- 59 Leftovers
- 60 P.D. rank
- 61 Journey segment
- 8 Sample
- 9 Forsaken
- 10 Relaxation
- 11 Visa alternative, for short
- 16 Started
- 20 Historic period
- 21 Loathe
- 22 Smell
- 23 Feedbag tidbit
- 27 Shell game item
- 29 Lead-in to "Ta-da!"
- 30 Hibernia
- 31 Transmit
- 33 Helpless
- 35 Wood-shaping tool
- 38 Tier
- 40 List of court cases
- 43 Mediterranean sailing ship
- 45 Rowing need
- 46 — -friendly
- 47 Scruff
- 48 Family business abbr.
- 49 Arp's style
- 53 Pinch
- 54 Shelter
- 55 Journal

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Answers

King Crossword

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