

# Observer

Winter Park / Maitland

Thursday, June 12, 2014

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# Denser development

City Commission passes development code changes after voting a second time

**TIM FREED**  
Observer staff

An ordinance passed by Winter Park City Commissioners on Monday could be the first step in opening the floodgates for larger development in the city — just over a month after Commissioners chose to vote it down back in April.

The City Commission passed a series of changes to the land development code by a count of 3-2 during Monday's meeting that allowed for more flexibility and opportunity for planned developments — projects of a larger size that tend to be mixed-use.

City Commissioner Steven Leary requested the item be brought back for a vote in the final moments of the May 12 meeting. Mayor Ken Bradley had been absent during the April 28 meeting when the City Commission voted to oppose the ordinance by a count of 3-1.

Leary cast the third opposing vote to turn the change down, but said he did so to be a part of the majority of the vote, which has the power to bring the item back — in this case when the whole Commission is present.

"I think it's important that the mayor hears [this item]," Leary told the Observer in May. "I don't



PHOTO BY **TIM FREED** — THE OBSERVER

Fears of high density construction roiled residents at a meeting in Winter Park Monday.

like to see things go down on a 2-2 tie. That's not how the Commission was originally set up. The Commission was set up to have a majority."

The change to the land development code opens all property along a four-lane road — outside the box of property surrounded by Fairbanks, Interlachen, Pennsylvania and Webster avenues — to planned developments.

One provision of the ordinance also leaves out parking garages when calculating the floor area ratio (FAR), a regulated percentage of a building's size compared to its lot.

But Winter Park residents

once again spoke out against the changes as they did back in April, opposed to more density in Winter Park and fearing for the village character of the city.

"You five hold something very special in your hands," said Frank Anderson, one of more than 20 residents who spoke during the meeting. "Tonight we decide whether we embark as a community on a path that will open up an aperture for these [planned developments]."

"If we go in that direction, it takes away some of the safeguards that generations of leaders in this city have put in place

■ Please see **DEVELOPMENT** on page 2

# Opening night: Baseball back in Winter Park

**COLIN BELL**  
Observer staff

The smack of wood on rawhide. Sunflower seed husks in the dirt. The quiet excitement of the crowd when the home team hits a fly ball deep, as if their sudden attentiveness could will it over the fence. A pack of children running the bases between innings. Players taking a break from the dugout to help sell raffle tickets to attendees sitting in the grandstand.

Florida Collegiate Summer League baseball is back in Central Florida.

The league's 11th season opened June 3 at Sanford Memorial Stadium. There the league's two founding teams from 2004, the Winter Park Diamond Dawgs and the Sanford River Rats, reignited a longtime rivalry.

"It makes my summers I'll tell you that," said Sanford head coach Ken Kelly. "The kids keep me young."

River Rats got down early in the game on their home turf, trailing 3-0 heading into the bottom of the third. But they battled back with a huge seventh, scoring seven runs. That, combined with a shutdown performance from the bullpen, brought them a blowout comeback win on opening night, 10-4.

"When you're playing the defending champions, it's opening night, you got a good crowd and

■ Please see **BASEBALL** on page 4

# Rewriting the Winter Park Library's future

New library could replace civic center, part of city hall

**TIM FREED**  
Observer staff

Winter Park might be forced to use the wrecking ball in order to make room for a high tech new library. And it could end up in Central Park.

Discussions of a new Winter Park Public Library continued to take shape on Monday as the City Commission sat down with library representatives in a public work session, discussing four possible locations for construct-

ing a new facility.

The Winter Park Public Library asked for the City Commission's support in either constructing a new building or remodeling the existing library, which currently suffers from lack of space, a shortage in parking and outdated electrical wiring, said WPPL Executive Director Shawn Shaffer.

Four potential sites were brought forward to the City Commission for constructing a new facility: city hall, the civic center in Martin Luther King Jr. Park, the post office on the north edge of Central Park, and the

■ Please see **LIBRARY** on page 2



PHOTO BY **TIM FREED** — THE OBSERVER

Renovation could cost \$6 million, but the city is considering an entirely new building.

USPS 00-6186  
Publisher statement on page 4.



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## LIBRARY | Debate over new site, which could be Post Office

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Progress Energy property along Orange Avenue.

Shaffer, consultants and members of the board of trustees each made their case for why the library should be given new life.

"A world-class city deserves a world-class library," said Clyde Scoles, fiscal officer of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library and a building consultant speaking on behalf of the Winter Park Library. "We've seen more library construction in the past 20 years than probably the era of Carnegie."

"The public library is no longer simply a building that houses books, it's a place that community blossoms."

One possible site plan would keep the majority of city hall minus the police wing while adding a three-story, 60,000-square-foot library, along with a 60- to 160-car parking garage, said ACi Architects Inc. partner John Cunningham, who presented the locations.

Cunningham suggested for the civic center location to tear down the existing building and start anew, making way for a three-story library with an expanded parking lot.

"[These are] just opportunities and thoughts, but I wanted to let you know it's doable," Cunningham said.

The cost for building a new location remains a moving target, but renovating the current library built in 1979 would cost between \$5 million and \$6 million, not including any additional parking or a temporary space to occupy

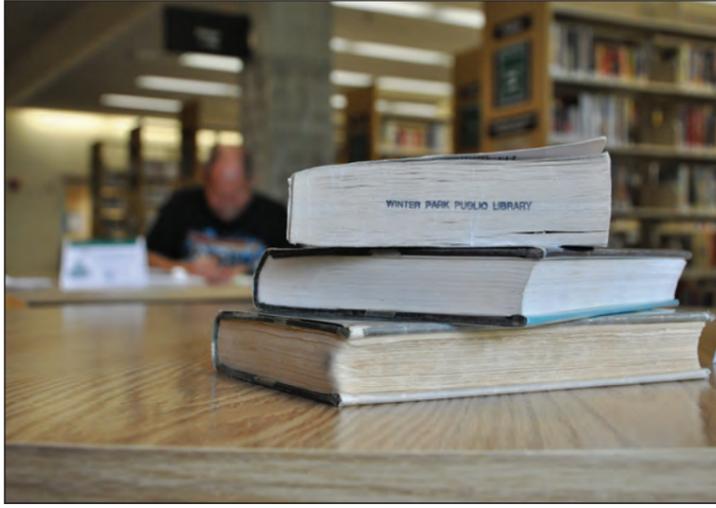


PHOTO BY TIM FREED — THE OBSERVER

The new library could displace City Hall if one of four proposals is approved by the city.

for eight to 12 months in the meantime.

Shaffer said the library hopes to move toward the digital age as well, having recently applied for federal grant money to receive a new Makerspace — a collection of cutting edge technology that includes recording equipment, video editing software and a 3D printer.

"We'll still be the traditional warehouse of information," Shaffer told the Observer in April. "We want to move into an era where we start to help you create information."

Winter Park City Commissioners showed support for pursuing a new library, hoping to make sure it's done right.

"I think the library is one of the things that defines a community," Commissioner Tom McMacken said. "Much like our

museums, our churches and our people here, a library should speak for Winter Park."

"This ought to be a place where people say — and wear the buttons saying — 'Yes, I've been to the Winter Park Library.'"

Mayor Ken Bradley said the concept of a new library intrigued him, but more support needs to come from the community first. Many Winter Park residents still might not feel it's needed, he said.

"The argument for the new library needs to be much more definitive," Bradley said.

"We need to build a 100-year building. We don't need to be in the mode of 'Well, let's just change it.'"

The Commission agreed to start forming a library committee of stakeholders and residents to begin reviewing all the potential options in the coming months.

## DEVELOPMENT | Density worries

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

for a reason ... to protect the nature of our community."

City Commissioner Carolyn Cooper spoke vehemently against the changes as well, believing that planned developments should continue to be restricted and that parking garages need to be considered part of a building's size.

"I've been at this a long time and I can tell you that when you make someone eligible, you have to look them in the eye and you're going to have to defend from person to person why one can have it and one cannot," Cooper said. "The city has not been successful in doing that."

"The idea that we are making all of these properties equally eligible to negotiate being considered for this zoning is a concern to me."

Winter Park resident Judy Maynard brought the public comment to a screeching halt when she demanded that Leary recuse himself from the vote due to his ownership of property along Orange Avenue.

"I believe he should recuse himself from this vote because he has a vested interest with his property at the old Thomas Lumber property," Maynard said. "I don't believe it is fair for him to vote on this. This is a four-lane highway where he can then use it for his own benefit."

Leary didn't admit outright to owning the land, but City Attorney Larry Brown stepped in and said he had already discussed the concerns with the Commissioner

and believed there wasn't a conflict in this case.

"I want to assure the public that I've provided legal advice to Commissioner Leary on the question of potential conflict," Brown said.

"In my opinion, the size of the class of property owners with land abutting four-lane roads in Winter Park is sufficiently large. Under the Commission on Ethics precedent, I don't think this particular vote tonight would come anywhere close to violating."

Planning and Community Development Director Dori Stone said that the changes would go a long way toward revitalizing major corridors like U.S. Highway 17-92.

"We have opened it up to corridors where they're currently not allowed, but it also opens up a fresh start for [planned developments] to come in and show you the value of being a [planned development] and to not be limited by size or location," Stone told the City Commission.

Leary, City Commissioners Sarah Sprinkel and Mayor Ken Bradley voted in support of the ordinance to pass it through. Commissioner Tom McMacken voted against the changes with Cooper, saying he wanted more time for any confused residents to understand the details.

The ordinance will be sent off to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for review before coming back to the City Commission in about three months, Stone said.

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**Maitland City Talk**  
 BY HOWARD SCHIEFERDECKER  
 MAYOR



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF MAITLAND

## Remapping downtown

### Joint TAB/P&Z Meeting on Thursday

On Thursday, June 12, the city of Maitland's Transportation Advisory Board and the Planning and Zoning Commission will meet to revisit the recommendations of a 2004 traffic study and the future plans for Maitland Avenue.

The Maitland Area Transportation Study — conducted in 2004 by civil engineering firm Kimley-Horn and Associates under the direction of an intergovernmental steering committee — evaluated the traffic patterns of Maitland's roadways, presented findings, and provided recommendations for improvements to alleviate congestion particularly at U.S. Highway 17-92 and Horatio Avenue. The study encouraged the

city to take steps to discourage use of Maitland and Horatio avenues.

The purpose of the joint session is to receive input and discuss downtown traffic issues. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting will be an excellent opportunity for the public to express their views on this important traffic issue. These discussions will help shape the future of the city's downtown.

For more information about the 2004 Maitland Area Transportation Study, please visit the following links:

<http://bit.ly/1pBHudr>  
<http://bit.ly/1q0CGRI>

<http://bit.ly/1u26wTb>

### City seeking volunteers to serve on boards and commission

The city of Maitland is seeking Maitland residents to volunteer to serve on its boards or commission. Boards meet regularly and provide valuable input and recommendations to the City Council. Visit [itsmymaitland.com/boards.commissions.aspx](http://itsmymaitland.com/boards.commissions.aspx) for board and commission descriptions and an application. Submit an application today.

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# BASEBALL I

■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

a new group of kids ... I think it's got an extra tint to it," Kelly said. Sanford got a big game from shortstop Tyler Palmer who reached base four times and tallied two RBI.

Meanwhile, Winter Park is working to defend its title from a season ago, when the Dawgs won both the regular season and postseason championships. The Dawgs have eight returning players on their roster and high hopes of repeating their success.

After starting the season with a loss, Winter Park had a quick turn

around to get their revenge.

The Dawgs won games two and three of the series, both by just one run. In game two Nate Ferrell homered for the Dawgs, and in game three Kyle Cavanaugh scored on his own single thanks to a three-base error by the Sanford centerfielder.

Up next for the Dawgs is a three-game series with the Deland Suns, who are off to a 1-4 start on the season.. (When/where do they play?) The series will take place from June 10 to 12. Games one and three will be played in Deland, with game two on June 11 being hosted by the Dawgs at Alford Stadium in Winter Park. All games start at 7 p.m.



Major League Baseball draftee Tyler Palmer rocked Winter Park in the season opener. PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK — THE OBSERVER

# FAMILY CALENDAR

## JUNE 12

Bring the whole family, snacks and a blanket to Winter Park's Central Park at 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, to catch this month's **Popcorn Flick in the Park** showing of "Toy Story." For more information on this

free event, visit [enzian.org](http://enzian.org)

## JUNE 14

Join the Maitland Public Library for an **afternoon of reading and fun** from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 14, at their Anansi Festival/Summer Reading Kickoff. The event is open to all ages. Activities will include storytelling, puppet shows, authentic food, music, presenters and more. For more information, visit [maitlandpubliclibrary.org](http://maitlandpubliclibrary.org)

Cheer on the **Miami Midnites** or the **Florida Flight** as they face off in a minor league Florida Basketball Association game at the Orlando JCC Maitland campus from 7:30 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 14. Cost is \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, \$25 for VIP seating and \$500 for a 10-person luxury box with drinks. Kids 12 and under are free. Contact Royal Webster at [RoyalW@orlandojcc.org](mailto:RoyalW@orlandojcc.org) or by calling 407-645-5933 for more information.

Every Saturday starting June 14 at 7 p.m., **An Tobar Pub** will hold a **trivia session** featuring cash prizes. The trivia will be three rounds, 10 questions each. In addition to 10 general-knowledge questions, the second round will feature five "Hunger Games" and five "Mad Men" alternative questions. Bring out your friends who are fans of these popular movies and shows. An Tobar Pub is located at 600 N. Lake Destiny Road in Maitland. The entry fee is \$5 per person.

# Calendar

## JUNE 12

The Winter Park Chamber of Commerce and Park Avenue Merchants Association invite you to experience the charm of Park Avenue at the **Summer Sip, Shop & Stroll** from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 12. Spend the evening on a unique wine walk and stroll to your favorite Park Avenue area shops and restaurants. Discover new merchants and restaurants and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres along the way. Guests must check in by 7 p.m. Must be 21 or older to attend. Please sip responsibly. Event is rain or shine, no refunds. For more information, call the Winter Park Chamber at 407-644-8281.

the **Performing Arts of Maitland** will host the Summer Concert in the Garden from 7 to 11 p.m. on Friday, June 13. The concert will be held on the second Friday of each month from May through September at the Maitland Art Center's Main Garden. This Summer Concert in the Garden event features musical entertainment by Eugene Snowden & Friends and a reading by poet Stacy Barton. Admission to the concert series is a suggested donation of \$5.

## JUNE 14

Enjoy a cult classic at the Enzian Theater in Maitland this weekend as they host a screening of "American Graffiti" at noon on Saturday, June 14. General admission is \$8 and Enzian Film Society members get in for \$5. For more information, visit [enzian.org](http://enzian.org)

visit [enzian.org](http://enzian.org)

## ONGOING

In partnership with the Orlando Chapter of USA Dance, The Alzheimer's Association Central and North Florida Chapter is bringing a **free ballroom-dance program** to the community. "Ballroom for the Brain" will be Saturdays, June 21 to July 26, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Crosby YMCA in Winter Park. The program will use ballroom dancing's unique ability to stimulate the mind and body simultaneously. Trained dance instructors and volunteer partners from USA Dance will teach early and middle stage individuals and their care partners the principles of partner dancing and the basics of fun dances such as swing, rumba, merengue and the waltz. Volunteer partners are provided, or you can bring your own. RSVP is required; please call 1-800-272-3900 to register or for more information.

## JUNE 17

Maitland's Enzian Theater will host the **Orlando Story Club** at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, as it puts on "Emotion Pictures," in which participants share moving stories about making and experiencing film. Ten willing audience members each get five minutes on stage to share a story related to this month's theme. The evening will also feature film, food and magic. Admission includes free popcorn and all proceeds support Enzian's mission to entertain, inspire, educate, and connect the community through film. For more information,

# Community Bulletin

## Commending Preservation Capen

Winter Park's Preservation Capen was recently awarded an Outstanding Achievement award at the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation's 2014 Historic Preservation Awards. Preservation Capen is an ongoing

effort to save, move and restore the historic Capen-Showalter House, built in 1885, implemented by three independent non-profit organizations working in concert. The Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens, Casa Feliz Historic Home Museum, and Winter Park History Museum engaged in

a monumental cooperative venture with no advance notice and few resources. The success of the project demonstrates the strength of collaborations in historic preservation.

## Leading the chamber

Winderweedle Attorney Jere F. Daniels Jr. was recently appointed to a two-year term on the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors. Daniels, a Winter Park native, practices mainly in the area of real estate law, assisting corporate and individual clients with transactions and disputes. Other areas of legal experience include agribusiness, banking, commercial lending, construction and environmental law. Daniels serves on the firm's management team and as the administrative partner of the Winter Park office.

## Retirement and Replacement of the United States Flag at First Baptist Church of Winter Park Memorial Day 2014



The persons involved of this special service was Marine Colonel Bill Tate who in the picture to the left lowered the Flag that had flown for one year and to the right raised the New Flag that will fly until Memorial Day 2015. Col. Tate was assisted by Navy CWO3 Norm Myers and members of the Winter Park Fire Safety and Law Enforcement Departments.

# Observer

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PHONE: 407-563-7000  
FAX: 407-563-7099  
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PUBLISHER

**Tracy Craft**  
407.515.2605  
TCraft@TurnstileMediaGroup.com

MANAGING EDITOR

**Isaac Babcock**  
407.563.7023  
IBabcock@TurnstileMediaGroup.com

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

**Sarah Wilson**  
407.563.7026  
SWilson@TurnstileMediaGroup.com

**Tim Freed**

407.563.7054  
TFreed@TurnstileMediaGroup.com

ARTS EDITOR

**Josh Garrick**  
joshgarrick9@gmail.com

DESIGNER

**Tom Miller**  
407.563.7032  
TMiller@TurnstileMediaGroup.com

STAFF WRITERS

**Brittni Larson**  
**Megan Stokes**  
**Allison Olcsvay**  
**Kristy Vickery**

COLUMNISTS

**Chris Jepson**  
Jepson@MediaAmerica.us

**Louis Roney**  
LRoney@cfl.rr.com

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SUBSCRIPTIONS/CIRCULATION

**Luana Baez**  
407.563.7013  
LBaez@TurnstileMediaGroup.com

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**Winter Park City Talk**  
BY RANDY KNIGHT  
CITY MANAGER



# Keep us beautiful

## June 9 City Commission meeting highlights

If you were unable to watch or attend the City Commission meeting held June 9 in City Hall Commission Chambers, below are a few highlights of the meeting:

### Mayor's Report

- The board appointment to the Winter Park Police Pension Officers' Board was approved.
- Presentations were given declaring June 9 as Mary Lee DePugh Day and honoring The Gardens at DePugh Nursing Center as the recipient of the second quarter 2014 Business Recognition Award

### Consent Agenda

- The minutes of May 12, 2014 were approved.
- The various purchases, contracts and a formal solicitation were approved (a complete listing can be found at [cityofwinterpark.org/ccpackets](http://cityofwinterpark.org/ccpackets))

### Public Hearings

- Request of UP Fieldgate US

### Investments – Winter Park, LLC:

— The first reading of the ordinance amending the comprehensive plan to change the Future Land Use Designation at 967 Cherokee Ave. was approved.

— The first reading of the ordinance amending the official zoning map at 967 Cherokee Ave., was approved.

— The first reading of the ordinance vacating and abandoning portions of the public rights of way of Friends Avenue and Galloway Drive, was approved.

- Request of 1776 Real Estate Advisors, LLC:

— The first reading of the ordinance amending the Comprehensive Plan on the 0.64 acres of vacant property at the northeast corner of Schultz and Michigan avenues was approved.

— The first reading of the ordinance amending the official zoning map on the 0.64 acres of vacant property at the northeast corner of Schultz and Michigan avenues was approved.

- Request of Garmet, Ltd and TGG, Ltd:

— The first reading of the or-

dinance amending the Comprehensive Plan to change the Future Land Use Map Designation at 298 and 313 W. New England Ave. was approved.

— First reading of the ordinance amending the official zoning map to change the existing zoning designations at 298 and 313 W. New England Ave. was approved.

- Request of the city of Winter Park:

— The first reading of the ordinance amending Chapter 58 "Land Development Code," Article I "Comprehensive Plan" related to the Planned Development Future Land Use Designations was approved.

— First reading of the ordinance vacating and abandoning a portion of Loren Avenue within the Ravaudage Planned Development and Home Acres Subdivision area was approved.

• The resolution authorizing the issuance of Electric Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2014, to finance the purchase of tendered Electric Revenue Bonds, Series 2005A, was approved.

A full copy of the June 9 City Commission minutes will be available at [cityofwinterpark.org](http://cityofwinterpark.org) the week of June 23, pending approval by the City Commission. Remember, if you are unable to at-

tend the City Commission meetings, you can watch them live, gavel-to-gavel as they happen. During the meeting, simply log on to [cityofwinterpark.org/cclive](http://cityofwinterpark.org/cclive) to easily stay tuned-in to official city business.

## Win a KindleFire and \$50 Cocina 214 gift cards

The city's Keep Winter Park Beautiful & Sustainable Advisory Board has drafted a Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) focusing on efforts to make the city more sustainable in the next 10-20 years. The plan sets goals for the city to reach by 2020 and 2030 such as:

- Incentivize alternative modes of transportation (walking, bicycling, mass transit)
- Offer residential customers unlimited, free recycling opportunities with a pay-as-you-throw garbage collection program
- Increase recycling efforts to create an environment where garbage collection is only needed one day per week
- Offer residential curbside composting
- Reduce water and energy usage
- Identify public locations for edible landscaping, community gardens, public orchards, and rain gardens
- Increase energy production

from renewable resources

The city is looking for public feedback on these goals and others as outlined in the draft SAP to ensure they align with the residents and businesses of Winter Park. This draft plan will also help the city achieve its Green Local Government Platinum Level status, surpassing its current Gold Level.

Please help the city shape this plan and enter to win great prizes by sharing your feedback at one or more of the following opportunities:

Sustainability Action Plan Survey at [cityofwinterpark.org/SAP](http://cityofwinterpark.org/SAP)

- Take survey by Monday, June 30.

• Survey participants will be entered into a random drawing for a chance to win a \$50 Cocina 214 gift card.

• Sustainability Action Plan Public Forum

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

— Attendees who have completed the survey will also be eligible to win a KindleFire and other great sustainable items that will be raffled at the public forum (must be present to win).

— Light food and beverages will be provided.

For more information regarding the Sustainability Program, please visit [cityofwinterpark.org/sustainability](http://cityofwinterpark.org/sustainability) or call 407-599-3364.

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# Lifestyles

## Eagle Scout hopeful's 'impossible' goal

ALLISON OLCSVAY  
Observer staff

At 15 years old Baxter Murrell is already an accomplished young man. A sophomore at Winter Park High School, Baxter is in the International Baccalaureate Program, excels at public speaking and is well on his way to earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Baxter has made an ambition choice to provide 400 supply-filled backpacks to the men and women served by the homeless ministry of St. George Orthodox Church in downtown Orlando.

The total cost of the project is estimated at around \$15,000.

According to one of Baxter's scout leaders, David Rotenberger, Baxter's project is exceptional in that it is much more complex and therefore costly than the typical project.

"I've seen a lot of projects and this one is huge," said Rotenberger.

"I could have chosen a less involved project," Baxter said. "But I wanted to do something more monumental and I wanted to inspire other scouts to step up their game and do something really big as well."

Baxter was inspired to help the homeless after a recent service project he and his father completed. Together they gathered gently used items from around



Baxter Murrell hopes to help out 400 homeless Central Florida residents with backpacks filled with supplies to help them survive.

PHOTOS BY ALLISON OLCSVAY — THE OBSERVER

their home and distributed them at St. George.

"As I was talking to the people there, I asked what practical help they could really use and many mentioned backpacks and personal items like underwear and washcloths," Baxter said. "So that's what I decided to do."

When he presented the idea to his troop leaders, many felt the

project was perhaps too ambitious. It was suggested that he do maybe 50 or 100 backpacks.

"The homeless ministry serves up to 400 people though, and I just couldn't see leaving anyone out," Baxter said.

"I take my hat off to him," said Rotenberger. "He had a vision and he's seeing it through, no matter how challenging."

Not one to settle for second best, Baxter is in the process of negotiating with JanSport to purchase the 400 backpacks at a discount.

"I could have gone with a cheaper alternative, but I wanted to give them something that would last and really be useful," he said.

Each backpack will be filled

with a complete personal-care kit including toothpaste and brush, deodorant, soap bar, washcloth, bug spray, razors, T-shirt, socks, boxer shorts, yogurt-covered pretzel snacks, and bottled water.

In a short while, with the help of generous donations, Baxter has already raised just over \$9,000 toward his goal. In addition, he has received enough toothpaste, brushes and snacks to more than meet the needs of the project.

He's still hoping to find a donor for deodorant and bug spray, two of the more expensive items in the kit.

Baxter says he's found inspiration to continue the project from his grandfather who passed away a few years ago.

"I spent a lot of time with him; we were very close and my desire to become a lawyer comes from my relationship with him," he said.

Robert Murrell Sr. was a lawyer for 57 years in downtown Orlando. His office occupied the building across the street from St. George Orthodox Church and for quite some time the family has had a history of aiding the church's endeavors.

"I've always felt like there was so much more we could be doing; there are so many missing pieces. I want people to see this and to know that there are still

■ Please see **EAGLE SCOUT** on next page

# This week at Enzian

<p><b>PALO ALTO</b> Fri – Mon, Wed, Thurs 6:30, 9:15 Tues 9:30</p>	<p><b>IDA</b> One of the hits from the 2014 Florida Film Festival! Fri-Sun 4PM</p> <p><b>Saturday Matinee</b> <b>Classics: AMERICAN</b> <b>GRAFFITI</b> Sat 12PM</p>	<p><b>Father's Day at Enzian featuring THE JERK</b> Dads get one FREE draught beer! (While supplies last) Sunday at 1PM</p>	<p><b>Orlando Story Club – Emotion Pictures</b> Moving stories about making and experiencing film. All proceeds to support Enzian's mission to entertain, inspire, educate, and connect the community through film. Tues 6:30</p>	<p><b>Wednesday Night Pitcher Show: GREASE 2</b> Garbage Night – FREE on the lawn! Happy hour from 7-11PM. Wed 8PM</p>
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## EAGLE SCOUT | Scout leaders awed by ambitious project

■ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE  
good people out there and worthy projects to be tackled," Baxter said.

Baxter is graced with an uncommon poise and confidence for someone so young — a fact that he credits to something he once dreaded.

When he was in the sixth grade, his parents signed him up for ballroom dancing and etiquette lessons at the Winter Park Woman's Club.

At first, he hated it so much he said that he would fake sick just to get out of going. Five years

later, he has returned as assistant to his former teacher Arlene Wroblicky.

"I am so grateful now that they made me stick with it, because I really gained a lot of confidence there," Baxter said.

"He's at ease with everyone, kids, adults, it doesn't matter. He is just such a gentleman," Wroblicky said. "He doesn't take his work lightly, no matter what he does. I feel privileged to know him."

Despite the ambitious scope of the project, Baxter said he's confident that he will complete it by

his personal deadline, which is the end of this summer.

If all goes well with this project, he would like to see it reach other cities in the future.

"This is just the beginning, it could definitely be expanded," Baxter said.

As for the future, Baxter hopes to attend the University of Florida after high school and someday become a lawyer, following in his grandfather's footsteps.

"I want to do more in life than just a 9-to-5 though; what I really want is to make an impact, to make things better."



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Since 1956, The Gardens at DePugh Nursing Center — a 4-star-rated Skilled Nursing Facility by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services — has served Winter Park with an intimate, extended-family environment that helps each resident achieve the best possible quality of life. Named for founder Mary Lee DePugh, The Gardens originated as a neighborhood mission. Today, the facility continues to build on this legacy of compassionate, quality care, while expanding its reach to meet the needs of all Winter Park citizens.

Situated on a historic 2.5-acre site in beautiful downtown Winter Park, The Gardens is nestled securely between Park Avenue and Winter Park Village. The gated and monitored facility features a Sensory Garden framed by venerable oak trees...a walking path...and a charming gazebo where residents and visitors enjoy the outdoors. Grants from local foundations, which cited The Gardens' extraordinary community-based work, have enhanced the comfort of the facility and updated its medical equipment.

In partnership with Florida Hospital's Family Medicine Residency Program, the facility has become the hospital's main clinical teaching

site for geriatric medical education. Through this integrated program, residents receive regular access to licensed doctors and state-of-the-art treatment.

The Gardens' rehabilitation therapists provide care to patients and residents with complex diagnoses, helping them to overcome conditions that result from illness, disease, disability, injury, surgery or the aging process. Services include physical, occupational and speech/language therapy.

With a staff of registered and licensed nurses and certified nursing assistants, The Gardens provides care to the chronically ill and elderly — assisting those recovering from strokes, heart attacks, orthopedic conditions, and other illnesses and injuries. Services include short-stay, long-term, and Hospice care.

The city is proud to name The Gardens at DePugh Nursing Center one of Winter Park's finest and reward their continued efforts by recognizing them as its 2014 Second Quarter Business Recognition Award recipient.



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## Longer on the market, but selling for more

April 2014

	Sales	Avg List \$	Sale Prices		Days on Mkt	Days to Close
			Average	Median		
32708 Overall	74	\$199,216	\$191,910	\$178,450	46	42
Single Family (A)						
Overall	58	\$220,031	\$212,441	\$204,500	46	42
Bank Owned	11	\$106,241	\$106,719	\$97,000	43	50
Short Sales	5	\$231,300	\$205,200	\$225,000	51	64
Other	42	\$248,491	\$241,230	\$232,000	46	37
Multi Family (B)						
Overall	16	\$123,760	\$117,484	\$98,000	48	41
Bank Owned	6	\$101,683	\$91,517	\$92,000	38	48
Short Sales	1	\$47,650	\$47,650	\$47,650	7	78
Other	9	\$146,802	\$142,555	\$110,500	59	31
32751 Overall	37	\$287,976	\$271,365	\$184,000	127	52
Single Family (A)						
Overall	22	\$402,677	\$379,614	\$266,000	110	55
Bank Owned	3	\$179,933	\$177,833	\$180,000	110	84
Short Sales	2	\$155,000	\$155,000	\$155,000	411	160
Other	17	\$471,124	\$441,647	\$320,000	75	41
Multi Family (B)						
Overall	15	\$119,747	\$112,600	\$96,000	152	47
Bank Owned	3	\$60,900	\$57,917	\$51,000	79	50
Short Sales	3	\$107,333	\$95,667	\$110,000	505	58
Other	9	\$143,500	\$136,472	\$114,000	58	43

	Sales	Avg List \$	Sale Prices		Days on Mkt	Days to Close
			Average	Median		
32755 Overall	85	\$246,740	\$240,676	\$217,000	77	50
Single Family (A)						
Overall	69	\$269,597	\$263,519	\$245,000	79	55
Bank Owned	13	\$207,077	\$204,712	\$205,000	105	49
Short Sales	7	\$253,886	\$238,016	\$184,000	274	155
Other	49	\$288,428	\$282,764	\$276,000	44	43
Multi Family (B)						
Overall	16	\$148,159	\$143,228	\$147,500	67	29
Bank Owned	3	\$126,567	\$124,000	\$150,000	90	28
Short Sales	1	\$139,000	\$139,100	\$139,100	136	77
Other	12	\$154,333	\$148,379	\$156,200	55	25
32789 Overall	48	\$545,611	\$523,977	\$297,000	85	40
Single Family (A)						
Overall	37	\$613,970	\$589,700	\$321,500	94	40
Bank Owned	6	\$160,733	\$159,000	\$135,550	104	41
Short Sales	2	\$397,250	\$402,500	\$402,500	256	89
Other	29	\$722,690	\$691,721	\$400,000	81	36
Multi Family (B)						
Overall	11	\$315,675	\$302,909	\$263,000	55	42
Bank Owned	2	\$236,812	\$225,250	\$225,250	34	24
Short Sales	1	\$54,900	\$56,500	\$56,500	4	124
Other	8	\$367,968	\$353,125	\$275,000	67	36



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# Dream of homeownership alive and well for first-time Millennial home buyers

The numbers are in: Millennials – those age 33 and younger – take the top spot as the largest group of recent homebuyers in the U.S. According to the 2014 National Association of Realtors Home Buyer and Seller Generational Trends study, which evaluates the

Despite having a reputation of not wanting to put down roots, this generation still very much sees homeownership as part of the American Dream. And while millennials want to enter the market, this generation does face some challenges on their path to home-

overcoming these challenges.

But despite the obstacles, young buyers' attitudes about owning a home are not diminished. This generation truly appreciates the long-term benefits and economic security of homeownership – 87 percent polled say they consider their home purchase a good finan-

cial investment. They also understand the issues currently affecting the market, and that they may have to be flexible to make owning their own home a reality.

"Realtors know that younger people often need to make compromises to get into their new home and can help guide buyers

to achieving their goal of owning their own property," says Szerencses. "Desired size and location are usually negotiable when buying a home and most buyers are willing to make financial sacrifices if it means they can make this important investment in their future."

— ORRA



generational differences of recent homebuyers and sellers, millennials comprised 31 percent of recent home purchases.

"Millennials are the largest generation in history after the baby boomers, and since many still aspire to one day invest in their future through homeownership, they drive future housing demand," explains Orlando Regional Realtor Association Chairman Zola Szerencses.

ownership.

Twenty percent of millennials polled said that they would have a hard time saving for a down payment, citing student loan debt as their main financial hurdle. That can limit the options and ability for young people to own, not to mention the challenges of tight credit, limited inventory, rising prices and the possibility of rising interest rates. A Realtor can be a millennial's best source for guidance in

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# Relationships rule when it comes to being a helpful real estate agent

Lately it seems like customer service is dead. Everything is automated, and technology makes new leaps and bounds daily. From cabs to Uber and Blockbuster to Netflix, the robots are winning in a major way. There is indeed always probably an app for that.



**Christina Rordam**  
Keepin' it Real Estate

you need to know about a home without ever having to talk to a salesperson? Certainly this new tech-heavy do-it-yourself way of life hasn't skipped the profession of real estate nor can agents kid themselves that they are the sole source of consumer data anymore. I often hear, "Our old agent didn't even find us the house that we bought" or "We were always sending the homes to our Realtor that we wanted to see." The perception still lingers in many people that as agents we are here solely to find homes and show up to open their doors.

It's tempting to think the same is true when it comes to home buying. Why talk to an agent when you can click a few buttons online and find out everything

With the ever-growing business of third party websites farming out Realtors' listing data to their own portals, it's more and more common that a consumer will in fact find their own



ARCHIVE PHOTO BY TIM FREED — THE OBSERVER

Navigating the hurdles and paperwork behind real estate sales makes agents a valuable resource, even if you find your own home.

future home. And why is that? Many times buyers will begin their house hunt with an idea of what they want and realize that they prefer something altogether different along the way. This evolution of personal preference can occur through trial and error, process of elimination or by

happy accident driving down a street they hadn't traveled before. I embrace the third party websites and the Matrix of technology. Bring on the robots, just make sure they aren't Sentinels! Real estate is a relationship business. It's about trust and service, and you don't trust some-

one you don't know, at least not as well as you would someone with whom you have had a relationship. Raised by two Realtor parents, I saw this principal play out over many years, and now firsthand for the past decade in my own career in real estate.

■ Please see **AGENTS** on next page

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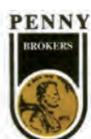


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\$500,000.	\$30,000.	\$17,500.	\$12,500.	\$5,000.	\$25,000.
\$600,000.	\$36,000.	\$21,000.	\$15,000.	\$6,000.	\$30,000.
\$700,000.	\$42,000.	\$24,500.	\$17,500.	\$7,000.	\$35,000.
\$800,000.	\$48,000.	\$28,000.	\$20,000.	\$8,000.	\$40,000.
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# AGENTS | High tech gadgets have already revolutionized real estate, streamlining the homebuying process

■ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Also, it's not just about "finding" the home. That's really the first step in a very involved nuanced process from contract to close. Many, many steps take place after the finding of the home, and that is what makes us valuable as agents. Meeting the appraiser, making sure the inspector shows up, does a thorough job and turns in his report on time. Juggling the communications between the title company, sellers and contractors as well as keeping things on schedule. We anticipate and know how to deal with situations that even purchasers of several homes may have never been through, and these are just a few of the relationship based activities real estate agents carry out daily for their clients.

Recently I represented a buyer from out of state. It was their first purchase and they diligently did their research online using third party websites prior to asking me to place an offer on a home. Their offer was flatly rejected as I had advised them it would be prior to presenting it. It was simply too low. The buyers were purchasing a home that was a traditional sale and what they had seen online were mostly distressed homes in far worse condition. Several recent traditional sales within the same neighborhood had not yet appeared on the third party websites so they could not factor those into their offer equation. The multiple listing service, which myself and all agents use exclusively, had all of those details the same day of those closings. I was able to determine the market value of a traditional, well-kept home in that neighborhood for them in less than five minutes. Although they went ahead with their initial offer a few days afterward, they presented a new offer more in line with local property values on a similar home in the area. A month later they were able to close on their home, and I negotiated a contract price \$15,000 under the appraised value as well as got a portion of their closing costs covered. Nothing better than having instant equity in your home.

The real estate relationship connection extends further. As a home seller, the relationships an agent has with the community and past buyers may easily net a seller a higher sales price and faster. For the past year or so many markets including the Orlando and greater Central Florida area have been experiencing a shortage of inventory. Agents may pre-market homes prior to them being placed in the

MLS through blogs, networking, signage and email blasts to other agents and people they know. In some cases creating an interest list can capture the right buyer for a home immediately, saving the sellers the hassle of prepping for repeat showings, open houses and other potential inconveniences. Veteran agents

also know each other well. So, an agent's reputation for representing serious well qualified buyers is likely known by other agents in his or her area, which in turn may weigh in their buyers favor when it comes to a multiple offer situation as is common now.

In terms of technology we are only seeing the tip of the iceberg,

and that's a good thing. Gadgets and technology that seem simple now – such as smart phones, electronic signage services such as Docusign and tablets – have already revolutionized real estate in a huge way. I can only imagine how much more we as agents can accomplish as we continue to embrace tech and automa-

tion. The future I envision is one where technology enables agents and consumers to be more effective and successful together, and still one where relationships rule.

Christina Rordam is a local Realtor. Contact her at 407-928-8294 or [ChristinaSellsOrlando.com](http://ChristinaSellsOrlando.com)



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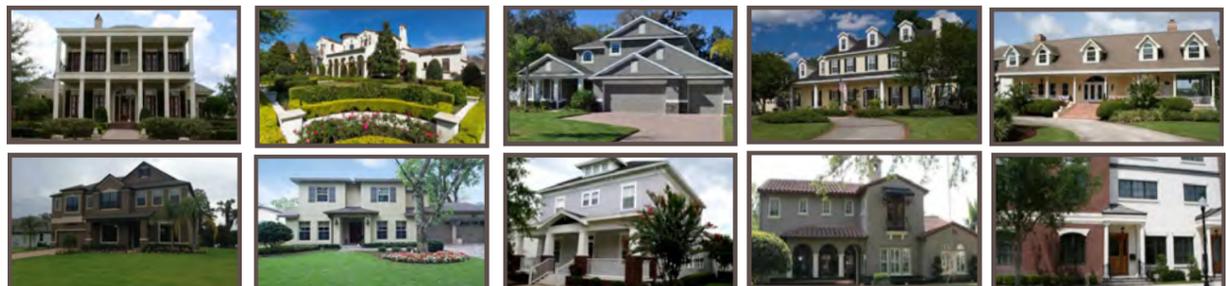
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# Men and women sometimes planets apart with home wish lists

Twenty-six years ago John Gray wrote a book titled "Men Are from Mars, Women are from Venus" that noted, among other things, how men and women see things differently. This was reflected in a 2014 National Association of Realtors realtor.com survey that found men and women homebuyers — 66 percent of whom were married couples in 2013 — don't always agree on what they like most about a home.

While not always on the same planet with their wish lists, their likes were in the same solar system. For example, while percentages often varied, both



their wish lists noted a desire for outdoor living spaces (women 54 percent and men 46 percent),

the importance of a home's curb appeal (men 35 percent and women 29 percent), and a fondness for open floor plans (women 42 percent and men only 30 percent). However, it wasn't surprising that 40 percent of men wanted a garage, a like that didn't appear on the women's list, while 29 percent of women wanted a home with updated appliances, a feature that didn't show up on the men's list.

One of the more revealing statistics in the NAR realtor.com survey was that 69 percent of all buyers liked a home so much that they were drawn back to looking at it more than once online or in person. Let's face it: Real estate is, and always has been, a highly emotional experience. But falling in love with a home can have a problematic side. The NAR realtor.com survey showed 41 percent of women and 30 percent of men had a "crush" on homes outside their price range.

Strong emotional ties to a home can often blur a buyer's judgment and practicality and quash the chances of being able to walk away easily at any time. While there was no evidence in the NAR realtor.com survey that showed buyers paid more for a home, history shows us that there are always cases where buyers stretch a bit beyond their comfort zone when push comes to shove in order to land their dream home.

To help keep buyers grounded, it is important for them to work with a skilled real estate agent or broker. A good agent is your emotional firewall. He or she helps keep you on track so that you adhere to your original objectives and budget goals. A good agent also negotiates on your behalf and creates a comfortable distance between you, the home and the numbers.

According to a 2014 Gallup poll, a growing number of Americans (30 percent up from 25 percent a year ago) see real estate as the top long-term investment. Differences aside, men and women agree that when it comes to security, controlling your own destiny, and anchoring your family to a certain lifestyle, housing is and always will be the best investment. This is especially true in a weather-friendly market like Central Florida where a broad range of buyers from singles and young families to business professionals and retirees find the living very appealing.

Scott Hillman is president of Fannie Hillman + Associates, a 33-year-old Winter Park-based real estate company specializing in residential real estate. Visit fanniehillman.com or call 407-644-1234 for more information.

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**Josh Garrick**  
**Culture for your calendar**

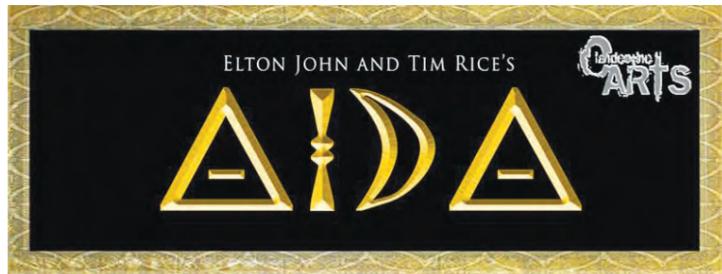
on Broadway. Now Director Derek Critzer is creating a new production about the enslaved princess to be presented at The Venue at 511 Virginia Drive in Orlando from June 13 to 29. Featuring LaDawn Taylor and Tony Flaherty, this is a special

**Tonight – June 12 – Sip, Shop & Stroll on Park Avenue**

Experience the charm of Winter Park's Park Avenue at the Sip, Shop & Stroll, where you spend the evening exploring Park Avenue's shops and restaurants. Discover new shops,

Summertime  
Sip, Shop & Stroll

Thursday, June 12  
5 - 8 p.m. | Park Avenue



check out the fashions, gift ideas and menu items as you enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres along the way from 5 to 8 p.m. Check-in at the corner of Park Avenue and Morse Boulevard on June 12 beginning at 5 p.m. Attendees receive a wine glass and passport at check-in. Call 407-644-8281 or email aringler@winterpark.org

**June 13 – Good Morning Winter Park**

Good Morning Winter Park is the popular monthly breakfast gathering where Winter Park residents and community leaders interact for insights on timely topics and networking. Free and open to the public, the meeting on June 13 will begin at 7:45 a.m. with a complimentary continental breakfast. At 8:15 a.m. Orange County Florida Property Appraiser Rick Singh will speak to the group on "The State of Orange County's Real Estate: What is to Come in 2014" at the Winter Park Welcome Center at 151 W. Lyman Ave. in Winter Park. Call 407-644-8281 or visit winterpark.org

**June 13, 14 and 15 – Tim Mooney's 'Shakespeare's Histories'**

Following sell-out performances at Orlando Fringe, Tim Mooney presents all 10 of Shakespeare's histories in one epic, one-man performance, capturing the history of England from 1066 to 1533 in just one hour. Including the most brilliant speeches of Shakespeare's plays, "Shakespeare's Histories" reveals the genius of Shakespeare's historical vision. "Histories" will be performed at Breakthrough Theatre on June 13 and 14 at 7 p.m., and June 15 at 3 p.m. Breakthrough Theatre is at 419A W. Fairbanks Ave. in Winter Park. Call 407-920-4034 for reservations.

opportunity to see a Broadway musical with extraordinary local talent. Tickets are available at clandestineorlando.com (including an Industry Night Special on June 16.)

**June 13 and 21 – 'Grease' Sing-A-Long**

But, oh-oh-oh-oh ... those summer nights. Those crazy time-travelers at The Abbey invite us to embrace our inner T-Bird or Pink Lady at



the phenomenon that is the "Grease" Sing-A-Long. Part "Rocky Horror Picture Show" (costumes encouraged and interactive goodie-bags provided) – and part mob karaoke, this promises to be a watch, rinse and repeat sing-along. The only rule – apart from the fact that it

■ Please see CULTURE on page 14

**June 13 to 29 – Elton John's 'AIDA'**

Following the story line of Verdi's famous opera, Elton John and Tim Rice took the timeless love story from Egypt and created a rock musical that won both Tony and Grammy awards

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June 23rd - Special Bingo  
June 30th - Casino

### CRAFTS & CONVERSATION

Friday, 13th & 20th 1:30pm-2pm  
By VITAS Innovative Hospice Care.  
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### CHAIR PILATES

Friday, June 13th & 20th 1:30pm-2pm  
By VITAS Innovative Hospice Care.  
RSVP 407.599.2522

### EDUCATIONAL

#### MEET THE AUTHOR - TRANSITIONS

Wednesday, June 18th 3pm-5pm  
By VITAS Innovative Hospice Care.  
RSVP 407.599.2522

#### CAN YOU HELP PEOPLE YOU KNOW WHO HAVE HOARDING ISSUES?

Thursday, June 19th 10am-11am  
By Creating Diving Order. RSVP  
407.949.6733

### HEALTH RELATED

#### COLON CANCER BY DR. SHEELA

Wednesday, June 18th 11am-12pm  
By Family Physicians Group. RSVP  
321.948.5236

#### ARE YOUR HEARING AIDS IN THE DRAWER?

Wednesday, June 18th 3pm-4:30pm  
By Harmony Hearing.  
RSVP 407.949.6737

#### FREE "I QUIT" PROGRAM: TOOLS TO QUIT SMOKING

Thursday, June 19th 10am-12pm  
By AHEC of Central Florida. Must  
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### INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE

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Monday, June 16th, 23rd & 30th  
10am-1pm By Exit Real Estate Results.  
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#### UNITED HEALTHCARE - MEDICARE/MEDICAID SPECIAL NEEDS PLAN

Tuesday, June 24th 2pm-3:30pm  
By LTC Advisors. RSVP 407.949.6722

### LEGAL & FINANCIAL

#### SENIOR SURVIVAL WORKSHOP

Tuesday, June 17th 2pm-4pm  
By Kathleen Flammia, P.A. RSVP  
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See our full Calendar  
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## CULTURE | Want to see the best in dance? They're at the All Stars of Dance Gala

■ CONTINUED FROM NEXT PAGE

begins around 9 p.m. - is "there are no freakin' rules," so break out those leather jackets, poodle skirts, and sing-a-long. Call 407-704-6103.

### June 14 - Central Florida Sounds of Freedom Band and Color Guard

With the goal to "unite, serve and educate through music, entertainment and the arts," the Central Florida Sounds of Freedom Band and Color Guard will present its summer concert - ¡Celebración! The Music of Spain and Latin America - on

June 14 at 3 p.m. at the Shakespeare Center in Loch Haven Park. The diverse program includes orchestral works, dance performances by the Color Guard and guest Flamenco artists Alborea Dances, and the Orlando Gay Chorus. Admission is free, with a \$10 suggested donation accepted. Visit [central-floridasoundsoffreedom.com](http://central-floridasoundsoffreedom.com)

### June 14 - The All Stars of Dance Gala

The World Ballet Competition - founded here in Central Florida - is held in Orlando each June, bringing together an



ALL STARS OF DANCE

impressive array of international talent, all of which comes together on June 14 at 7:30 p.m. for a not-to-be-missed All Stars of

Dance Gala. Held at the Bob Carr PAC, the audience is treated to brilliant performances from visiting dance stars who share the spotlight with medal-winners from the week-long competition. The event comes highly recommended. For

tickets, call 407-849-4669 or visit [worldballetcompetition.com](http://worldballetcompetition.com)

# The Winter Park playhouse

## SHOUT! The Mod Musical

### June 19 - July 19, 2014

**Set in 1960's London, this high energy musical features an irresistible collection of music including "Downtown," "Son of a Preacher Man," "Boots are Made for Walking" and more!**

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CHRISTINE MACPHAIL

### June 15 - Harp music at the Casa

With the beautiful backdrop of the Casa Feliz Historic Home Museum, harpist Christine MacPhail will present a concert on June 15 beginning at noon. A professional harpist for more than 20 years, Christine has provided the special music of the harp for thousands of events from weddings to corporate parties at Disney. Performing every style of music, Christine performs works by artists as varied as Bruno Mars to Frank Sinatra, mixed with classical selections by Mozart and Beethoven. Casa Feliz is at 656 N. Park Ave. in Winter Park. Call 407-628-8200 or visit [casafeliz.us](http://casafeliz.us)



ART IS DEAD

### June 16 to July 19 - 'Art is Dead' exhibit by Parker Sketch

Recent works by artist Parker Sketch will be at The Peacock Room with an opening on June 16 beginning at 8 p.m. Running through July 19, the exhibit is titled "Art is Dead," referencing the idea that everything (in art) has been done. Drawing heavily on pop art, Dada, and "action painting," Parker also references expressionism and minimalism. The result is a playful look at art history with traditional painting, found objects, collage, and spray paint represented. Visit [thepeacockroom.com](http://thepeacockroom.com) or [parkersketch.com](http://parkersketch.com) or call 407-228-0048.

### June 18 - Recital by lyric soprano Lindsay Renee Cash

We are invited to savor songs of the Romantic era by lyric soprano Lindsay Renee Cash at the University Club of Winter Park's Classical Music meeting on June 18 at 1 p.m. The recital will include songs in six languages by composers Debussy, Rimsky-Korsakov, Britten and more. Ms. Cash has performed with

■ Please see CULTURE on next page

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# CULTURE | It's an Orlando Shakes twist on this classic story from the Brothers Grimm in 'Rapunzel'

■ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE  
the Orlando Opera, Orlando Philharmonic, the Bach Festival, and Rollins College orchestras. This free concert experience will be accompanied by refreshments. Call 407-629-2125 or visit [uclubwp.org](http://uclubwp.org)



LINDSAY RENEE CASH



'SHOUT! THE MOD MUSICAL'

## June 19 to July 27 – 'Rapunzel' at Orlando Shakespeare

In a playful adaptation by Brandon Roberts from the story by the Brothers Grimm, Orlando Shakespeare offers up a summertime tale for the whole family. Shut away in a lonely tower, Rapunzel grows, and so does her hair! Will Rapunzel escape the clutches of her evil captor? Find out in this very contemporary adaptation with an Orlando Shakes twist! Arrive early and Shake Out The Sillies as members of the cast offer pre-show fun for the whole family. Call 407-447-1700 or visit [orlandoshakes.org](http://orlandoshakes.org)



'RAPUNZEL'



tours to hands-on art-making to scavenger hunts and games, the programs are designed for ages 6 and older, but all ages are welcome. The first CFAMILY Day is Friday, June 20, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the museum. The event is free and no RSVPs are necessary. Call 407-646-2526 or visit [cfam.rollins.edu](http://cfam.rollins.edu)

work reflects the dynamic – and challenging – nature of art today. Admission is \$5. Call 407-896-4231 or visit [omart.org](http://omart.org)

## June 20 to July 19 – Back by popular demand – 'SHOUT! The Mod Musical'

In one of the funniest and wildly enjoyable musicals ever presented at the Winter Park Playhouse, "SHOUT! The Mod Musical" returns to the Playhouse from June 20 to July 19. The hit musical tells the story of five women coming of age in 1960s London and features an incredible collection of '60s classics by Petula Clark, Dusty Springfield, LuLu and more. The production features a powerhouse cast of Playhouse professionals, and is highly recommended. Call 407-645-0145 or visit [winterparkplayhouse.org](http://winterparkplayhouse.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](mailto:joshgarrick9@gmail.com) or 407-522-3906.



CFAMILY DAY

## June 20 – CFAMILY Day at the Cornell

The Cornell Fine Arts Museum at Rollins College invites Central Florida families to a free event filled with fun and educational activities. From gallery

## June 20 to Sept. 7 – OMART offers the Florida Prize in Contemporary Art

The Orlando Museum of Art will offer a preview of the exhibit "Orlando Museum of Art Florida Prize in Contemporary Art" in a reception June 20 beginning at 7 p.m.

The exhibit presents 10 artists working in diverse mediums, often combining materials – creating work from reclaimed materials along with imagery from historic and/or popular culture. The diversity of the

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# Opinions



**Chris  
Jepson**

**Perspectives**

## The war on women

*"You can't have a war on terrorism because that's not an actual enemy, it's an abstract. It's like having a war on dandruff. That war would be eternal and pointless. It's idiotic."*

— Gore Vidal

A high school classmate of mine posted the above quote on Facebook and one of her male "friends" suggested that if that is the case, then there could be no War on Women. I responded by asking him, "In what respect?" As, in what respect has there not been a war on women?

The question becomes acrimonious because the "actual enemy" has been, historically speaking, men (and unfortunately, the sad, complicit women who go along to survive). The War on Women has been characterized as a Republican War on Women, what with GOP efforts to manage and control a woman's body (see: female reproductive rights).

The Republican Party's exertions to control a woman's sexuality fits into an historical continuum of female repression. To argue otherwise displays a woeful misunderstanding (or no understanding) of history.

Even the most cursory exposure to world history depicts the relentless marginalization of women. The earliest legal codes unequivocally relegate women to a second-class status (see for example: the legal code from the reign of Urukagina in Mesopotamia or the Code of Hammurabi). That we speak glowingly today of the exceptional — exceedingly rare — powerful women of history (see: Eleanor of Aquitaine, Aspasia, Hypatia, Queen Elizabeth and Catherine the Great) only illustrates that timeless axiom of "the exception proving the rule."

Why has this been the female experience? And, was it always so? Is it feminist fiction that once-upon-a-time, long ago, women led matriarchal societies? We have scant historical evidence that that was ever the human condition. Regard-

less, we do have "some" examples of cultures of equality (see: Cherokee Native Americans as well as the 6th century B.C. status of women of the Etruscan civilization). And is it irony that the women of Ancient Egypt had a higher status than their counterparts today?

Without a historical doubt women have been considered property, chattel if you will, of/by men. This is undeniable. Why? Why would men have ever deigned to so treat or consider women? How and why would it become a cultural custom to marginalize women? Religion tragically has been a bulwark of male autarchy (look no further today than the male-dominated religions that still have no room for women in management). Is it funny or idiotic (or both) that our expulsion from paradise is cast as a woman's fault?

Twenty-first century American women have made great strides in securing equality. It has been a relentless slog. Nothing given. Consider this fact: post-Civil War America gave the right to vote to former slave men — Slaves! — before we "gave" the right to vote to our already "free" daughters, wives and mothers. That is how low on the totem pole women in America were considered. And that is not so long ago.

It has been suggested that men, historically, have wanted to control access to women in order to control their sexuality, their fertility, to ensure that the worst thing that could ever befall a man — cuckoldry — doesn't. I've laughingly suggested for years, "No man knows for sure." Few see the humor.

Has there been a war on women? Examine our history, nay, simply look around the world today and truthfully answer. Cartoonist Walt Kelly once famously observed, "We have met the enemy and he is us." Literally.

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@MEDIAmerica.US](mailto:Jepson@MEDIAmerica.US)



**Louis  
Roney**

**Play On!**

## Slices of time

- In my errant teenage hitchhiking days in the '30s, I saw many Civilian Conservation Corps camps in the woods of the far west. At that time unemployment was rampant, but our national debt was not yet "out of sight." The CCC camps put men to work cleaning our forests and lowering the risks of forest fires. They built roads and many lovely parks where travelers could stop and picnic on redwood tables and benches. Now our august president gets the brilliant idea that he can copy Roosevelt by attacking today's unemployment by using a 1930's method. Today we have towering national debt, and the solution is not to put the unemployed on the national payroll dole to lower their number and make things appear as though we have stumbled upon a solution for unemployment. An invented job working for the government is not a genuine job — not the kind of job we need for those out-of-work. It is simply sleight-of-hand that produces, at best, a cosmetic illusion.

- In the '30s Hope Strong and I, along with other members of our Scout Troop, would canoe with our leader Fleet Peoples down the Wekiva River and camp out overnight on Shell Island. This was Florida jungle as wild and untamed as it was when Ponce de Leon landed in Florida. Alligators, bobcats, all the different poisonous snakes, and the devilish insects abounded, and we human beings were invaders taking a big risk just for the hell of it! That none of us were ever badly injured was a miracle of sorts, a miracle that kept us coming back to tempt fate. Paddling back up the river against the 2 to 3 mph stream to Wekiwa Springs was a laborious task. We were boys then. We were crazy. What else is new?

- If you are not a basketball fan, and I am not, the Super Bowl is the end of big sports until baseball gets well underway. My b.w. and I have learned to enjoy watching golf, and I marvel at the camera work able to bring a big golf course right into our home office. I also remember when I was a little kid visiting my grand-

mother in Atlanta, where Bobby Jones lived right up the street. As an amateur, Bobby won everything there was in sight, both amateur and professional, and he never turned "pro." He was the Babe Ruth of golf and has never been equaled.

- Tell me if I'm right about our president being bonkers — or at least stupid. He often seems to be courting those with Moslem overtones. How did we elect this guy? More to the point, how do we get rid of him? The five most dangerous prisoners at Guantanamo have been released and are now free to do their mischief among us all over again, thanks to Obama.

In return, we get one American prisoner, whom the president's people referred to as a "hero" — but could actually be a "bad apple" who walked out on the U.S. How many men did America lose in order to capture the five terrorists? Now that they are free, how many more of us will they kill when they reenter terrorist pursuits? Our president's machinations are becoming a danger to our national security. I sometimes wonder what George Washington or Thomas Jefferson — even Dwight Eisenhower — would think of the logic that that our present leaders are dispensing as "justice." Obama, who claims to be a protector of women, has done nothing for a female prisoner languishing in a jail in the Sudan with her two American children, a 20-month-old boy and a week-old baby girl. She is sentenced to be given 100 lashes before being hanged. Her crime: converting to Christianity and marrying a Christian. She is a doctor by the way.

And then there is the story of a real hero Marine still being held in a Mexican jail after crossing the border unwittingly. What would happen if we stopped tourism to Mexico until he is released, and, as well, the dollars that Mexico receives from us in trade?

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

# EDITORIAL CARTOONS

