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ELECTION SEASON IN FULL SWING AS PRIMARIES HEAT UP!

RACES TO WATCH IN CENTRAL FLORIDA  
Primary Election: 2020

As an avid voter, you know the battle of sifting through the obscure names and races on the ballot. We've analyzed the races most pertinent to our community's future and laid out an easy-to-read digest of our picks for this cycle's primary election. ... CONTINUED PAGE 2



ABOVE: Campaign signs line the central roadway in the town of Gotha. RIGHT: Scott Franklin stands in front of the American Flag at campaign rally.

OPINION: FRANKLY, WE LIKE SCOTT FRANKLIN

By JEAN LEFFLER

They're all the same: corrupt politicians that is. When California Republican Congressman Duncan Hunter learned of a federal investigation into his campaign finance woes, he brushed off criticism as a Democratic plot to undermine his re-election. But soon chorus of Republican voices joined in as well to condemn his unruly behavior following his indictment. Republican Darrell Issa, a former Congressman from southern California, now seems to be in a very good position to claim victory following Hunter's resignation. A similarly disappointing saga of events is unfolding right before our very eyes in our own Congressional district 15 in Clermont and surrounding communities. Incumbent Ross Spano accepted roughly \$180,000 in cash from friends which he allegedly funneled to his own campaign as a loan, a violation of the \$2,700 limit per



BE SMART. LISTEN TO JON WILSMAN AND DON'T CRACK YOUR NEST EGG!

By MARSHALL SWANSON

The straw that broke the camel's back: everyone knows the story, but how many take it to heart? Most of us go through a phase in life as a Prodigal Son (or Daughter). We spend lavishly and forget to pay our tab — until we get sued by a debt collector. Of course, most people don't want to skirt their responsibilities, but when life happens the odds sometimes seem insurmountable. You've heard a constant chorus on television about debt relief agencies who claim to swoop in as the deus ex machina for your financial dilemmas. Even if the program's results will

turn out positive for those who engage in business with these largely impersonal, corporate groups, the stress and emotional turmoil wrought on the lives of those involved rarely equal the net financial benefit of their sacrifices and financial planning. Is bankruptcy a better option? Jon Wilsman doesn't think so. Working for years in the debt relief and financial services industries, he and his business partner noticed something missing from the way his former employers dealt with clients: a personal touch. And that's exactly the object he zeroed in on when he founded his debt relief and financial services firm, Nest Egg Financial. His approach calls for a single consultant... CONTINUED PAGE 5



OPINION: ORANGE AVENUE OVERLAY PROJECT DESERVES SECOND LOOK  
Community Development

By MARSHALL SWANSON

Winter Park, FL - The years-in-the-making Orange Avenue Overlay project recently met an abrupt end. And no doubt, some of the concerns raised by council members came from a place of genuine care for the town. We've all witnessed colossal apartment building projects and think, "no way, not in our town!" But out of the grim examples we may conjure up in our minds, few people remember the stellar achievements of development from around the world - and throughout Central Florida's history. At one time, both the subdivisions of Bay Hill and Isleworth met criticism. In a larger historical context, the Eiffel Tower once seemed to be an eye-sore to residents of Paris, and yet, it now enjoys a place of honor in the hearts of millions, if not billions around the globe. If Windermere is Central Florida's Venice, then Winter Park is our Paris. Why not treat it that way? Just because a few naysayers shun development doesn't mean.... CONTINUED PAGE 5



BOTTOM RIGHT: An artistic impression of the overlay's potential design. Several examples were submitted illustrating what the overlay might look like. (photo credit: Demetree Global).



# PRIMARY ELECTION: 2020 *CONTINUED...*

## *Races to Watch in Central Florida & Our Picks for Election 2020*

### IT'S MILLER TIME AGAIN IN ORANGE COUNTY!

By JON WARNER

No, Orange County isn't giving away free Miller Lite, but everyone is lifting a glass to Mike Miller's recent decision to run for county commissioner in district 5. One of the most liberal members of the county commission, Emily Bonilla's tenure in office underproduced and overpromised. It's no surprise that Democrat-dominated Orange county elects left-leaning candidates. However, even the average Orange County Democrat has begun to question how far is too far. No stranger to public service, former Republican State Representative Mike Miller most recently ran for Congress in FL-07 in a bid to replace Representative Stephanie Murphy.

Though he came up short in that race, his down to Earth style and common sense attitude continues to make him appealing to voters of many backgrounds. Though a staunch conservative, Miller always sought to reach across the isle during his time in Tallahassee, understanding the path to achieving what's best for constituents sometimes means pragmatic solutions. The race opens a window of opportunity to bring back a sense of moderation to a seat plagued by demagoguery and a far-left incumbent, albeit the candidates do not run on a partisan platform.



ABOVE (Left to Right): Former State Representative Mike Miller (R), Commissioner Emily Bonilla (D), businesswoman Anjali Vaya (R). The commission district 5 race is non-partisan

Also in the race is fellow Republican Anjali Vaya, endorsed by the Orlando Indian American Chamber of Commerce. A qualified businesswoman from Winter Park, Vaya has raised a significant amount of cash for her bid to unseat Democrat Emily Bonilla.

Previously held by Ted Edwards, Bonilla's upset victory shocked many Republicans in the area. District 5 includes the upscale suburbs of Maitland and Winter Park, where many residents remain concerned at Bonilla's association with far-left labor organizations and her anti-development tilt.

Miller will undoubtedly be a welcome change for many residents, a return to normalcy for the district. Whoever ultimately wins, we wish them the best in their journey to make Central Florida the best place to live.

### FRANKLIN *CONTINUED...*

....Some claim the Congressman merely made an error and that his mistake - albeit a self-reported one - did not arise out of nefarious intent. However, whether through incompetency or illegally-minded motives, the kind of judgement displayed by the seat's current occupant leads any reasonable onlooker to ask what else he might be hiding.

Regardless of whether Mr. Spano harbored criminal intent or not, his record as a conservative is shaky. For example, as a member of the Florida House of Representatives, Spano supported tuition for illegal immigrants. In addition, Spano voted against funding President Trump's border wall (see: H.R. 1158 and H.R. 1865). But why shouldn't he? Spano enjoys much more in common with illegal aliens than many in his district: as a career politician, he knows what it's like to live off government assistance; and, as a violator of campaign finance law (something he's admitted to), Spano feels right at home with those who feel a need to 'skip the line' to get ahead.

It is time to put a real conservative back into office in Congressional district 15. Scott Franklin,

Ross Spano's primary opponent, served in the US Navy as a fighter pilot and re-activated in the military following 9/11 to serve and protect our nation. A family man and father of three children, Franklin is also a man of faith and attends First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland. He is active in the community and has served in a variety of roles and organizations including the Lakeland Economic Development Council, the Lakeland Rotary Club, the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, the Lakeland Downtown Development Authority, the Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center, and the Barney Barnett School of Business and Free Enterprise at Florida Southern College.

Among his many hobbies, Franklin remains an active pilot today and continues to fly on a regular basis. With Scott Franklin at the controls of Congressional district 15, constituents can rest easy that their representative will take our nation and community to new heights.

Of course, the ultimate decision lies with the voters, and whomever they choose - as always - we wish the best of luck as they work to serve us in Washington, D.C.

## ABOUT THE LOCAL NEWS

The Orlando Local News was originally founded by Roger Swanson in 1980. His founding of *The Local News* followed a distinguished career in media and public relations that began in the US Army Air Force and eventually took him to the Kansas City Star where he served as Travel Editor and Sunday Editor. Later, Swanson moved to Florida where he served as Vice President of Public Relations at Walt Disney World. He then branched out into broadcast news on Channels 9 and 6 in Orlando before founding *The Local News*.

A one of a kind publication, this newspaper seeks only to protect and enhance the interests of the citizens living in these communities, to become a guardian in a sense of the beauty, the privileges, the freedoms and the challenges which make this area such a desirable and delightful place to live. We have no axes to grind; no particular philosophical or political point of view to expound. All of us engaged in the newspaper are neighbors or friends of these communities. The editor of *The Local News* is

Marshall Swanson, who has been involved in radio, government, philanthropy and politics for many years. The main reason for the existence of The Orlando Local News is bringing a voice to a wilderness- a wilderness that the lacks a voice, a point of view — or simply lacks the coverage of news, current events and personalities in these communities most wish to hear. Other publications simply have not paid much attention to these residents.

We refuse to submit to the pattern of conformity so prevalent among a majority of news publications in this area: out of touch, out of town corporate newspapers seeking nothing less than to gin up division and ideological propaganda in our homes.

The editorial board of this paper will certainly give opinions on matters and topics pertinent to the community represented in this publication. However, we will allow any of those opposed to our point of view a place to voice their opinions, unlike most papers in this area.

### OPINION: MIKAELA WILL NIX INJUSTICE



By JEAN LEFFLER

We last witnessed Mikaela Nix run for office in 2018 in a bid for State House. A voice moderation, Nix lost in the primary to Stockton Reeves of Winter Park - whose race ultimately proved unsuccessful. No matter the office, both candidates deserve a second chance to use their skills toward public service. Nix may get an opportunity to do just that in a few short months.

Nix boasts of a long-time presence in Florida with family roots going back to 1887 when her ancestors owned a small farm near Gainesville, Florida. Her life truly defines the greatness of the American Dream even in spite of some of our nation's faults. An African American seeking a life of happiness following the Civil War, Nix's great (x5) grandfather chose the last name Hall, the only three letters he could write at the time. With only a few dollars, Hall founded a family built on faith and endowed them with a work ethic to propel them to success.

Today, Nix enjoys a career as a monumentally successful attorney in Orlando. Since her

accession to the Florida Bar, Mikaela's record now boasts of over 60 bench trials. Her areas of practice extend far and wide, including criminal felony and misdemeanor cases. She has also authored successful appellate briefs and engaged in administrative hearings. Protecting Civil Rights is very important to Mikaela and, as stated on her website, Nix's beliefs on fairness best embody Martin Luther King, Jr.'s on the subject when he stated that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Equipped with these bedrock principles, Nix also feels that another cornerstone to any legal career lies with interpreting the text of the law as written and not for the Judge to act as a legislator.

Though our publications do not always agree on electoral matters, we strongly concur with the Orlando Sentinel in their endorsement of Mikaela Nix for Circuit Court Judge. A graduate of UCF and Florida A&M Law School, Nix lives with her husband and son in Orange County.

### SEMINOLE FOCUS: OPINION: G.O.P. LOCKED OUT OF FL-07 UNTIL REDISTRICTING

By CHANDLER BENNETT

For most everyone in 2016, President Trump's victory came as a major surprise. Stephanie Murphy's defeat of Congressman John Mica (R - Winter Park) cemented the year's oddity. Although certainly an anti-incumbent, anti-establishment election year, both sides of the aisle in Central Florida held a deep respect and appreciation for the Congressman's years of service and his ability to bring in much needed funding for transportation and infrastructure problems in our state and community.

So why then did the seat go blue? With court ordered redistricting, the boundaries of CD 7 underwent a political metamorphosis, including the accession of some constituents unaware of the Congressman's good work on behalf of our

community in Washington, D.C. Despite a vicious campaign, mainly emanating from Mr. Mica's opponent, FL-07's newest officeholder doesn't seem to live up to the hype. Furthermore, Mrs. Murphy's deficit of seniority has curtailed key elements of local infrastructure projects from coming to fruition. Congresswoman Murphy clearly lacks the horsepower to bring vital projects over the finish line a timely manner.

Instead of focusing on our community's needs, "America's Moderate" - as some call her, - spends most of her time skirting reporters, spewing partisan banter and impeaching Donald Trump.

Sadly, given the current political dynamics of CD 7, the passionate but ill-equipped Republican field will likely not make much headway in retaking the seat. Let's see how things look in 2022!



OPINION: KEEP JUDGE MIKE KRAYNICK

By JON WARNER

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it," the old adage says. That goes for elected officials, too. We looked up and down the profile of Judge Mike Kraynick to find even the slightest crack in his armor - and we came up short. But despite his stellar record and impressive legal career, Amrita Singh - daughter of Orange County Property Appraiser Rick Singh - doesn't think he deserves to be re-elected. Why? Well, as reported by the Orlando Sentinel, she won't go into any specifics but simply feels that "the same old attitudes and approaches won't solve our current problems, and I hope to bring a fresh perspective in my role as circuit judge."

The same old attitudes? What on Earth is she trying to say? We attempted to contact Ms. Singh to ask her what she means by that phrase to no avail. We think the attitude of the seat's current occupant is just fine, actually we don't care at all how he feels about the law whatsoever. The enforcement of the law, and the application of the law as originally understood, is the job of the judge. Ms. Singh's comments seem to antagonize the very foundations of our great Anglo-American legal tradition built upon a judicial system placing interpretation above legislation. Ms. Singh's comments appear to insinuate support for judicial activism.

Fundamentally, the issue of judicial activism comes down to a question of integrity. Every office-holder must at all times live up to their oath to fulfill

this sacred duty, which includes an allegiance to both the United States Constitution and the Florida State Constitution. Nowhere in either Florida's Constitution or the United States Constitution do the documents grant the courts powers to legislate from the bench or to implement social reforms based on political "attitudes" the Judge might hold.

While we aren't questioning Ms. Singh's character, we do acknowledge her words speak for themselves. Any Judge (or potential Judge) elevating their personal attitudes above the law supplants not only the intent of the legislators who drafted the text but moreover compromises justice.

More concerning details about Ms. Singh arise from her father's history of troubling scandalous allegations: "like father, like daughter," some say. And if that's true, we should all be concerned about how much she learned from his allegedly graft-fueled lifestyle. Though recently cleared by Florida authorities of criminal wrongdoing, a complaint recently alleged that Rick Singh jet-setted to Spain and India on the wings of taxpayer dollars for personal trips. But, according to the complaint, his binge didn't end there. Rick Singh allegedly hosted strippers in his office and staged a photoshop photoshoot to disguise personal trips as part of his official government business. The laundry list of accusations are so long, we can't list them all. (You will find a comprehensive tally here). The Florida Public Corruption Task Force recently pointed out Singh's checkered history as well in a mail piece sent to voters a short time



Photo Credit: The Campaign To Retain Judge Mike Kraynick For Circuit Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Group 34, Non-Partisan

ago. Surely, we are not suggesting for Ms. Singh to be judged guilty by association. However, we do ask that she disavow the errant actions of her father, should he ever be indicted on new charges in the future. But what of her opponent? As far as Judge Mike Kraynick is concerned, his impeccable record speaks volumes about his legal sense and skill at interpreting the law. His dedication to his faith and his family conveys an aura of honor and respect. After graduating from Barry University School of Law, Kraynick worked his way up the legal ladder from a humble law clerk to eventually practice as a partner at a local law firm in Winter Park. A family man and father of two, Judge Kraynick knows the importance of service and dedication to justice. While practicing law, he encountered a vast array of clients and engaged in a wide variety of practice areas, including as counsel for individuals, consumers, homeowners, HOAs, small and large businesses, commercial and residential real estate businesses, brokers, tenants, landlords, banks and title companies among many others.

We feel the Judge's unique background and experience qualify Kraynick to be the best choice for Circuit Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Group 34. As always, we wish the best of luck to the winner as they seek to execute their sacred public duties to uphold justice and order in our State and community.

GOD'S WORD

"Fear thou not; for I [am] with thee: be not dismayed; for I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."  
Isaiah 41:10

WORDS TO THE WISE

"We can have no '50-50' allegiance in this country. Either a man is an American and nothing else, or he is not an American at all."  
Theodore Roosevelt

OPINION: FLAPOL'S "SCHORSCHED-EARTH" ATTACK ON SABATINI IS PETTY AND UNWARRANTED

By MARCUS TURNER

Voters elected State Representative Anthony Sabatini to be a catalyst for change. But breaking the typical Tallahassee mold doesn't sit well with everyone, including many establishment Republicans such as blogger Peter Schorsch. Recently his blog attacked Sabatini for an obscure and unfounded ethics complaint lodged by Schorsch himself.

Founder of *Florida Politics*, Schorsch engages in highly unethical behavior on a regular basis which led to his arrest on charges of extortion. Though the state did not prosecute Schorsch for his alleged crimes, he continues to wage a crusade against his political enemies that even Charles Foster Kane might envy.

The complaint filed by Schorsch argues Sabatini violated state statutes by using his official email on a private letter for non-governmental purposes: "No public officer, employee of an agency, or local government attorney shall corruptly use or attempt to use his or her official position or

any property or resource which may be within his or her trust, or perform his or her official duties, to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption for himself, herself, or others."

However, the author of the letter, Michael Carnevale, mistakenly placed Sabatini's government email on the document without his knowledge, therefore exonerating him from involvement in the error.

But Schorsch's history of questionable behavior goes far beyond just making false ethics complaints. He previously called Hispanic-American political writer Javier Manjares "an illiterate lawn boy" and also fostered an intimate relationship with a minor under the age of eighteen while working for the Mallard Group.

The complaint manufactured by Schorsch adds up to little more than minutia and grandstanding. Let's hope he learns his lesson and stops the hocus.



ABOVE: State Rep. Anthony Sabatini during session in the State Capitol. LEFT: Blogger Peter Schorsch booked into the Pinellas County Jail for alleged extortion. (Photo credit: myfloridahouse.gov/ Pinellas Sheriff)



# COMMENT: RICK SINGH SKIRTS THE RULES, *AGAIN*



Jenny S., Orange County Resident

Perhaps Property Appraiser Rick Singh's inability to measure distances explains why he can't seem to count the acceptable number of alleged strippers walking into his office at a given time (the answer should be zero). But let's not be too harsh. After all, math isn't a strong point for everyone, although you'd think the property appraiser might enjoy better proficiency in that area than most people.

Not Rick Singh. As shown in the photo above, Singh, failed to properly place his campaign banner within the required distance of a polling site. It should come to us as no surprise that Singh forfeits the rules every time. He's been taught that he'll get a free pass for anything he chooses to do. With a daughter running for Judge, Singh must realize that his example will be seen as synonymous with her status as a legal authority, if elected.

We the people of Orange County don't ask much of Mr. Singh. Just follow the law.

# OPINION: FACEBOOK WRONG TO CENSOR ENGELS

By JAMES MONTGOMERY

Imagine if you would, a state where the entirety of the streets and public squares fall under the jurisdiction of a select few. Further indulge this fantasy by defining the exclusion of certain groups and a few words spring up almost immediately: segregation, cartel, in-group think... but the real core of these manifest in a single form: tyranny. A tyranny exists today over those who dare dissent from established orthodoxy. Ironically, this very orthodoxy at one time lived in a place of cultural exile. No one really disputed the rights communists possessed to protest on the streets, but they didn't take them seriously either.

But it is the naivety and immense tolerance of many average Americans which has allowed George Orwell's 1984 to reboot, not within a book, but within our own realm. Look no further than Central Florida for evidence. Though his bombastic attitude and sensational headlines shock many in the media, Jacob Engels and his Central Florida Post never threatened any with physical violence. In fact, he never even articulated anything overtly racist. But why then did Facebook recently terminate his page after years of longevity and a solid following of supporters? The answer is that they felt threatened.

You see, if CNN puts out twisted headlines that may cast right-wing

personalities or politicians in an amoral light, it's okay. But when someone on the local level engages in honest journalism, they must be burned at the stake for their audacity. How dare they defy the established order?

Whether or not any of the claims Jacob Engels made in his headlines were true doesn't matter. Of course, most of them were, and that's what triggered the social media cartel so badly. But at the end of the day, we in America believe that centralized power, in any malignant form, represents a dire threat of the individual. It is high time our leaders break up this racket and return freedom of expression to those who rightly deserve it: the people.

While our public squares remain under the jurisdiction of a literal mob (though in only a few cases, such as the formerly independent nation of CHAZ), our social media squares firmly fall into this category. Without question, our national discourse only has room for one side: the left. The racist author of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain, once said: "When you find yourself in the majority, it is time to [reflect]."

The book of Ecclesiastes tells us there is a season and a time for everything under the sun. It is time for average Americans to wake up and ask themselves what they believe. If it is Jacob Engels today, will it be you next?

# ROLLINS NOT KEEN ON PATRIOTISM?

By JOHN WILLISTON

Owned by Rollins College, the beautiful Alford Inn in Winter Park, Florida enchants the hearts and minds of all who enter. The luxurious atmosphere and sophisticated ambience imbue in each visitor a sense of Winter Park's charming persona. The outside façade fits squarely within the quaint Spanish architecture of Rollins College while the interior speaks to modern tastes. But despite all these admirable qualities in the design of the building, guests and convention goers strolling through the hotel may be surprised to find remarkably anti-American artwork on the walls. The Alford family facilitated the construction of the hotel from the vast wealth they amassed through their business enterprises.

One might certainly think they'd prefer artwork less critical of the country that provided them the opportunity to be so successful rather than seek to flaunt the nation's flaws. Whatever the motive behind their open feelings of contempt for this country, the real responsibility for this disgusting display of anti-American propaganda lies with the Chair of Rollins and the Board of Trustees. No honest person disputes the existence of the ideological cartel enveloping the American university system today.

The reasons behind this one sided take-over go back to pre-war era of the so-called "Red Decade" in the 1930s, but few people cared to address the slow march toward stamping out of all descent on campus. A reasonable person may suggest that the President of the University, Grant Cornwall - a scholar of the anti-American Critical Race Theory - be held accountable for the many ills witnessed in recent years on the campus. In light of his background, the display of this art isn't a surprise. But at the end of the day, the

buck stops with the largely Republican Board of Trustees. For years, local Republican kingpin and former Chair of Rollins Allan Keen, as well as other right wing members of the board, enjoyed a unique opportunity to implement changes. Instead, they sat idly by as Cornwall persecuted Christian groups on campus such as CRU, and suspended students speaking up for their faith. "Tolerance for me but not for thee" might as well be the school's new motto. The repression of students' freedom of religion and expression is only a small part of the overarching culture of anti-Americanism. Unlike most schools, Rollins also does not play the national anthem at their graduation ceremonies.

The inaction displayed by the Board on these issues must be examined and questioned. Why choose to do nothing when you're in a position to make a difference? Sure, good old fashioned patriotism may be a bit corny for Cornwall, but not for most of the American parents sending their students to Rollins. It seems the school's efforts to transform their students into "citizens of the world" overlooked their first duty: to endow them with a sense of national citizenship to their country first.

Of course, the typical response given by faculty and staff to such an accusation simply redefines the word patriotism into something it isn't. But judged prior to academia's forced metamorphosis of the term, Rollins clearly fails to properly educate students as to the essence of patriotism.

We share grave concerns about this nation's future academic trajectory and deeply feel committed to highlighting the ideological monopoly within our own community. Our critique of former Chairman Keen and the Board does not reflect an attack on the institution, but a hope - no, a plea - to live up to the foundations on which the deeply Christian founders of Rollins College sought to enshrine in the school: faith and patriotism.



LEFT TO RIGHT (clockwise): Allan Keen, former Chairman of Rollins College; anti-American art in Rollins' Alford Inn





# DON'T CRACK YOUR NEST EGG, LISTEN TO JON!

*Jon Wilsman founded Nest Egg Financial to meet the needs of those struggling with crippling debt...*

(continued from page 1)...consultant to shepherd the process through the duration of the debt relief program, not a different set of eyes with each check in.

Resolving over \$50m in debt for clients, the success of his methods catapulted his firm to one of the highest rated in the United States. His three step program even offers a 100% money back guarantee. Though Jon's firm boasts of sensational achievements today, he didn't always live on the mountaintop.

In fact, he struggled with debt too: "The hardest decision to make is the decision to make a change," says Jon Wilsman, CEO of Nest Egg Financial. "Every minute you wait to become debt free is another minute that you have committed to staying in debt."

So, what are you waiting for? Get in touch with Jon Wilsman and the great team at Nest Egg Financial, today!



## ORANGE AVENUE OVERLAY CONTINUED...



(Continued from Page 1)... the town will end up destroying the cultural fabric that makes up Winter Park. In fact, it's quite the opposite. Though the proposed plans do not contain the full extent of blueprints and plans so many clamor for, one can hardly ignore the reality of Orange Avenue's stagnation. Yes, it is certainly important to preserve history, but a roadmap for progress is also key to increasing the beauty and attractiveness of any city. Some of the plans suggested in their preliminary form look quite appealing in our estimation, while others seem to be a post-modern bore: in any case, there's no denying that something has to change.

The Isle of Sicily and Via Tuscany won't save Winter Pak proper from economic malaise. Among a few of the proposed graphics presented by advocates of development, the image above represents one of the many alternatives to the bland architectural features currently occupying the roadsides on Orange Avenue.

Of course, no one wants to destroy history, and perhaps a means of incorporating the current buildings may be found. But the vacancy of the vertical airspace above the road leaves room for want. A tiered approach seems best, as illustrated above, leaving the structures closer to the road lower in height, and those closer to the train tracks higher.

This model has worked supremely well around the world to facilitate visually pleasing buildings while aiming to maximize space. A simple look at the fountain-side complex of shops and restaurants in Dubai demonstrates its effectiveness. Certainly Winter Park isn't constructing a Burj Khalifa, but there is a necessity to move beyond the status quo. Even religious leaders agree, "where there is no vision, the people perish."

That's not to say members of the commission are entirely wrong. Sometimes the critics of development get it right. For example, the Mount Vernon Inn served as a staple icon of Winter Park for years, and many who revered the venerable old structure long for its return. Casa Feliz nearly met destruction several decades ago before being preserved in a new location near the Winter Park 9. But it is doubtful any honest individual can even think of comparing the elegance of the Mount Vernon Inn or Casa Feliz to the ugly facades currently sitting alongside N. Orange Avenue. As for controversial developments, some residents of Orlando even thought Disney was a bad idea... But look at it now!

Let's be thoughtful about Winter Park's future without thwarting progress and growth: bring back the Orange Avenue Overlay for a second look.

# "PACKING DISTRICT" TO RISE NEAR COLLEGE PARK

Located near College Park, the Packing District will soon rise as a new development in Orlando. The area is rooted in history, grounded in opportunity and directed toward the future. It will be a new community for the city of Orlando, stitching together neighborhoods and honoring the legacy of this special place.

Led by Dr. Phillips Charities, the development of the site represents an opportunity to celebrate the history of The Packing District and look toward the future of the community, the city and the region. The district's master plan has been designed to encourage community wellness from the development of a new regional park to the network of plazas – each connected by pedestrian and bike trails that stitch everything together.

Some highlights of the district will include: a YMCA Family Center, a Regional Park, Trails, a Food Hall, 4Roots Farm & Agriculture Center, Townhomes and Multi-family units.

One of the original citrus producers in the region, Dr. Phillips used the land that stretches along Orange Blossom Trail near College Park as the site of one of his multiple premier packing houses, creating a key place in the early economic ecosystem of Orlando. The site was the first industrial property in Central Florida and the crown jewel in the Dr. Phillips real estate holdings. Buildings on the site focused on his business and his philanthropic passion of enriching his community. Most of the buildings were constructed by his teams using special Dr. Phillips bricks and a loving hand.

Some of the nostalgic aspects to the development will include "The Cannery" as seen to the left in addition. With ground broken in November of 2019, the project will continue throughout the next two years when developers aim to achieve its full completion.



ABOVE: Artistic rendition of the Packing District.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A historic photo of the Packing District in the hey-day of Orange farming in Central Florida





# LOCAL EATS: FIDDLING AROUND IN WINTER PARK, AT FIDDLER'S GREEN!

By MARSHALL SWANSON

Irish eyes are smiling, and so will you on entry into Fiddler's Green in Winter Park. The iconic location boasts of a loyal following which prevails throughout even these times of uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic. Donal O'Brien founded Fiddler's Green with a commitment to Irish hospitality and a belief that Fiddler's feel like a second home. Indeed, regulars know the kind of experience the restaurant offers is unique: at Fidds, you're not just a customer - you're family.

The building sits right behind the train tracks on the intersection of Orange Ave and Fairbanks. Before O'Brien founded the establishment, the location was occupied by an English pub. In both cases, the spot served as a magnet for students of Rollins College down the street, though COVID-19 has changed that for the time being. But even without the influx of students usually crowding the bar on a typical Friday, most of the client base are locals from all walks coming to indulge in O'Brien's tastiest Irish dishes and relax with friends over a cold beer or stiff drink. Although the business remains a focal point for Winter Park residents and a hang-out for many in the Orlando area, Coronavirus did tem-

porarily close the doors for Fiddler's out of an abundance of caution. The number one priority of Fiddler's is safety for customers, and that's why they're working overtime to provide a sterile environment for them.

Equipped with masks, socially distanced tables and hand sanitizer at every turn, Fiddler's goes out of its way to ensure cleanliness. But just because the times call for drastic health measures doesn't mean the fun is over. On any typical night you'll still find the dart boards open for tournaments (though thoroughly washed), and Irish rock still blares on the speakers.

In the end, it's not just quality food and drink that keep Fiddler's afloat, but the bonds of trust and friendship the restaurant cultivated with customers for decades. Never tried Fiddler's Green? Now is a better time than ever! So go grab a Guinness and some Shepherds Pie today, and say hello to Donal for us while you're at it!



## WADE THROUGH LEGAL WATERS WITH ASSURANCE

By MARSHALL SWANSON

The murky waters of the law sometimes weigh down even the most adept business minds and the saviest of municipal leaders. Navigating through these waters without counsel involves risk and great uncertainty. That's why Wade Vose made it his personal mission to help you "wade" through the treacherous waves of the law.

A graduate of the University of Florida, Wade Vose didn't just earn a piece of paper. The law flows through his veins. His family history enjoys a rich heritage in legal background, and it is this expertise that propels the firm toward even greater heights.

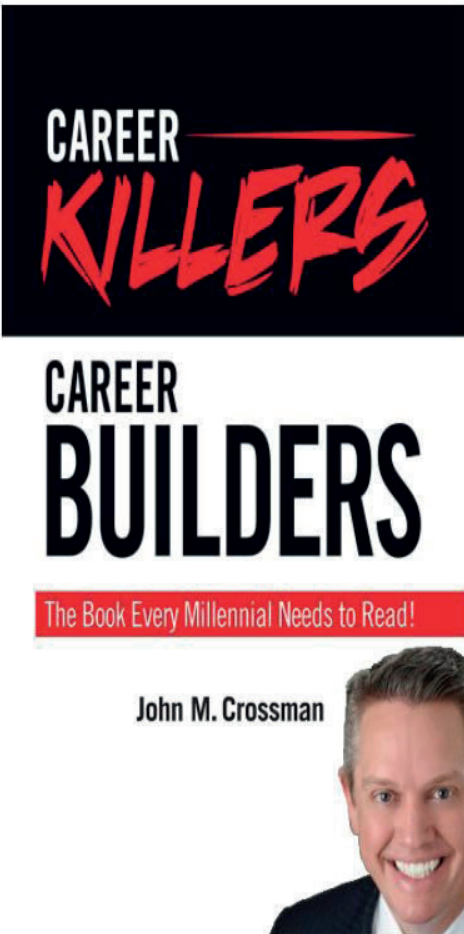
Founder of the Vose Law Firm, Gretchen Vose began her career at lightning speed after graduating law school at the University of Florida in 1973: first, Vose inaugurated her career as an assistant city attorney in Orlando, Florida, and later migrated to Shutts & Bowen,

the oldest law firm in Miami. Mrs. Vose founded the Vose Law Firm in 1990, though the family's combined experience in the legal field amounts to over a half-century of excellence in the profession.

The primary idea behind the Vose Law Firm is service: a service only offered through the lens of a boutique firm while dispensing quality on the level of the massive corporate entities most prominent in the field today.

Today, the firm boasts of an ever expanding client base spanning across the entire state, with a wide range of practice areas including Business litigation, Business law, Investment fraud recovery, Real estate, and development law, Estate planning and asset protection, as well as Local government law.

Think you need the Vose Law Firm on your side? Call them today or visit [www.voselaw.com](http://www.voselaw.com) now.



## IN CAREER KILLERS, CAREER BUILDERS, CROSSMAN HOLDS KEY TO SUCCESS

In his book *Career Killers, Career Builders*, John Crossman helps young people to achieve their goals and reach their highest potential by sidestepping treacherous paths in life.

He transformed his most requested speech, "The Top 5 Ways to Get Fired and The Top 5 Ways to Keep From Being Fired" into a roadmap for students. In *Career Killer/Career Builders* Crossman brings his rich professional experience, to the forefront and gives insight like no one else.

Having served as president of one of the biggest retail leasing, management and investment sales firms in the state, Crossman's wisdom and knowledge comes from leadership in one of the most social of industries – commercial real estate.

“From my personal experience, there is a need for additional training resources for the millennials on the core aspects of being a professional. Our goal is to help them lead a healthy and successful life,”

noted Crossman.

From giving one on one advice to students at universities and colleges around the nation to presenting an unrivaled chance for career acceleration and development within Crossman & Compan, *Career Killers/ Career Builders* is the culmination of decades of knowledge and experience about what-do and what no-to-do.

Written in straightforward, plain wording, chapters within this book also contain practical knowledge about how to network and the best way to prepare for conferences and events.

The book is an top notch go-to for all millenial and generation z, whether professionals or students. John M. Crossman is a nationally recognized writer, panelist and lecturer on successful careers.



LOCAL RESIDENT JOHN ZWEIFEL SERVED SEVERAL PRESIDENTS AND ESTABLISHED THE MINIATURE WHITE HOUSE IN CLERMONT



ABOVE: Bay Hill resident John Zweifel and his wife Jan meet with President George H.W. Bush in the East Wing of the White House for a display of their exhibit

Local Bay Hill resident John Zweifel first toured the White House in 1956 when he was only 20 years old. However, the experience left a lasting impression with him. At the age of 20 he was already an extremely successful miniaturist. From the age of four, his talent began to shine through. As a child, Zweifel created any number of carved figures and practiced on objects from cardboard to bars of soap. In his teenage years, he built a 14,000 piece replica of the Ringling Brothers. After graduating from the University of Chicago Art Institute, he worked at the World's Fair as well as for Walt Disney and the Department of State (and eventually several President's).

Although his first visit to the White House meant that he could not see the entire building, he wrote to Jackie Kennedy and she allowed him greater access. James Becham, the first curator of the White House, worked with Zweifel on an event for the Shah in 1962 as well. However, this visit still did not include the entirety of the residence.

He continued to stay in touch with Presidents over the years but it was not until the presidency of Gerald Ford that he was allowed full access. Zweifel finished his for miniature model in 1976 in time for the bicentennial celebration. After completion, the model spent two decades on tour around the world. Today you can visit the model in Clermont at the Presidents Hall of Fame, where an even larger exhibit filled with wax figures resides. John Zweifel is grateful for the success of his career and the White House project but says it could not have been done without the loving care and support of his late wife Jan. Both he and Jan continued meeting many US presidents throughout the years, including Reagan and Bush 41.

AMIKIDS ORLANDO BRIDGES THE GAP FOR TROUBLED YOUTH

By FRANCISCO GONZALEZ

For more than 50 years, AMIkids has been helping to bridge the gap between law enforcement, the juvenile justice system, and the rehabilitation of troubled and at-risk youth. While the organization today has over 40 programs and facilities in 10 states, it originally started in Florida, where it maintains its national headquarters. In the past half-century, AMIkids has empowered over 135,000 youth across the country to step away from a life of crime and trouble and into an avenue of success and self-empowerment.

Today, the organization has local programs, each with their own board, executive director, and staff. Some operate as residential programs, where the students live and go to sleep each night, while others are day treatment programs, almost like a long school day. AMIkids Orlando is a day treatment program, located in Apopka and led by Executive Director Wanda Walker. On-site at their facilities, she leads a staff that includes teachers, a mental health counselor, and an employment officer. The Orlando program takes on just over 30 students at a time, most of which are in the program for about six months.[www.RussellHome.org](http://www.RussellHome.org).

These students arrive here as a “second chance.” The typical student has had run-ins with the law, often facing arrests, and are placed here after a judge assigns them the opportunity to be a part of the AMIkids program as an alternative to being placed in a juvenile detention facility. AMIkids takes on students of all backgrounds. However, given the demographics in the juvenile justice system, most of the students come from black families – however, many don’t even have cohesive family units. This is one of the largest common denominators of almost every student coming into programs like AMIkids – and in most cases, fathers are completely absent. Many of these young people grow up in a situation where at least one parent has been in and out of prison. Some live with other family members, like grandparents. Given these kinds of situations, the first authority figures many black youths come into contact with are police officers, and typically those interactions don’t go well. This is a great way to restore



not only the students’ own rehabilitation and discipline, but also their relationship with the great men and women serving in law enforcement. It also breeds compassion and empathy from those police officers as well, as they begin to understand the backgrounds and stories each of these troubled youth face. We have seen so much in the news lately pitting two sides: law enforcement and those interfacing with them, with a racial element often involved in the mix. If we continue to look at our justice system from that angle, no one will ever win. However, if we take the approach that organizations like AMIkids does, we can bridge the gap, provide proven rehabilitation programs, treat every person with dignity and respect no matter their background, and work with love, forgiveness, compassion, and honesty.

A WALK DOWN LONELY STREET TO THE HEARTBREAK HOTEL

By FRANCISCO GONZALEZ

In 1956, Elvis Presley released his single, “The Heartbreak Hotel.” It topped Billboard’s Top 100 chart for seven weeks and remains a classic to this day. Some believe the song and its title were inspired by The Heartbreak Hotel, located in Kenansville, Florida in Osceola County. I recently took a trip to Kenansville to find out – it’s less than an hour drive from the heart of Orlando. As the song’s lyrics attest, The Heartbreak Hotel is certainly on “lonely street,” located at 1350 South Canoe Creek Road.

As you approach the town, you see cattle ranches nearby. There’s not much else around here, except the remnants of the First State Bank across the street – where we peeked through the windows to see memorabilia of an old train depot that was located at this intersection as well.

Perhaps The Heartbreak Hotel was “always crowded” in 1955, when Elvis toured Florida and reportedly stayed here then – but it wasn’t crowded at all on this hot and humid day in July. It was eerily quiet on this lonely street in rural Central Florida. And while Elvis said, “you still can find some room,” we could not find any room on this day – but that’s entirely because it’s not a hotel anymore. So, there are no rooms available! A few years ago, the hotel closed, and it was bought by Tall Timbers, an organization that manages wildlife and land.

As a longtime Elvis fan, I was excited for a pilgrimage to a local place made famous by The King himself – but I found nothing but

heartbreak once I knocked on the door and was greeted by an employee of Tall Timbers who told me the story I had been told was a tall tale.

Apparently, this hotel has been named The Heartbreak Hotel since the 1950s – but not before Elvis released his song in 1956. Perhaps Elvis still stayed here. Maybe it simply wasn’t called “The Heartbreak Hotel” during his stay. But maybe it was simply a place where Elvis found heartbreak. And perhaps once the hotel owner found out his establishment was the place that inspired Elvis’ famous song, he renamed it. Or maybe it was just a clever way for this entrepreneurial Floridian to draw visitors, long before Walt Disney changed Central Florida tourism forever. There is no evidence to prove the point either way.

However, what there is plenty of evidence for is that even in a small, rural town in Florida, the legacy of The King of Rock and Roll is still alive and well more than 40 years after his death. Despite the fact the establishment itself is no longer a hotel, passersby will still see painted in large letters across the building the name of one of The King’s greatest hits, “The Heartbreak Hotel,” keeping the legacy of Elvis alive – and the legend of where one of rock’s most well-known songs might have originated. As I got back in my car and returned to Orlando with a broken heart, I cranked up the music through the speakers and let The King continue to speak for himself about the heartbreak he too once found. Maybe here.



CORRECTION:

In last month's issue an excerpt from the article on Bruno Portigliatti failed to correctly transition between page one and three. Here is that excerpt: "...the Portigliatti's faith animates their life's work and purpose. Mr. Portigliatti's story reflects the best in the American spirit, a spirit he hopes to take to Tallahassee. Portigliatti currently faces one competitor in the Republican Primary who has garnered little support. Mr. Portigliatti's campaign raised just over \$100k total. In the General Election, Portigliatti will run against Geraldine Thompson, the seat's incumbent legislator."



RESTAURATEUR CHRIS CHRISTINI  
THANKS HIS LUCKY STARS



By MARSHALL SWANSON

The year is 1985: a fledgling Christini's Restaurant buzzes with activity as usual. Arnold Palmer makes an entrance with his wife and a cadre of friends. Hollywood socialites and local power players jump into the fray. As the night progresses and diners dig into their savory veal chops and mouth-watering plates, an older gentleman unassumingly comes through the door. Unlike most patrons at Christini's that night, Bob Hope took his experience in one of the world's most incredible restaurants directly from the table and onto the Johnny Carson show.

The encounter left Chris Christini, and America, with an indelible moment not soon forgotten. The restaurant hurtled into culinary stardom at lightning speed.

Though his initial success in the fine dining industry made Chris Christini a household name among culinary aficionados, his restaurant soon earned a place among the annals of fine dining history. Christini's Restaurant today joins the ranks of 21 Club in New York, the Capital Club in Dubai, Annabel's in London and so many of the greatest restaurants in the world known for the highest quality and service to guests.

Not much changes over the years, but the clientele is as diverse in age and demography as ever. A typical evening at Christini's Restaurant involves a level of sophisticated class and pageantry communicable only to those of the highest caliber taste. But that doesn't mean the establishment's nostalgic ambience serves just a select niche of diners. A magnet for young and old, local and international, Christini's Restaurant beckons all those who recognize the elegance and class of the world's finest dining epicenter.

Decades of success, founded on a dedication to the customer, allow the restaurant to flourish amidst the most volatile economy since the Great Recession. Over the years, this reputation built a stairway to the stars - and for them. Without fail, the world's most famous celebrities

and public figures continue to choose Christini's for the class, charm and delectable dishes offered to its patrons, among whom include legends as diverse as Tiger Woods, Mick Jagger, Michael Jordan, Pat Sajak, Rudy Giuliani and Gene Simmons.

Though the unique aura and first-class service attracts most, the restaurant's arsenal of cuisine embodies much more than a simple pasta feast. From steaks that cut like butter to the world's rarest caviar, Chris Christini provides diners with a night of salivating memories nothing can possibly erase. After all, what do you expect from a man with fluency in American, Italian, Greek and French cuisines?

His expertise didn't spring up from osmosis though. Born into an impoverished but faithfully Orthodox Greco-Italian family in Sparta, Chris Christini knows well life's valleys and summits. In fact, he worked his way up to reach the American Dream all on his own. His aspirations led him to America's doorstep where he ultimately ascended to the heights of culinary royalty. Upon his initial entrance in the New World, discrimination and low wages seemingly turned the odds against him. But over time, his skill and mastery of the art of dining caught the eye of the country's most prestigious chefs.

Christini rose to prominence from a lowly waiter to opening and managing such establishments as 21 Club in New York, the original Four Seasons, Alfredo's of Rome and the grand opening of EPCOT's Italian Pavilion.

Gambling his entire family's livelihood, and his stellar reputation, Christini opened his restaurant in 1983, surrounded by nothing but orange groves and two distant subdivisions. The bet served him well, now four decades on. Without a doubt, Christini's today carries on the legacy of fabled excellence under his guiding tutelage - his reputation, bolstered by prominent and rare commendations such as the Ivy Award in the United States, and his induction into the US Restaurant Hall of Fame, among many others. Only one thing is missing from Christini's Restaurant, and that's you! So drop by and say hello so he can thank YOU, one of his lucky stars!

NEED A LAWYER?  
CHOOSE SASSO &  
SASSO, P.A.

By MARSHALL SWANSON

The legal world appears murky to most all of us. Even titans of construction and development need counsel from time to time. From enforcing judgements to general legal advice and representation in the areas of business and construction, the Sasso Law Firm has it all.

But these bold attorneys don't just specialize in these two fields alone. The Sasso Law Firm also remains steadily focused on the practice areas of Commercial real estate law, Professional malpractice, Equestrian law, Probate, and trust litigation.

Based in Winter Park, FL, the firm supports, represents and advises clients from all across the state. Founded by Michael C. Sasso, P.A., the Sasso Law Firm enjoys a place of prominence among their competitors and holds a stellar reputation for their excellent legal services. In recent years, the offices of the Sasso Law Firm expanded to include both Winter Park and Lake Mary. Michael A. Sasso, the son of founder Michael C. Sasso, carries on the family business with his father and continues to provide legacy of quality legal services for the next generation.



*Do you need an attorney to fight for you in these fields? If so, contact the Sasso Law Firm today and get a consultation!*

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VISIT GOTHA, WHERE THE YELLOW  
DOG EATS AND *SO CAN YOU...*

Have you ever wondered about the history behind Yellow Dog eats? We did too, and decided to investigate. This humble and hip café in Gotha is an enjoyable hang out for all Orlando residents in the know, but most are not aware of the story behind it. Following the founding of the town of Gotha in 1885, tax records from the time demonstrate Fritz Moritz as the owner of the land where Yellow Dog now sits. They operated a boarding house in the area. Eventually they sold the property to a HP Hill.

And in 1909 Elise Brockman, a single woman, bought the property to build a new residence which was completed in 1910. Over the years the property went through a number of transformations, from a boarding house, to a living space, to a store and even the town's grocer.

Up until 1999 the store functioned as a general store when it was then converted into Yellow Dog Eats. If you've never been to Yellow Dog Eats now is the time to visit. Even during the pandemic, they've taken major steps to ensure the safety and the health of their customers. All of their menus derive from the culinary genius of Chef Fish Morgan and you'll really get a kick

out of the funny names they came up with for their meals. Add a wine or beer to your meal and you've got the perfect Yellow Dog combination.

Let's all do our part to support local business during this time and grab some delicious food at Yellow Dog Eats! And say hi to Fish while you're there!

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About the Editor:

Marshall Swanson is the grandson of founder Roger Swanson. He is the current Editor of The Orlando Local News. He previously worked in the US House of Representatives, operated in the field of political activism and campaigns, as well hosting a radio program on both the AM and FM dial. In addition, he has traveled to Iraq on numerous occasions for charity and research which he submitted to Members of Congress and the National Security Council at the White House.

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