Oviedo on the Park lifts hopes

SARAH WILSON
The Voice

As plans for an expansive town center development take shape around them, businesses in the plaza near Oviedo on the Park are preparing for what they hope is an increase in foot traffic.

The plaza at the intersection of Mitchell Hammock Road and State Road 434, just west of the planned Oviedo on the Park, has five empty storefronts. Business owners say they hope that number will decrease as excitement builds for the 61-acre, estimated $200 million project.

Winter Park-based developer PAC Land Development is scheduled to start construction on 250 residential units during the first quarter of 2013. The project also

Police issue written warning, business says it will comply

SARAH WILSON
The Voice

The classic rock reverberating through the walls and double-paned windows of Mike McDonald’s house isn’t his. But he says the live bands performing at Kee Wee Entertainment District sound as clear as if they were right next door.

Melissa Wells says she too in the past couple months has been kept up many a Friday or Saturday night from the pounding bass from music coming from Kee Wee down the street from her Winter Springs home.

The two are among what was a growing petition of Winter Springs residents having complained both to the Winter Springs Police Department and the Winter Springs City Commission about the noise since July.

“I can’t enjoy my weekends at home anymore,” resident Terri Lilly said addressing the Commission. “...[The noise] is in the air, it’s just permeating the whole air.”

Captain Chris Deisler said the police department has received 22 calls to the business from July 21 to Sept. 9. He said Kee Wee was issued one written warning, on Aug. 31, but that distinguishing whether or not the business is breaking the city noise ordinance is difficult, with the police not having the appropriate device to monitor the sound frequency. The lower the frequency, the more the sound can rattle and vibrate windows and walls.

The night of Friday, Aug. 31, Deisler said the police department went out to Kee Wee and the neighborhoods where residents were complaining to measure the frequency with a device borrowed from a specialist with the U.S. Navy. At press time, those results were still pending.

Mayor Charles Lacey, who accompanied the police on the last visit, said he would be “amazed if the noise doesn’t stop.”

Oviedo funds give simulation company a boost

TOM FREED
The Voice

The desert sands of Afghanistan swirl around a U.S. Army combat medic, the air filled with the smell of burnt rubber and the sound of gunfire. Separated from his unit in the battlefield, the medic stumbles upon an overturned Humvee.

U.S. Army combat medic, the air filled with the smell of burnt rubber and the sound of gunfire.

Separated from his unit in the battlefield, the medic stumbles upon an overturned Humvee.

Smoke billows out of the side of the vehicle with a soldier trapped inside. The medic sprouts over to the wreck, wrenches the door open and pulls the unconscious soldier out, carrying him away to a safe distance.

Blood on the soldier’s uniform also reveals a severe leg wound, so he quickly wraps a tourniquet securely around the area to stop the bleeding.

A soldier’s final thank you touches Oviedo volunteer who helped him

The Voice

What’s goin’ on?

The charity Butts, Beans, Colelawe and Pie Cook-Off is from 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at Jolly Gator Fish Camp in Geneva. Call 407-802-3693 to enter the competition.

Calendar

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Opening this week: ‘FINDING NEMO 3D’

When a clown fish’s son is captured by a diver, he swims across the ocean in search of him.

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Three candidates qualify for Winter Springs Commission Seat 3; in Oviedo, races begin for Seat 3 and Seat 4

Avery Smith (incumbent), Pam Carroll, Phil Kaprow
OVIEDO
Seat 3 – Stephen Schenck (incumbent), Karen S. Heriot
Seat 4 – Cindy Drago (incumbent), Bob Pollack

Amid campaign calling, walking door-to-door, and getting word out about their candidacy, all the candidates will be hosting events around their respective cities leading up until the election Nov. 6. For up-to-date information on each city’s elections, visit cityofoviedo.net and winterspringsfl.org

Qualifying candidates for contested Winter Springs and Oviedo city seats on the ballot Nov. 6:

WINTER SPRINGS
Seat 3 – Avery Smith (incumbent), Pam Carroll, Phil Kaprow
OVIEDO
Seat 3 – Stephen Schenck (incumbent), Karen S. Heriot
Seat 4 – Cindy Drago (incumbent), Bob Pollack

Running against her are local attorney Phil Kaprow and longtime city volunteer Pam Carroll. Carolan says she looks forward to trying to take her knowledge of Winter Springs as a 20-year resident and as a multi-faceted city volunteer to the next level in her campaign for the Commission.

“I’m running to make a difference from a different perspective,” said Carroll, former five-year president of the Tuscawilla Homeowners Association.

With the strike of 12:01 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 31, qualifying for city election seats closed and the campaign season for Oviedo City Council and Winter Springs City Commission seats officially began.

Driving through Oviedo, signs for incumbents Cindy Drago and Stephen Schenck have already started popping up in yards from previous election cycles.

“My campaign started at 12:05 p.m.,” Schenck said. “As soon as I heard I had an opponent I went out and put my sign back up in my yard.”

Running against the five-year incumbent for his Oviedo City Council Seat is Karen S. Heriot, a social studies teacher at Sanford Middle. Heriot said she’s running to help increase transparency and open up discussions in Oviedo politics.

Having watched the city’s government functions, the state legislative process and discussions in Oviedo politics, she said she’d bring a fresh new perspective to the City Council.

“I think I would bring a larger perspective, a broader perspective,” she said. She hopes that as a Council member she could encourage that more city business be done in the open, rather than by consent agenda meetings.

Schenck said up until the last few days of qualifying, he was anticipating going into the election unopposed, but is confident his track record on Council will help him as his campaign moves forward.

“We’re trying to do the right things to make us attractive and keep us attractive as a city for residents and businesses… I want to keep that going,” Schenck said.

Councilwoman Drago in Seat 4 is also gearing up to run for a second term against Oviedo-Winter Springs Regional Chamber of Commerce board member Bob Pollack, whom she beat for the seat two years ago.

In Winter Springs three campaigns for Seat 3 started anew. Present Commissioner Avery Smith, who was appointed to the seat following Commissioner Gary Bonner’s resignation in June, announced she’d seek a full four-year term just days before qualifying closed.

“I want to keep Winter Springs running the course… It’s strong and it’s growing, it’s a vibrant community, but we need to do more,” Smith said.

She said in her term thus far she’s been able to show residents what she adds to the Commission, and how she works as a decision maker and problem solver.

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OVIEDO
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“I’m running to make a difference from a different perspective,” said Carroll, former five-year president of the Tuscawilla Homeowners Association.
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— Dr. Marc Ott D.C., Clinic Director
Dr. Bret Scheuplein D.C., Clinic Director
Dr. Jeffry Rocker D.O., Medical Director

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WHAT ARE PATIENTS SAYING?

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— Marlys A.

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PHOTO BY SARAH WILSON — THE VOICE

There are a string of empty storefronts in the LA Fitness-anchored plaza near where Oviedo on the Park is scheduled to start rising early next year. TJ’s Seafood is thriving there.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

includes 85,000 square feet of commercial, office, restaurant and entertainment space, including an amphitheater. Oviedo Mayor Dominic Persampiere says the project should boost occupancy of business not only in this plaza, which is anchored by LA Fitness and Outback Steakhouse with local favorite TJ’s Seafood Shack in the middle, but in what will be Oviedo’s new downtown center.

“Rising tides raise all ships,” he said, adding that the mix of park and recreational space with retail and commercial properties — starting with the currently under-construction Panera Bread on Mitchell Hammock Road — mean the start of good things for Oviedo commerce.

There’s an optimistic but anxious mood among business owners in the plaza as they await increased foot traffic that they expect to result from the project.

Newcomer David Coker, owner of Beefit Nutrition in the plaza, said most of his business comes from those visiting LA Fitness, and more stores can only mean more people walking by and stopping in.

“It should be a good thing for the plaza as long as it brings in more business,” he said.

Crystal Lackey, owner of Esbi Int’l Salon, also hopes that the addition of Oviedo on the Park will increase commerce in the downtown area and raise awareness of the businesses currently operating in the plaza.

She said she chose this location seven years ago because of the plans for the downtown next door, only to have the downtown put on hold during the recession and then further postponed after the suicide of Broad Street Partners developer Steve Walsh in 2008.

She said she’s happy to see the project finally coming together.

“I think it will bring a lot of growth to the area and to the city,” she said.

TJ’s branching out

Since opening in the plaza four years ago, Tim Shepardson, owner of TJ’s Seafood Shack, says his business has been booming. And he hopes that will continue as Oviedo on the Park takes shape.

“I think it’s going to be great for all of the businesses here,” he said.

“I think it’ll keep more people inside of Oviedo instead of going out of the city to get the things they want,” his sister and co-owner Mary Strickland said.

TJ’s itself is also looking to grow, Shepardson said. He’s currently searching for the perfect spot to open a second location in the Orlando area. Winter Park or Maitland, he said, are both on TJ’s radar.

But getting bigger doesn’t mean forgetting where the restaurant came from, he said, as Oviedo will always be TJ’s hometown as they continue to grow their offerings of fresh, fairly priced seafood in their current space.

“We’re not leaving Oviedo, heck no!” he said. “This is our roots.”
DESIGN | Simulation industry booming around Central Florida

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

bleeding. The soldier is safe and the mission is complete. The training session is over.

The V-Extract is a U.S. Army Humvee replica designed by the Oviedo-based modeling and simulation company Design Interactive Inc. It helps train medics on rescuing soldiers from rolled-over vehicles.

Design Interactive is getting some help of its own. In the coming months the firm will hire 12 new simulation and software employees thanks to the city of Oviedo’s Jobs Growth Incentive program and the state of Florida’s Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund program. Those opportunities could result in an overall assistance package valued at $84,000.

Kay Stanney, president and founder of Design Interactive, said these new positions are integrals in moving her company forward.

“We’re starting to get work now much more quickly because of our past performance, and we couldn’t accomplish it without these new positions,” Stanney said. “The growth is contingent on bringing in those new people because we’re beyond capacity now in terms of the amount of work and number of people. It’s absolutely critical to our growth that they come in to help us.”

Design Interactive is the first company to take advantage of the Jobs Growth Incentive program. It reached out to Oviedo roughly a month ago to begin the application process.

The program, which went into effect in the city about six months ago, requires Design Interactive to maintain 12 new positions for at least two years with annual wages of 200 percent of the average county wage. The Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund program requires the same wage criteria.

Founded in 1998, Design Interactive has grown 50 percent in the past nine months and is now up to 35 employees. In addition to the V-Extract, other pieces of Design Interactive technology include Sensedit suits, which are often placed on mannequins and able to measure their lifesaving performance based on pressure of tourniquets and other tools. Screen-ADAPT is a system that enhances the training of airport employees who view X-ray carry-on baggage by measuring eye tracking, electrical signals along the scalp, heart rate and behavioral responses.

Not only will the programs help Design Interactive and their research, but the local economy as well. According to the city of Oviedo, the estimated impact from the 12 new positions created will be an additional $1.4 million into the Oviedo and Seminole County economies.

Seminole County Commissioner Bob Dallari highlighted the modeling and simulation industry in Central Florida and the importance of helping companies such as Design Interactive.

“When it comes to simulation and training in Central Florida, it is a $500 billion industry; it is constantly growing,” Dallari said. “This has a lot of potential and is something that helps us in the diversity of our economy.”

Oviedo Mayor Dominic Persampiere said that these programs are just a couple of the many incentives that Oviedo has for growing business.

“The city of Oviedo has an array of economic incentives that are available to businesses that want to grow,” Persampiere said. “We’ve specifically targeted the medical, scientific, modeling and other clean industries. It is a goal of the City Council to provide these types of incentives to companies who want to relocate to the city of Oviedo, want to do business in the city of Oviedo and want to provide higher paying jobs.”

With paperwork for the Jobs Growth Incentive Program still being filled out and approval pending at the state level for the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund program, Design Interactive is expecting to receive the beginning of their assistance package within a few weeks. They have already hired four new employees.

“It definitely is having a critical impact for us at a critical time. The growth right now that we are experiencing, we haven’t experienced at this rate before,” Stanney said. “It really helps to ease the way for this growth and the timing couldn’t be better.”

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DIGITAL MAMMOGRAMS FOR PINK OCTOBER

Pink October is a time to spread breast cancer awareness. Each year, Orlando Health celebrates by encouraging women to get their annual mammograms. Get yours at the South Seminole Hospital Women’s Imaging Center, which offers digital mammograms in a convenient and caring setting.

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Art goes for a walk

Art lovers and wine lovers converged around downtown Sanford on Aug. 24 for the Sanford Art Walk, which takes visitors on a casual stroll through art stores.

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Together in tragedy

Oviedo church group helps military families through times of grief and supports soldiers

SARAH WILSON
The Voice

In an overfilled three-inch binder in her office, Liz Whitley keeps all the thank you letters she’s received in the past five years. Some are short and sweet, others lengthy and emotional. And nearly all have traveled halfway across the globe to get there.

The letters are written out of bunkers and bases from soldiers, often deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and make their way to the box of First United Methodist Church of Oviedo where Whitley reads and files each one.

Since she started the Military Support Group as outreach for the church in 2007, Whitley estimates she’s been in touch with more than a thousand soldiers from Florida.

To learn more about the First United Methodist Church Military Support Group, visit fumco.net/832687. The group meets the second Sunday of every month in the church at 263 King St., in the fellowship hall.

This Week in human history

Sept. 17, 1965

Four adventurous Englishmen arrive at a motor show in Germany after crossing the English Channel by Amphicar, the world’s only mass-produced amphibious passenger car. On land, the cars used a four-speed-plus-reverse manual transmission. In the water, they used a transfer case that had two speeds: forward and backward.

The Voice

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TO SUPPORT ALL 362 SOLDIERS OF “FLORIDA’S FALLEN” LOST IN THE WARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, JIM VANDERBLEEK, OF ST. PETERSBURG, HAS CREATED A TRAVELING MEMORIAL OF PERSONALIZED WHITE CROSSES – ONE FOR EACH SOLDIER – TO DISPLAY AT EVENTS HONORING MILITARY HEROES. THE TRIBUTE, HE SAID, IS TO MAKE SURE EACH SOLDIER KILLED IS NOT FORGOTTEN.

At the First United Methodist Church of Oviedo’s September meeting, Vanderbleek presented crosses for Capt. Bruce MacFarlane of Oviedo and Spc. Brenden Salazar of Chuluota. Both passed away this year.

“I wanted to build something to give thanks for those who’ve served… my only motive here is to say thanks to their families and offer a way to remember their soldiers,” he said.

The First United Methodist Church of Oviedo hopes to display the tribute on its lawn next Memorial Day. For more information, visit valorathleticsinc.com/store/Links-up-3.html

FEATUREING

- The 4 Freshmen
- Ira Sullivan
- The Orlando Jazz Orchestra**
- John DePaola & Dave McKenzie’s Tribute to Nat & Cannonball Adderley
- Kid Dutch™
- Valerie Gillespie Ensemble
- Jacqueline Jones
- Linda Cole
  w/ Ron Teixeira & Stan Saloko
- Sybil Gage & Her CatahoulaS
- Thom Chambers Trio
- Brad Sayre
- Joe Young Trio
- Goodtimes Dixieland Band
- Ted Conner & Ron Gigliotti
- Matt McCarthy Band
- Kayonne Riley
  & The Downtown Trio
- Johnny Mag Sax
- Jazzmin
- Jim Bryer

19 Venues, 17 are Free Admission
**Ticketed Event
Oviedo park offers a safe place to skate

TIM FREED
The Voice

Evan Meyer approaches the top of the skateboard ramp as his eyes squint in concentration. His feet firmly planted on the grip tape of his Tony Hawk Huckjam skateboard, Meyer braces himself, leans forward and rolls down the two-foot slope.

The 10-year-old skater from Oviedo has been skating for five months, but he’s finally getting his first lesson at the city of Oviedo’s skate park at 1608 Lockwood Blvd.

Rippin’ Riverside Skate Park, part of Riverside Park, provides a safe place for kids to skate, offering lessons and competitions.

The park’s 30,000 square feet of concrete slopes include benches, stairs to jump, rails, ledges, a large empty pool structure called a flow course and several smaller ramps that have been added over the years.

“It keeps skaters off the streets and it keeps skating safe,” said Vicki Meyer, Evan’s mother. “It’s a nice place where kids can come hang out and where skaters can meet other skaters where they wouldn’t if they just skated in the neighborhood.”

Rippin’ Riverside welcomes 7,000 to 8,000 skaters each year, skate park supervisor Antonio Ortiz said. With many of the visitors being less than a mile away from the Oviedo park offers a safe place to skate community.

Rippin’ Riverside Skate Park is at 1608 Lockwood Blvd. Sessions for skate park members cost $3 from Monday through Friday and $5 from Saturday through Sunday. Sessions for skate park non-members cost $7 from Monday through Friday and $9 from Saturday through Sunday. To sign up for sessions or lessons, a waiver must be signed beforehand. For more information, visit http://www.cityofoviedo.net/node/1375 or call 407-971-5855.

Ortiz gave his own thoughts on what the park does for the community.

“It’s a great amenity for the community, because you can bring your young one who’s 10 years old or less, watch them skateboard for a couple hours, see your kid grow into it and they might want to keep doing it for the rest of their lives,” Ortiz said. “Who knows where it takes them?”

For skateboarding instructor Damien “DJ” Gravois, skating has taken him right where he wants to go: on staff at Rippin’ Riverside.

Gravois was one of the original skaters who used the park when it first opened in July of 2003. Living less than a mile away from the park and skating day after day, Gravois said that his parents often joked about Rippin’ Riverside being his second home.

Now that the skate park employs him, Gravois said that his dedication has paid off.

“—I see it as getting paid back,— I see it as getting paid back,” Gravois said.

A local skate park doesn’t only keep kids safe, but it also tiz said. With many of the visitors.

skating for the very first time, les-

sons are available for skaters ages 4 to 13, focusing on the very basics and tailoring lessons to each skat-

er’s strengths and weaknesses.

Competitions are also held ev-

ery Friday night for points, which are added up at the end of ev-

ery quarter to decide who walks away with a free skateboard deck.

—THE VOICE

PHOTO BY ISAAC BABCOCK

Ten-year-old Evan Meyer learns new tricks from instructor DJ Gravois, who grew up skating around Oviedo’s Rippin’ River-
side Skate Park, and has since become a sponsored skater and a staffer of the same park. There are contests on Friday nights.

SEPT. 14
The Casselberry Art & Music in the Park and Food Truck Bazaar are from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 14, at Lake Concord Park, located at 95 Triplet Lake Drive. For more information, visit www.casselberry.org or call 407-262-7700, extension 1507.

SEPT. 15
Auditions for Great Day in the Country’s Got Talent will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Oviedo High School Auditorium, located at 601 King St. All ages and acts are welcome. For more information, visit www.GreatDayOviedo.org.

SEPT. 16
The Radio Disney Road Crew Back to School Supply Drive goes from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Oviedo Mall food court. The free event will also include games, contests, prizes and singing and dancing. Also, Make holiday cards for U.S. soldiers at Stampin’ Up Cards for Troops from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Oviedo Mall’s Community Room. The free activity will provide supplies and is open to families with kids 12 and older.

The Track Shack Autumn Rock n’ Roll 5K Fun Run/Walk is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15, at Casselberry’s Lake Concord Park, located at 95 Triplet Lake Drive. Visit trackshack.com or call 407-262-7700, extension 1507, to sign up.

Geneva’s Cub Scout Pack 837 will be selling popcorn at the Publix on Saturday, Sept. 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15, and again from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 24. Email crosn Jasper2009@gmail.com.

SEPT. 17
Artistic Hand Gallery and Studio’s classes start the week of Sept. 17 for teens and adults. Visit Facebook.com/ArtisticHandGalleryStudio or call 407-366-7882.

SEPT. 18
Movie Knight Out for UCF students is from 3 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Oviedo Mall. Register online at ucfknightsnetwork.com/movie.

SEPT. 20

SEPT. 21
The Reformed Theological Seminary Library Storytime is from 10 to 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 21, at 1231 Reformation Drive in Oviedo. The event is for kids ages 2 to 4. RSVP to Laura Armstrong at larmstrong@tcu.edu.

SEPT. 22
Food Truck Crazy/City of Oviedo Movie in the Park starts at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22, at Riverside Park, located at 1600 Lockwood Blvd. in Oviedo. Call 407-971-5575.

SEPT. 23

SEPT. 29
Celebrate National Public Lands Day from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29, at the free open house at the Yarborough Nature Center in Geneva.

Visit SeminoleVoice.com for more details on these events. Send submissions to jandreasson@tumblemedialgroup.com.
SKATE

A skater's voice; a city's story

By Angie Wingert

Gavin, 15, to skate with him. His daughter Kathryn, 12, and son

With a new series of lessons starting up, Rippin' Riverside is looking to attract a new young generation of local skaters to occupy the park.

Christopher Fallon, one of the park's older skaters at age 46, has been skating since 16 and brings his daughter Kathryn, 12, and son Gavin, 15, to skate with him.

“Terry’s a role model. You have to walk over to him. Terry’s that kind of guy,” said grandson Nick, 12, who will provide you with a unique and comprehensive vein treatment plan.

With that, Whitley and her group sprung into action, bringing food and offering any services they could to the MacFarlanes, including providing tables upon tables of baked goods for his celebration of life.

“You want to feel not forgotten; you want to feel remembered and that the sacrifice that’s been made was not forgotten ... ”

— Angie Wingert

On Friday, July 6, Whitley answered a phone call from Kris. It was then she found out Capt. MacFarlane died that day in Kandahar supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Whitley, a military mom herself, has traveled to military bases and hospitals across the country to deliver the support in person. She’s delivered special handmade lap blankets that won’t get stuck in prosthetics for wounded soldiers with amputated limbs. She’s furnished and decorated barracks for single soldiers returning from war.

“We want to do everything we can to support them, and let them know we remember them and recognize what they’re doing for our country,” she said.

Angie Wingert, Bruce MacFarlane’s sister, says the support her family has received from the community in the months since his passing has been more than they could have ever anticipated. From the church group’s in-person support, outreach from the national non-profit Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, and hundreds of heartfelt letters from across the country received through the Soldiers’ Angels initiative, Wingert says the compassion has been overwhelming.

“You want to feel not forgotten; you want to feel remembered and that the sacrifice that’s been made was not forgotten ... it’s been great support for my sister-in-law and all of us,” she said.

“It’s amazing how the little town of Oviedo came together for our family,” she said. “This town really stood up for our soldier.”

It’s knowing that families such as the MacFarlanes have a support net to fall back on, Whitley says, that keeps her group going. Even with deployment numbers overseas dwindling downward, she said there’s no lack of need for their services for soldiers at home and abroad.

“Being a part of this group,” she says, “it’s really just been the greatest thing I’ve ever done in my life.”

Call today for a FREE vein screening! 321-397-0692

Most insurances accepted
SEPT. 24: Quit Smoking Now
Quit Smoking Now, a five-week program to become tobacco free, goes from 4 to 5 p.m. every Monday from Sept. 24 to Oct. 22 at the Seminole County Public Library at 303 N. Division St. in Oviedo. Call 1-877-252-6094.

SEPT. 13
Pop-up Piano Seminole will start its new 2013 painted piano series at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 13, at Stetson Piano Galleries at 303 S. Altamonte Drive. Call 407-339-3771.

Heathrow Women’s Club will meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 13, at the Heathrow Country Club for a luncheon meeting with special guest speaker Heather McPherson. Visit www.heathrowwomen'sclub.com

“Miss Saigon” opens at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 13, at the Performing Arts Center, located at 203 S. Magnolia Ave. in Sanford. Visit www.PAC.com

SEPT. 27: Wild art opening
The Fine Arts Gallery at Seminole State College of Florida will open a new exhibition by Delilah artist Michael A. Hahn, which runs through Thursday, Oct. 25, and opens with a reception at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27, in the Sanford/Lake Mary Campus Fine Arts Gallery (Building G).

SEPT. 23: Learn to raise backyard chickens
A “Chickens for the Central Florida Homestead” workshop will be presented at 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22, by delilah artist Michael A. Hahn, which runs through Thursday, Oct. 25, and opens with a reception at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27, in the Sanford/Lake Mary Campus Fine Arts Gallery (Building G).

SEPT. 14: The Annual Seminole County Prayer Breakfast is from 7 to 8:15 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 14, at the Rink- Northland, A Church, located at 530 Dog Track Road in Longwood. Call 407-359-3606.

SEPT. 16: The Seminole Audubon Society’s September program is from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Seminole County Extension Auditorium, located on County Home Road. Call 407-665-5554.

HALL FOR RENT
The Auxiliary can cater functions, weddings, rehearsal dinner, baby or bridal showers, a special birthday etc. 420 North Edgemont Ave; Winter Springs (next to the Senior Center). Phone # 407-327-3151 for information

COME IN-JOIN OUR RANKS
Students who need a $30,000 scholarship who would like to enter a 3-5 minute VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AUDIO ESSAY contest – grades 9-12 by 1 November 2012 on

“I is Our Constitution Still Relevant?” or a $5,000 scholarship for a Patriot’s Pen 300-400 word essay – grades 6-8 on

“What I Would Tell America’s Founding Fathers”

Contact Winter Springs Veterans of Foreign Wars 407-327-3151 for more information or Chairman Reunion at 407-470-2908. http://www.vfw.org/Community/Programs

Come join us for our Cancer Benefit on 27 October 2012, auction, music, chili cook-off — $10 to enter $5 to taste all

WANTED
Full-time salary, part-time hours.
Become a certified home inspector.
Attend a live classroom home inspection training course October 19th – 21st Orlando, FL
- Perform a valuable service in an in-demand field
- Work part-time hours & earn full-time pay
- Apply your knowledge. Learn new skills. Get paid.

Act Now & Save $200! Mention Promo Code “2012”

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407-331-8020

COME IN-JOIN OUR RANKS
Canteen Manager: Bill Tzivani
Help Winter Springs High win $100K
Please help Winter Springs High School win a $100,000 grant sponsored by State Farm Insurance. This is an opportunity to support tennis everywhere as they learn to drive and get ready for the road ahead. If they win this grant, they will be able to provide support in the following areas: a) Bear Walder; b) Teacher Mini-Grants; c) Campus Beautification; d) Clubs/Organizations; e) Tutoring and f) Athletics.

Voting closes Saturday, Sept. 15. Here’s what you have to do:
1. Go to www.celebratemydrive.com
2. Input the required information
3. Vote for Winter Springs High School located in Winter Springs, FL

Tennis and jazzercise at Riverside

Oviedo Riverside Tennis offers a variety of tennis lesson packages for groups, private, and/or semi-private lessons. You may contact Coach Cashman at 407-971-9524 or Coach Allston at 407-405-5813 or the Riverside front desk at 407-971-5575.

Jazzercise is offered Monday through Saturday at Oviedo Riverside Park. For more information, please contact Jodi at 407-466-7825 or the Riverside front desk at 407-971-5575.

Oviedo Babe Ruth has good showing at world series

The Oviedo Babe Ruth 12U Girls Softball State Championship team represented the city of Oviedo and the State of Florida well at the Softball World Series in Alachua. They were undefeated in pool play (4-0) and capped the season by placing 2nd at the Softball World Series in Alachua. They showed they lost two games in a row, a 1-0 loss to Hazlet, NJ, and were eliminated from the tournament. The 12U team, along with the two other championship teams, were honored at the Aug. 20 City Council meeting.

Oviedo Barracuda end season strong

The Oviedo Barracuda swim team ended their season on Saturday, Aug. 4, with their championship swim meet and end of season party. The championship meet started with one of our own Barracuda swimmers singing the National Anthem. Eight Barracuda team records were broken and at 123 swimmers swam well. The day was capped off with an award ceremony. Gold, silver and bronze medals were handed out in honor of the Summer Olympics. 481 kids swam in the pool.

Throughout the summer, 481 swimmers participated in group swim lessons at Oviedo Riverside Pool.

SCHOOL NEWS

Students make the dean’s list

The following local students have been named to Eckerd College’s Dean’s List for the spring 2012 semester:

- Amy DeBello of Winter Springs
- Tiffany Faris of Longwood
- VaShawn Taylor of Longwood
- Amanda Mullins of Longwood
- Jessica Beery of Longwood
- Brian Lynch of Winter Springs

Veterans of the U.S. Navy who served in the military and earned a BFA degree in Interior Design.

Peerless

Residents recently graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design:

- Jessica Beery of Longwood earned a BFA degree in Interior Design.
- Amanda Mullins of Longwood earned a BFA degree in Illustration Design.
- Hannah Walsh of Casselberry earned a MA degree in Design Management.
- Linda Akar of Casselberry earned a MA degree in Photography.
- Kathleen Lynch of Winter Springs earned a BFA degree in Photography.
- Alexandra Brennan of Longwood earned a MA degree in Cinema Studies.

BIZ NEWS

Winter Springs firm provides captioning for national conventions

Dicapta, the Winter Springs incubator company that provides real-time Spanish-language captioning and voice-over dubbing for a variety of media, including educational and entertainment movies and projects, played a key role for the Public Broadcast Corporation during the network’s gavel-to-gavel coverage of the 2012 Republican and Democratic conventions. Maria Diaz, chief executive officer of Dicapta, said her company provided the service when PBS NewsHour’s Judy Woodruff and Gwen Ifill co-anchored the events.

Defense contractor moves to Oviedo

NAI Realvest recently negotiated a new lease agreement for 34,108 square feet of office-warehouse space at 5712 Del Corn Court in the Gainesville Business Center in Oviedo. Senior Associate Mary Frances West negotiated the transaction representing the tenant, a local defense contractor who will be using half the space for a new government contract and the other half to relocate its corporate headquarters from East Orlando. The landlord, Oxford RKP, Inc. c/o Ganesh Mills, was represented in the transaction by Sher Talon of Lee & Associates.

GET INVOLVED

Pantry and thrift store volunteers needed

HOPE needs new adult volunteers for this fall. Please sign up at hopeloves.org or send submissions to jandreasson@stistlm.com

$4K donation helps homeless children

Casselberry City Manager Randy Newton was presented with $4,370 during a golf tournament and raffle co-hosted by the Casselberry Police Benevolence Association and Sandy Strange (pictured left), owner of the Casselberry Patio Bar. The money, along with several hundred pounds of food and gift cards, will help provide food, clothing and school supplies for homeless children attending Casselberry elementary and middle schools.

Champion of the Year

Donna Weaver, Principal of Lake Orienta/Hopper, was named to state’s top honor for a variety of media, including educational and entertainment movies and projects, played a key role for the Public Broadcast Corporation during the network’s gavel-to-gavel coverage of the 2012 Republican and Democratic conventions. Maria Diaz, chief executive officer of Dicapta, said her company provided the service when PBS NewsHour’s Judy Woodruff and Gwen Ifill co-anchored the events.

Former Lawton administrator is Principal of the Year

Donna Weaver, Principal of Lake Orienta/Hopper, has been selected as Seminole County Public Schools Principal of the Year. She began her career in Seminole County Public Schools as a teacher at Lyddiwilde, Midway, Goldstoners and Partin. She has also served as assistant principal at Lawton Elementary and Bentley Elementary and as principal of Highlands Elementary. She was appointed principal of Lake Orienta/Hopper in August.
THE LIONS Destroyed SEMINOLE on the football field on Sept. 7 and then watched the Seminoles gradually mount a comeback over three quarters that almost led to an upset. It was the Jurell Green Show on the ground as the Lions’ leading rusher ran the ball 27 times in the game while racking up 155 yards in the process. Those fleet feet would march the Lions into the end zone all four times that they scored touchdowns.

Most of the Lions’ work was done on the ground, as three rushers, including quarterback Chris Davis, combined for 213 yards rushing, while Davis threw for 52 yards, completing 9 of 11 attempts.

Meanwhile the Seminoles proved they had their air game together, with quarterback Horonadis Tillman throwing 246 yards of passes, but they only had 9 net yards on the ground.

Not fearing a run game, the Lions’ defense had a field day on Tillman, forcing him to lose 41 yards in scrambles.

But after a wild first quarter where the Lions scored 21 points to the Seminoles’ zero, the Seminoles gradually came back, bringing the score to 30-27 before the Lions could finally shut them down. That win put an exclamation point on their first week 60-7 blowout of Lyman.

At 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14, the Lions will travel to Lake Brantley to face a foe that fell to Apopka 15-9 after some crucial injuries. They’ll face Lake Howell the following Friday, Sept. 21, at home. Then the Oviedo teams will face off, as Oviedo and Hagerty take to the Hagerty field on Sept. 28.

HAGERTY

The Huskies took a week off after an embarrassing 7-2 loss to Winter Springs in the first week of the season. Now they face Timbervale Cottage on the Wolves’ home field. The Wolves hosted Ralston Valley from Arvada Colorado for their first game of the season, losing 30-23, then blew out Freedom 31-7 for Game 2.

The teams kick off at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14, at Timbervale Cottage. On Sept. 21, they’ll travel to Lake Mary before meeting Oviedo on Sept. 28.
Knights look past Ohio to FLU

The Knights kickoff against FIU at 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15, at Bright House Networks Stadium. Visit ucfathletics.com to buy tickets.

2012 UCF FOOTBALL SCHEDULE:

**DATE** | **OPPONENT** | **LOCATION** | **TIME**
--- | --- | --- | ---
09/15 | vs. Florida International | Orlando, Fla. | 4:00 p.m. ET
09/29 | vs. Missouri | Orlando, Fla. | TBA
10/06 | vs. East Carolina | Orlando, Fla. | 8:00 p.m. ET
10/13 | vs. Southern Miss | Orlando, Fla. | 8:00 p.m. ET
10/20 | at Memphis | Memphis, Tenn. | 8:00 p.m. ET
10/27 | at Marshall | Huntington, W.Va. | 8:00 p.m. ET
11/03 | vs. SMU | Orlando, Fla. | 7:00 p.m. ET
11/10 | at UTEP | El Paso, Texas | 7:00 p.m. ET
11/17 | at Tulsa | Tulsa, Okla. | TBA

That’s where the score would remain, as the Knights’ defense held the Buckeyes back in some strong stops on third and fourth down conversion attempts near the first down line. But the damage was already done, and the Knights’ failed to score on three possessions in the fourth quarter.

Running backs Storm Johnson and Brynn Harvey provided nearly all of the Knights’ speed on the ground, with 73 and 36 yards of carries, respectively. Johnson also caught three passes for 22 yards.

In the air, wide receiver J.J. Worton was Bortles’ go-to guy with seven catches for 96 yards. Quincy McDuffie’s fleet feet carried him to 44 yards receiving on three catches. Rannell Hall added another 40 yards.

The Knights kickoff against FIU at 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15. Good news for the Knights: Last week the Panthers narrowly outLASTed the Akron Zips 41-34. In Week 1 the Knights trounced Akron 56-14.

ISAAC BABCOCK
The Voice

A series of offensive miscues may have cost the Knights an upset win against Ohio State on the gridiron on Sept. 8. UCF fell 31-16 to the Buckeyes in a game that had been very close through the first half.

Now they’re staring down their first home game of the season coming up Saturday against a Florida International University team that embarrassed them 17-10 last season.

They’ll be looking for a rebound after a game that started off well but got out of hand for the Knights.

In a matchup of quarterbacks, the Buckeyes proved they had a more resilient and versatile playmaker in Braxton Miller, who scrambled for 141 yards in the game and threw for 155 to lead his team to victory.

Meanwhile UCF redshirt sophomore quarterback Blake Bortles suffered through 10 yards lost on rushing attempts and sacks, while throwing for 249 yards and three touchdowns in the air. Unfortunately for Bortles, three of his passes were picked off, and two of those interceptions rapidly led to Ohio State touchdowns.

Bortles’ last pick of the night at the start of the fourth quarter was en route to the end zone to bring the Knights within a touchdown of the lead when it hit the Buckeyes’ Orhian Johnson in the number of the Ohio State five-yard line. That would-be touchdown for the Knights became the only Buckeyes interception that did not lead to a score.

But the Knights did have their moments of offensive brilliance, drawing within easy field goal range for kicker Shawn Meffitt to grab their first score late in the second quarter, then a short pass from Bortles to Justin Tukes midway through the second that tied the game at 10 points each.

After that it was the Braxton Miller show, as he took the middle of the game and turned it into three straight unanswered scores to extend the OSU lead as broadly as 31-10 late in the third quarter before the Knights struck again with a two-yard pass from Bortles to Billy Giovanetti to make it 31-16.

That’s where the score would remain, as the Knights’ defense held the Buckeyes back in some strong stops on third and fourth down conversion attempts near the first down line. But the damage was already done, and the Knights’ failed to score on three possessions in the fourth quarter.

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EMPLOYMENT
Ask Sandi
Stay clean in social media

I have the opportunity to meet with employers every month to network and learn. I often ask those employers about ways to better help our clients at Christian HELP and our readers here to be more successful in their job search. Here is some of the feedback I have received:

- Clean up your social media. With the political races going on, social media seems to be burning up for one side or the other. Many of the posts are very divisive and negative. Other offenders include pictures of parties and other questionable activities. Even on lockdown, some employers have figured out how to find out more about you. What you put on the Internet stays on the Internet—forever.
- For up, but not too much. Some employers are complaining that people set interviews and then don’t show up. If you change your mind, a phone call is appropriate. On the other side of the coin, don’t call the employer incessantly. I have a gentleman applying for one of our VISTA positions who calls me at least twice a day to ask questions. If you are that high touch before we hire you, it scares me how much you will need later.
- The last one should go without saying, but I have seen this trending for a while. Casual weekend wear is not what you should wear when you are applying for a job. Business casual never includes flip-flops, even fashionable ones. Dress up when you fill out applications and when you interview: Shorts and jeans are always a no-no. The exception might be jeans for a construction job.

Visit CFEC.org for information on free employment seminars.

Market governs itself

Many interesting things are happening in the city as our kids are back in school, fall events are around the corner and local and national elections are heating up, but I want to call your attention to a rather innocuous action by the Winter Springs City Commission. We progressed one step further to a new housing development near the Oviedo Mall on Dovera Drive. The nearby residents expressed some concerns about the new development causing drainage issues. This is something that our city staff and the Commission take very seriously, so due diligence was performed to ensure that no problems were being created; in fact, our best engineering studies tell us that the water movement will actually be improved. The neighbors also told the Commission that they didn’t think a residential project was needed and urged us to turn the project on their perceived lack of need. The latter argument was familiar to one we heard last year when a gas station was proposed in another area of the city and the residents argued that they had surveyed the existing gas stations in the area (and surprise!) those stations did not think another gas station was needed.

Similarly to flood control, the city has a legitimate interest in maintaining zoning regulations, and for a variety of reasons the new gas station was not approved.

At last, I am getting to my point. This City Commission, and I argue, no branch of government should be making decisions better left to the market. Our country was founded upon individual liberty and our unique prosperity is a direct result of that liberty finding entrepreneurial expression. A risk-taking entrepreneur is the best assessor of market opportunity — far better than any government body.

So, when development poses a threat to your health, safety or enjoyment of life, contact the city staff or come to a Commission meeting, but please don’t ask us to engage in Soviet-style economic planning.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

During the month of July, the following ordinances, resolutions, contracts and agreements were approved by the city of Winter Springs City Commission:

- Ordinance 2012-09 - Approved zoning and location requirements related to Pain Management Clinics.
- Resolution 2012-20 - Provided for a temporary suspension of enforcement of certain temporary on-premise sign regulations from July 23 to Nov. 12.
- Commissioner Joanne M. Krebs was nominated as the next deputy mayor.
- The City Commission approved the Final Engineering Plan for Parcel 148- Amberly-Oviedo Marketplace, a 36-unit single-family development located on Dovera Drive.

NOTICE

The Planning and Zoning Board/local planning agency officially changed its meeting time to 5:30 p.m.

LOCK IT OR LOSE IT

The Winter Springs Police Department employs the “Lock It or Lose It” program to help you keep you, your family and your property safe. Officers who notice the potential for crime to take place will leave notices for residents, as well as those who visit our community to safeguard their valuables and keep their homes and vehicles locked when they are unattended.

Nearly all of the thefts from vehicle reports we take result from an unlocked car being opened and property removed.

CENTRAL WINDS DOG PARK DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

This project consists of the construction of drainage improvements at the Central Winds Dog Park, which has periodically experienced flooding after storms.

SENIOR CENTER

Are you 55 or older and looking for a place to meet new people and have a great time? If so, then head over to the Winter Springs Senior Center. The Winter Springs Senior Center is located at 400 N. Edgemont Ave. in Winter Springs.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor

TALK TO SANDI!

Sandi Wild is the executive director for Christian HELP and the Central Florida Employment Council, with more than 10 years of recruiting and human resources experience. Please send questions about employment to her at 407-563-7026, sandi@christianhelp.org, or mail Ask Sandi C/O Christian HELP, 4500 NW 12th St., Orlando, FL 32814.

JUNE S.

Young Voices

Here’s what’s students at Double R Private School in Chuluota said about the new school year.

- I like first grade because we do nice things. My favorite part is center time, when we do different activities. P.E. is fun and we also go to the Treasure Box. I like math and phonics. —Aadya B. 6 years old.
- In second grade we can wear blue shirts three days a week. We’re learning phonics and to read. I like chapter books. Right now we are reading a story about a chicken and hedgehog. I like math too. —Jonathan C. 7 years old.
- In third grade we are learning math, reading, history and Spanish. I like reading adventure books like Jack and Annie. My favorite subject is math when we add numbers. —Matthew G. 9 years old.
- In sixth grade we are learning world geography, Spanish and science. In Social Studies we learn about artifacts and different places in the world. In Science we learn about minerals too. —Caleb D. 11 years old.

Trinity Prep high school athletes to get dose of reality on Sept. 19

Drew Nemec, assistant athletic director at Trinity Preparatory School, is hosting an event Wednesday, Sept. 19, at which student-athletes and their parents will get a strong dose of reality about the world of college recruiting. In an eye-opening presentation, national keynote speaker Jack Renkens will share with the audience the lessons he’s learned during many years as a high school and college coach, athletic director and parent of a high school athlete.

One fact athletes and their parents may not want to hear: Less than one percent of all student-athletes will play for a Division I school. On the other hand, a wealth of opportunities is available for student-athletes at colleges and universities below that level.

In his 17th year as an athletic/motivational speaker, Renkens has three key messages for the audience:
- You don’t get to pick the school.
- The school picks you.
- A college coach can’t recruit you if he or she doesn’t know who you are. You need to market yourself.
- Don’t get hung up on the term “athletic scholarship.” Focus on “funding,” which is made up of academic money, merit dollars, grants, endowments and achievement funds.

Renkens’ presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Sept. 19 in the school’s auditorium at 5700 Trinity Prep Lane, Winter Park. It is free and open to the public.

For more information, go to www.recruitingrealities.com.

—Barry S. Cohen

I’m in the sixth grade, and we are learning to do harder division and word problems in math. Social studies and science are my two favorite subjects. We learned about wars in history.

—Kamala L. 11 years old.

We would love to hear from you!

Call 407-563-7026 or e-mail jandreasson@turnstilemediagroup.com to have The Voice visit your class or group.
Fall is almost in the air in Oviedo

The Newcomers of Central Florida announce the luncheon program being held on Thursday, Sept. 20, that will feature a speaker from Florida Hospital who will discuss “How to Start Your Journey to a Healthy 100” at the Westside Lake Mary, 2974 International Parkway in Lake Mary. Members and guests are welcome. Advanced registration is required. Please contact DeDe Fuhr at 407-366-9048 or email smithfit@cfl.rr.com.

If you support Option Seven now is the time to write, email or sign a petition expressing your opinion to the Florida Department of Transportation. This isn’t our first fight and it won’t be our last, and even if we have been in the trenches before, here are some communication tips.

Please put Seminole County Project #PS-5738-10/JVP at the top of your correspondence.

Tom Carey
From the garden to yours

creating a physical place on the earth as important as a garden offers rewards of personal esteem that are magnified through a lens of sweat. For the start of our gardening year to be conveniently timed with the worst of summer’s oppressive heat and humidity makes our accomplishments appreciate even more. I plant my seeds and seedlings to the garden soil starting with the first days of autumnal few weak weeks away, when the threat of routine thunderstorms is warning. With our off-season providing the optimal conditions for weed growth, preparing the garden soil to start our growing seasons requires innovation, strategy and plenty of seed tea.

If the garden soil was not protected from rampant weed growth during the summer, the lush jungle to be surmounted could dwarf the entire project. Shoulder cold steel, not tender fingers and backs, will dominate any plant-based cellulose defenses. I use spade-shaped (not square), long-handled shovels, which are sharpened on a bench grinder. Exercising the largest muscles of the body, our upper legs, the force to slide shallow penetrations along a flank of the intended areas. Almost like cutting sod, these flattened surfaces sever the greatest amount of binding roots with the least amount of exertion.

An intended garden space is down to a bare enough surface, subterranean digging, arduous as it may sound, would create returns on the effort for the whole of the garden space. Loosen, or even turn over, the soil in the bottom of the trench with a garden fork or spade. Bury, the first trench with the soil from an adjacent second trench. Again, loosen the soil in the bottom of the trench, dig, bury and repeat. Laze in motion and technique, as in finding the most efficient ways to move tons of dirt, is not a bad thing.

Setting stakes and pulling strings keeps foot traffic on defined path areas, avoiding compaction of our hard-earned growing medium. This is the phase of the project where I apply compost and fertilizer to the surface of intended planting areas. If left fallow, even for a few weeks before planting, prevent new weed growth in exposed soil with a solid layer of mulch. The beauty of this deep soil preparation in tandem with starting transplants (see my last column) emerges as the weather becomes tolerable, the soil settles to a fresh composition, and the seedlings are outgrowing their pots; our first harvest is already on its way!