

THE ORLANDO LOCAL NEWS

Serving Dr. Phillips ... Wintermere ... Bay Hill ... Orange Tree ... Ocoee ...
Downtown... Winter Garden... Williamsburg... Baldwin Park... Winter Park... Maitland...
Casselberry...



PRICE 75 CENTS

ESTABLISHED 1980 • CHRISTMAS EDITION

DECEMBER 2020

The Latest

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MERRY CHRISTMAS CENTRAL FLORIDA!

Central Florida Gets Ready For The Man With The Bag

By THE ORLANDO LOCAL NEWS EDITORIAL BOARD

As we celebrate Christmas, let us not forget the reason for the season: the birth of a little child in a manger some 2,000 years ago whose selfless sacrifice and example reminds us to love our fellow neighbors, and even our enemies, without question. During this time of seemingly endless need in our community and nation, we must all strive to forgive more, serve more, and pray more. For those among us celebrating the lights of Hanukkah, the brightness of God's goodness represented in the candles of the menorah share this same radiance. It is our wish that in this moment of strife and division, our inner lights, represented in those on every Christmas tree and manifested in every flame, will beam outward as a beacon of hope and faith for our community. We wish everyone a safe holiday season, a merry Christmas and a very happy 2021! Please enjoy our gallery of holiday lights on page 3.



Orlando Local News Awards Luncheon Held to Honor "Best of Central Florida" Winners



By MARSHALL SWANSON

From political leaders to entrepreneurs of all stripes, *The Orlando Local News'* Best of Central Florida awards luncheon turned out a massive success. Held at the University Club of Orlando on December 3, the order of events included a concert by world renown pianist Dariusz Grabowski and keynote speeches by Roger S. Swanson Lifetime Achievement Award winners Congressman John Mica and former U.S. Surgeon General Antonia Novello. CONTINUED PAGE 2



Top Left: Francisco Gonzalez (bus. mgr), Antonia Novello, Marshall Swanson (Editor). Top Right: Mary Demetree (Demetree Global), Marshall Swanson. Bottom: Dariusz Grabowski (pianist), Bob Rose (pianist), Jeff Borysiewicz (Founder, Corona Cigar), Dave Christner (Christner's), Marshall Swanson

Winter Park Mayoral Race Takes Shape With Historic Possibility For City's First Woman Mayor

By MARTHA KING

For the first time in the history of Winter Park a woman has come within reach of the Mayor's gavel. From being a homemaker, to her career in business and education, Sarah Sprinkel's unique experience qualifies her far beyond many of her predecessors. Sprinkel not only brings with her professional experience, but also the interests of women and children. A major point of her campaign: to make Winter Park family focused, not only culturally sophisticated. From the Vias to anywhere else in the community, in her view, all Winter Park residents deserve a voice at the table. And yet, at this time of historic change, some opposing her candidacy continue to crusade against women having a place within the highest level of city hall: the Mayor's office. But the outdated mentality of exclusion won't hold her back. Sprinkel has big plans if elected. The city must maintain a solvent fiscal course for the prosperity of all residents and the efficiency of public and social services. But on the other hand, Sprinkel realizes the strain of excessive taxation on families, vowing no to all new increases, especially those recently proposed by her opponent's majority and proxy-controlled city commission. What does a Sarah Sprinkel fiscal policy look like? CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Above: Sprinkel (left) with her family.

Photo Credit: Sarah Sprinkel

Exclusive Dr. Phillips Supper Club "London House" Opens With Some Christmas Cheer

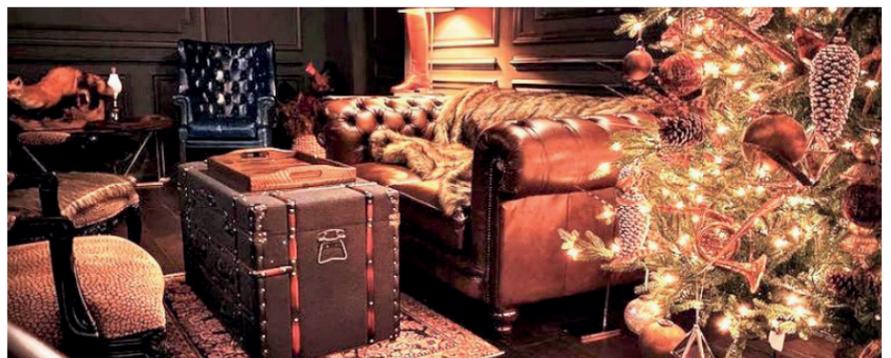


Photo Credit: London House

By TIMOTHY MASON

Santa came early this year. In fact, he came on November 21 to give Central Florida a special present: the London House supper club. Ben Becton and Adrian Everett designed London House down to the square inch with every detail found in a British style supper club. From the moment members walk into the building, they'll feel like a cross between James Bond, Winston Churchill and a modern pop-star. CONTINUED PAGE 6

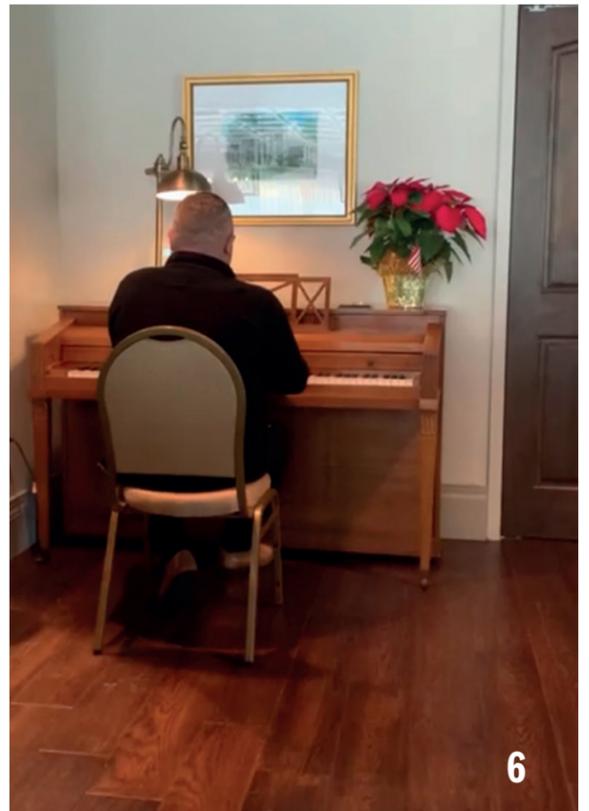
CONGRATULATIONS BEST OF CENTRAL FLORIDA 2020 AWARD WINNERS!

Seen below: a gallery of the many award winners who took part in the Best of Central Florida competition. Photo descriptions available below from left to right. A full list of award winners can be found online at www.localnewsorlando.com. We thank each and every one of our wonderful nominees for participating and wish everyone the best of luck in next year's race to claim the title of Central Florida's best.

Pictured Left to Right: 1. Francisco Gonzalez (Bus. Mgr.), Jon Miller, Maj. Strategies (Best in Pol. Adv.); Greg Fournier, Envisage Political (Best Political Consultant); David Henson, Casselberry Mayor (Best Municipal Leader); Valerie Boey, Fox 35 (Best Reporter); Marshall Swanson (Editor) 2. Francisco Gonzalez (Bus. Mgr), Jon Wilsman, Nest Egg Financial (Best in Debt Relief); Ray Coudriet, (Best Builder); Ray McLeod, McCleod Law Firm (Best Boutique Law Firm, Apopka); Marshall Swanson



3. Glen Gilzean, Cent. Fl. Urban League (American Dreamer Award); Marshall Swanson (Editor) 4. Francisco Gonzalez (Bus. Mgr), John Crossman, Excellence in Philanthropy Award; 5. Congressman John Mica speaks to attendees by zoom (Roger S. Swanson Lifetime Achievement Award); 6. Dariusz Grabowski perform a concert for attendees, Christini's Restaurant, DBG Productions (Best Musician)



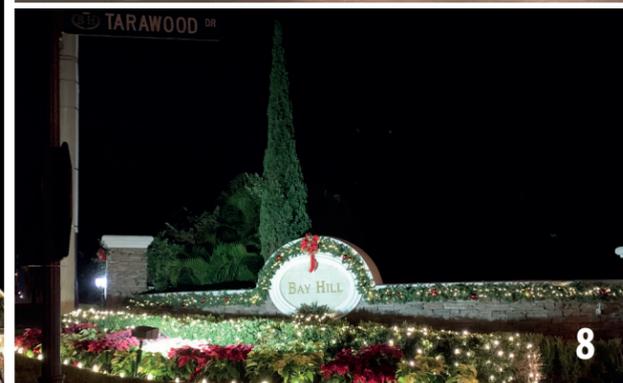
7. Francisco Gonzalez (Bus. Mgr), Max Dunley, Rock Hard Fitness (Best Fitness Club); Craig Delongy, John Craig (Best Haberdashery); Marshall Swanson (Editor) 8. Francisco Gonzalez (Bus. Mgr), Emmett Imani, Best Inventor (Erdwelle Technologies); Marshall Swanson (Editor)



Christmas Cheer Spreads Across Central Florida



COVID-19 isn't the only thing spreading across Central Florida. Contagious bouts of Christmas cheer began to appear shortly after many residents awoke from their post-Thanksgiving naps. Proceed if you dare, but don't be surprised if you catch the Christmas bug too. You may have to quarantine for the sake of your relatives but you'll be fine. We promise...



1. Mather's Social Gathering; 2. Winter Garden - Plant Street; 3. Downtown Windermere; 4. Bay Hill Club; 5. Disney Springs; 6. Winter Park; 7. Magic Kingdom; 8. Bay Hill entrance; 9. Mall of Millennia; 10. Baldwin Park

Winter Park Library Well On Way To Oct. 2021 Finish Line



Photo Credit: City of Winter Park

By JON RUBIN

In late October 2021, city leaders participated in a "topping ceremony" to commemorate the placement of a 500-pound steel beam in a major step toward the construction of Winter Park's \$41.7 million library. City manager Randy Knight indicated his approval and excitement at the pace of the project: "We don't build buildings very often and to have one that's going to be, for decades to come, one of the premier buildings in the city is just very exciting," he said speaking with the *Orlando Sentinel*.

The library and 13,456-square-foot event center was designed by Ghanaian-British architect Sir David Adjaye, with Mayor Steve Leary commending the project as not only a practical and cultural boon to the town, but a job-creator. The swift action in January of the less divided but still contentious city commission meant less expense for the city. The disruption of supply lines and increase in demand for materials amid the COVID-19 crisis might have crippled the project, say some.

Several funding sources make up the bulk of the project's budget with most being raised in \$30 million worth of municipal bonds. Despite the quickly advancing pace of the project and approval from much of the community, Phil Anderson aligned Commissioners Marty Sullivan and Todd Weaver sought to upend the project in may with a stop work order. Nevertheless, a majority of the Commission decided to continue to move forward, at least on the basis that the funds had already been allocated for the project. *The Orlando Local News* will continue to provide updates as this story develops.

Winter Park Mayoral Race Continued...

A balanced budget without raising taxes. Boards and task forces to examine the issues through a serious lens. Commercial growth to expand the tax base and prevent homeowners from paying more taxes. Finally, Sarah believes in fostering a clean environment and making health conscious decisions during this time that also reflect the economic needs of community. "As we plan for people and lift you (the people of Winter Park) up, my emphasis will be on working together with you and with each other to become a more cohesive and kinder community," Sprinkel said. She concluded by emphasizing that "the commission will model the integrity, transparency and ability to listen that you all value. As we become better at doing just that, we will see this grow in our community."

Ground Broken On New Packing District Park



By ANDREW RICHTER

Local leaders came out to Orlando's new Packing District this month to commemorate the start of construction of what will be a 66-acre park that will help transform what once was a predominant industrial area. The park will be located along Princeton Street near John Young Parkway and Orange Blossom Trail. Last November, construction began for more than 300 new apartments at this development. Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer told Channel 6 news that he sees this kind of development demand continuing to grow, with residential construction outpacing itself compared to last year. Whether or not these facts hold up, few doubt the need for revitalization of the land's blight and decay.

The area once served as a massive industrial center with a diversity of sectors, although the majority of the land's use focused on the packing and export of oranges. A "cannery" will be reconstructed according to original designs as a cafe and John Rivers plans on implementing a self-sustaining agricultural program in the district. Elsewhere, the city of Winter Park planned on renovating the decrepit Orange Ave corridor until recent political developments stood in the way of progress and growth.

GOD'S WORD

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. "

Isaiah 9:6

WORDS TO THE WISE

"At this Christmastime we should renew our faith in God. We celebrate the hour in which God came to man. It is fitting that we should turn to Him. . . . But all of us... wherever we may be – are within reach of God's love and power. We all can pray."

Pres. Harry Truman

Opinion: Fines For COVID Violations Immoral & Wrong

By JOHN MATTE

It is not a secret that quarantine for prolonged periods and loss of financial sustainability lead to detrimental outcomes. A recent poll found Deming's approval rate to be slipping from a lack of confidence in his ability to reign in the irresponsible policies he has subjugated the entire business community to.

It may be easy for someone on the government dole to watch another parent's child go hungry or lack basic necessities. However, most not subject to pre-existing conditions do recover from COVID and at incredible high rates. Moreover, a majority of those would prefer the opportunity to feed their children, and pay their rent and bills than languish in poverty and lack. Certainly Mayor Demings is well intended. By accounts he is a good and decent public servant, albeit misguided. But good intentions don't solve problems.

Do the elderly and ill need to be kept secure from the ravages of COVID? Yes. But the Mayor's focus on fining so-called non-compliant businesses will lead to further disaster, heartbreak, misery, and havoc. An abundance of concern and caution has already been aimed as much as possible at protecting the elderly and vulnerable from a disease whose solution may be worse than the sickness itself. By fining restaurants and businesses up to \$15,000, Demings is really telling you that your kid's Christmas presents aren't important, or that little Suzy or little Johnny's tuition doesn't matter, or that their college fund can't be a priority. What is the Mayor truly conveying by passing policies that smother our residents in mountains of debt? That heap upon them financial and emotional stresses that drive them to the breaking point? "I know better than you." Yes, if you and I enjoyed a monthly stream of government income to line our pockets, the latest economic development might just be an inconvenience. But when you own that special restaurant your parents built or that dream bar you took your whole life to construct or the hardware store started by grandpa, you start to think about things a little differently. And, the moment that you look your son or daughter in the eye to explain why Santa couldn't bring those roller-skates or that basketball, remember these draconian policies of restriction and control.

Readers interested in submitting a letter to the Editor or opinion piece for publication may email the Editor at Editor@LocalNewsOrlando.Com



Photo Credit: Orange County Mayor's Office

Dr. Phillips' "London House" Continued...

Equipped with professionally trained butlers and world class chefs seeking only the chance to satisfy your every need, the club is the real deal. Formerly the site of Urbain 40, most feel the current venture to be headed in more sustainable direction despite some skeptics within Orlando's most prestigious social circles. But joining isn't as easy as eating one of Chef Grant's pieces of cake. Joe Shmoe off the street can't sign up to the club right off the bat. There's a process, and rightfully so. You'll need a special card made of metal as well as a pass code. But once inside, London House opens the door to an entirely new world: three private dining suites, a drawing room, a cocktail lounge, a piano lounge, and a hidden cigar garden at the end of the terrace. Nestled in the Dellagio complex in Dr. Phillips, Becton and Everett plan on yet another location downtown.

The land upon which Dellagio now rests sat vacant for years before builders broke any ground. Amongst the orange groves and pine forests of the Dr. Phillips area, the first mall and restaurant-row-style complex to arise took place in the early 1980s in "The Marketplace." Only at the turn of the millennium did Plaza Venezia arise to

compete. The only restaurant remaining from the days of Dr. Phillips' formative years can be found in the Marketplace's Christini's Ristorante Italiano. Although the turnover rate sustains a high percentage in the area, most seem optimistic about the club's chances for success given the quality of service, amount of time and resources invested in the launch of the enterprise as well as the positive long term viability of competitor clubs in the area. London House also offers services most other local clubs do not. From 8 AM to 3 AM, many of them will be available to members, including an on-site notary, a tailor, car detailing and refuelling, fine and casual dining, table-side service, bespoke experiences, and access to the house helicopter with expense. The second location will be downtown. Dubbed the Penthouse, the second venue comes with an open-air dining terrace, a fitness center, a spa and a panoramic view of the city. The Dellagio club hosts frequent parties on holidays as well as Saturday night soirees. Holiday parties include a planned Vampire Ball at Halloween, a Mad Hatter's Tea Party in March and Christmas parties.

From the decadent design to the impeccable, top notch service by British Butlers, London House may just be the breath of fresh air our city needs during these unprecedented times!



Opinion: Sabatini Right On COVID Vaccine Bill *My Body, My Choice*

By MARSHALL SWANSON

For once, I'm in agreement with the radical left: I say, "my body, my choice." Florida State Representative Anthony Sabatini has once again pledged to oppose any further infringement on the rights of citizens, and I couldn't be more elated. The Representative deserves praise for his efforts. Although our first concern was and is the safety of citizens, COVID's mortality rates in terms of percentage now appear to be much lower than initially thought. The risk of taking such a permanent vacation from the freedoms we all cherish seem to outweigh the alleged consequences of allowing people and businesses their ability choose. That is why Sabatini's battles against mandates and restrictions are so important. As an attorney, he has the skill-set to take these anti-American policies to task. Within a matter of weeks, the vaccine will be available in much larger numbers for the Coronavirus. I plan on taking it for the sake of myself and those around me.

Nevertheless, the so-called experts in charge of our administrative state in both Tallahassee and Washington got it wrong before and might do so again. As many have noted, Dr. Fauci - an honorable man with great knowledge and talent - originally called for only the ill to wear masks. He shifted course sharply following that comment. According to the *Tallahassee Democrat*, the leading newspaper in Florida's capital city, Sabatini's legislation could prevent the Florida Surgeon General from mandating vaccinations, even with his expanded powers during a state of emergency. The legislature and governor should do the right thing and protect the rights of our citizens. Perhaps Ben Franklin said it best, "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."



Local News Throwback Circa 1983, Dr. Phillips... Then & Now

Dr. Phillips Residents Once Flew In Balloons For Fun! Can you identify the location of these two pictures? The first respondents will be treated on us to a complementary set of Florida Sun Grown Cigars By Corona Cigar Co. Email: Contact@LocalNewsOrlando.com



THE EARLY MORNING BALLOON EXPRESS may take off from Rosemont and head south. More and more folks looking for a change of pace tour are enjoying ballooning. Terry Dillard of Balloon World often makes South Bay or North Bay a likely destination. These scenes indicate the fun.



CPAC To Be Held In Orlando

The American Conservative Union announced December 8th their intention to hold the annual CPAC conference in Orlando

By STAFF WRITER

"For the first time ever, our annual CPAC meeting is moving outside of DC to Orlando, Florida," American Conservative Union chairman Matt Schlapp told Fox News. "In addition to being a model on how to run a clean election without widespread illegal voting, thanks to Gov. Ron DeSantis' (ACUF Lifetime Rating: 99%) common-sense leadership, Florida has kept its economy, schools, and churches open - while balancing the health and safety of Floridians."

The event has already been deemed by some a potential for COVID rates in the area. However, Schlapp reasserted confidently that the event will be handled with the highest level of safety. The crowds will likely also boost Central Florida's ailing economy by injecting a stimulus to the lagging tourism industry.

Orange Tree Golf Course: Central Florida's Hidden Gem



Photo Credit: Orange Tree Golf Course

By MARCUS BRANSON

Serving residents of the Central Florida area for nearly half a century, Orange Tree Golf Course sits at the top of the list when judging the quality of golf courses in Central Florida. Of course, the nature of Shingle Creek or Grande Lakes does emit a special charm. Bay Hill's legacy as Arnold Palmer's home and the club's exclusivity will forever cement its place in history. But for those golfers interested in a real challenge, with the reward of lifelong friends and the finest quality dining and service, Orange Tree is the answer. Orange Tree's narrow fairways make the course a favorite for professional golfers and amateurs alike seeking to up their game.

The club's longevity can be credited a change in ownership in the late 1980s from Disney to Wisne. Most residents, save longtime Central Floridians, remain oblivious to Disney's former ownership of the property through the defunct Arvida Corporation. Arvida's main interest revolved around packing in as many houses to as many lots as possible. Fortunately, with Detroit-native Tony Wine's purchase of the course in 1988, the great legacy of golf Orange Tree holds today among residents in Central Florida's community became set in stone (or, in grass rather).

The Wisne family still runs the club today, and just as efficiently. Their non-profit driven focus and passion for the club provide members with an experience found nowhere else, and has also earned the club a higher Yelp rating than both Isleworth and Bay Hill combined. A recent renovation to the clubhouse solidified Orange Tree's reputation as a top of the line membership organization and golf community. Truly Central Florida's Hidden Gem, members of Orange Tree Golf Club enjoy a lifetime of memories with lifelong friends.

Mather's Social Gathering Decks The Halls For Christmas



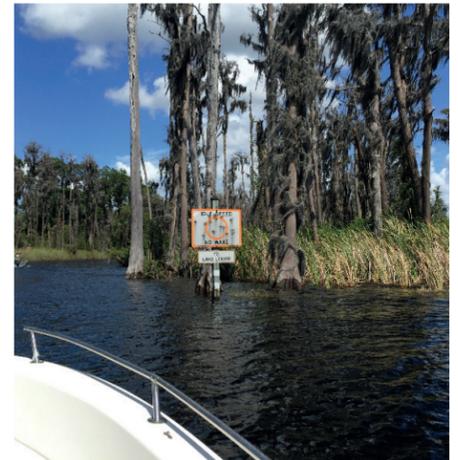
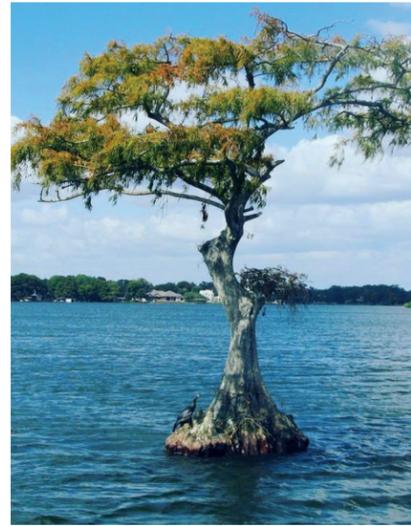
By MARSHALL SWANSON

With Christmas right around the corner and the holiday season upon us, Mather's Social Gathering has once again gone over the top in an effort to create the most enchanting experience Orlando has to offer. A 1920s style speak-easy with a trap door bookcase, the establishment is known for its classy, old-fashioned style. During the holidays and other festive times of the year, any visitor will be in

awe of the impressive ornamentation and decorations set up all throughout the floor. The spectacular display of lights, quaint atmosphere and tasty cocktails make for the perfect Christmas outing. Grab a drink with some friends tonight and get your fill of the holiday spirit and the best elixirs that Central Florida has to offer!

*Mather's Social Gathering
30 S Magnolia Avenue
Orlando, Florida 32801*

Which Is Better: The Butler Chain Or The Winter Park Chain?



Top Left/Right: A lone cypress tree stands guard on Lake Maitland; Comedian Carrot Top stands on his boat nearby. Bottom Left/Right: A young model poses on shores of Bird Island on the Butler Chain; a boat navigates one of the many channels on the chain.

By MARSHALL SWANSON

The weather outside may be frightful (to Floridians, brr!), but if we know anything, that won't last long. With an eye on an eventual return to warmer days, we must make a Solomonic decision: that is the only way to describe which set of lakes we prefer. But let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater, even if it (and our hearts) are split in two! Both the Butler Chain and the Winter Park Chain of Lakes command the attention of Central Florida's wealthiest and most prominent residents when it comes to buying homes. And, although boat-ramps do give access, a certain level of seclusion exists in both (or at least a sense of seclusion.)

When we examine the basic facts, it seems fairly clear on the outset that Winter Park's Carrot Top tips the scales in this battle. The son of a former NASA engineer, this comedian will have you laughing your way out of this world in no time. Making appearances on shows like Larry the Cable Guy's Christmas Spectacular, Gene Simmons Family Jewels, Space Ghost Coast to Coast and Criss Angel Mindfreak, the stand-up comedian also has an extensive film career; although, much of the time you'll find him patrolling the Winter Park Chain in his boat (and in the water, of course). How can you beat that?!

But on balance, the Butler Chain possesses an abundance of qualities not excessively included in the Winter Park package: beautiful models basking on the shores of the unoccupied "Bird Island", and just as important— nature. This isn't to say the Winter Park chain doesn't have an ibis here or there, or any eye-candy— just not as much as Butler.

From Carrot Top to beautiful models to nature— the decision isn't humanly possible to make. So, we'll call it a stalemate and simply enjoy both!



Corona Cigar Keeps Aficionados In Good Company & Good Spirits



Top Left: Attorney Mark Nejame, Editor Marshall Swanson, politico Dick Batchelor and local entrepreneur Lorvins Eugene enjoy a cigar at Corona's Doctor Phillips location. Middle: A Sheikh from Bahrain visits the venue. Top Right: Max Mehra



Bottom Right: Jeff Borysiewicz, Anthony Sabatini, Angel Benitez

By MARSHALL SWANSON

Arab Sheikhs, good ole boys, celebrity icons, and rabble rousers... where else in Florida does such a place exist but at Corona Cigar?! There's a reason why so many people from all different walks gravitate to Jeff Borysiewicz cigar hub: it has been said that "a cigar a day keeps the COVID away." While that may be true, most simply enjoy the laid back atmosphere, friendly staff and down to earth company enjoyed while smoking Jeff's custom, Florida grown FSG cigars.

Founded two decades ago, Corona Cigar has flourished and expanded from inception and launch to the present day. But this gigantic entrepreneurial venture established by founder Jeff Borysiewicz met strong headwinds along the way. Government restrictions and proposed restrictions needed to be put at bay, and that is precisely why Corona Cigar Company plays an active role in ensuring everyone has the freedom to purchase and smoke a cigar. Corona Cigar Company is a Founding Sponsor and member of the board of directors for Cigar Rights of America as well as a member of the board of directors for the International Premium Cigar & Pipe Retailer's Association (IPCPR).

We applaud Jeff not only for his world-renown cigar business and one-of-a-kind Florida tobacco farm, but also for his patriotic endeavor to secure the freedom to live as we please, including the longtime American tradition of smoking. In the age of Corona, Corona Cigar Co. is the best place to gather safely with friends or simply grab a stogie for the road.

Travel: Frankfurt's Christmas Markets



Photo Credit: Marshall Swanson

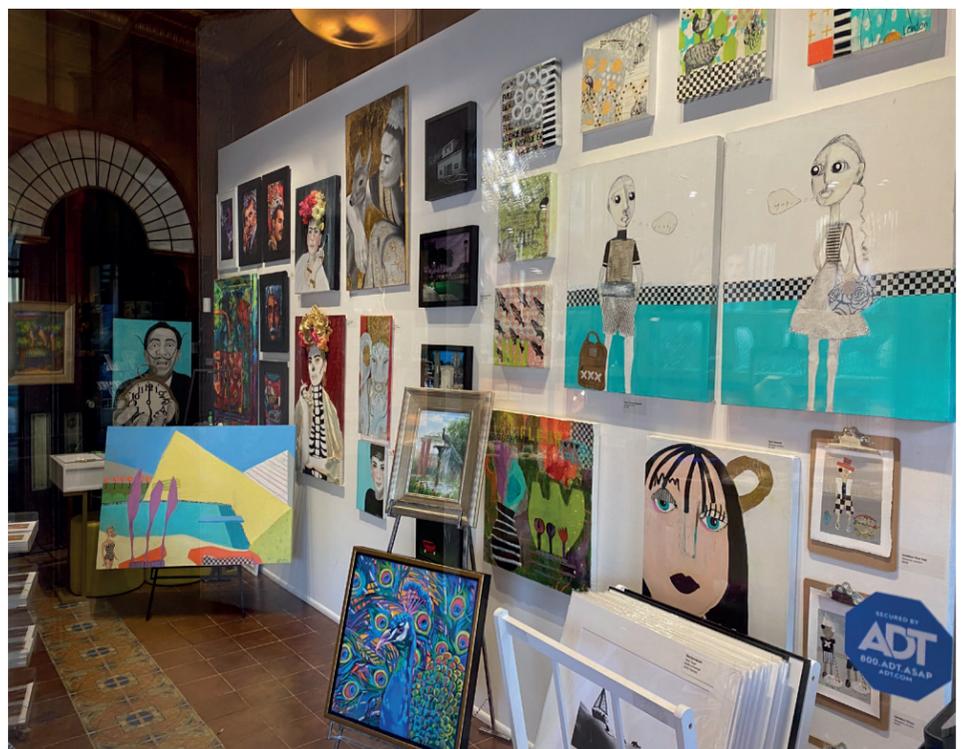
By MARSHALL SWANSON

As Coronavirus remains a major impediment to international leisure travel, many look to the future and hope for a swift end to the crisis and a return to normalcy. Others simply ignore restrictions and travel where they please. Whenever the current crisis comes to a resolution, more people will begin to travel again, and at Christmastime, one of the world's most enchanting places to visit is Germany. Though stifled by restrictions at the moment, Christmas in Germany is a true sight to see and experience. Though many travelers enjoy the quaintness of small German villages during the holiday season, the likes of Frankfurt, Munich and Berlin also offer a pleasant and fun excursion.

At the Frankfurt Christmas market you'll find gifts of all kinds for people of all ages and tastes. From roaming accordionists to the lights dotting every house, tree and building, Frankfurt's Christmas market exhibits an aura of holiday magic well worth witnessing, though this year's has been cancelled due to COVID. The history of the market has been traced back to 1393, when first reference thereof was made in official documentation. One of the highlights of the market's history dates back to 1498. Christmas of that year saw the landgrave, Wilhelm of Hesse, marry the daughter of the electoral prince of Palatinate. Chronicles speak of a magnificent entourage of horses and riders, over a thousand strong, which accompanied the electoral prince to the wedding ceremony in Frankfurt am Main. Only in the 19th century though did the market receive a large evergreen Christmas tree.

A hub for Lufthansa, the market is only a short metro ride into the city from the airport. Orlando residents can fly directly to Frankfurt on Lufthansa from MCO on a nearly daily basis during normal times, and wherever your final destination may be, the city always has something fun to offer.

Passport Gallery Features Amusing & Intriguing Art



By SUSAN CRIMBLE

Inaugurated as an enterprise of Denise Autorino, Passport Winter Park's smashing success as a publication prompted the entrepreneur to branch out into the realm of art. The Park Avenue Hotel, originally named the Hamilton Hotel, provided a home for her new venture— you might even say a match made in heaven. Once accompanied by Park Plaza Gardens, the hotel now boasts of a jewellery shop and the newly christened Bovine Restaurant. From a walk down the Avenue with a romantic partner, to that special first date, the museum provides the perfect ending to the perfect night out— and some great art to take home. Visitors from out of town will also be enchanted by the trappings of the museum and will find it to be a harmonious bookend to each of the other museums of art on the Avenue. Though social distancing guidelines are in effect, when after hours, art enthusiasts can still peer through the windows and catch a glimpse of the displays. Whether impressed into visual memories or taken home, the shop will leave anyone with a penchant for the arts yearning for more.

Classic Fire Engine Returns To Downtown Winter Garden



Above: Restored Winter Garden fire truck Below: The truck in 1954 (Photo Credits: Winter Garden Heritage Foundation)

By MARSHALL SWANSON

A 1954 fire truck originally from Winter Garden has returned to the scene once more. "The fire truck has been a part of Winter Garden for many years," said Frank Chase, president of the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation board of directors. "During that time it has had several different lives. The Heritage Foundation is grateful to have it back on display for everyone to enjoy and interact with."

The Nassal corporation as well as Wes Pullen Automotive and PCL Construction aided in the restoration and return of the truck. Fire Chief Hoyle Pounds bought the truck in 1954, dubbed the American La France, paying \$8,633 as donated it to the city. After two decades in service to Winter Garden, the truck was sold to the Brecheen family in the Montverde-Minneola area and later operated as an auxiliary vehicle for the area's firemen, earning the nickname "Grandma." In 2001, Eva Brecheen gave the truck to Winter Garden resident Mark Austin, who was a district chief with the Orlando Fire Department. The truck was repainted red following a conversion from a yellow scheme and fully restored in 2018. Visitors may see the truck in Winter Garden on Plant Street in downtown.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



"My husband and I truly enjoy reading a refreshing perspective on the issues that the *Sentinel* refuses to cover. We were not aware of Worrell's radical connection to the BLM crowd until you wrote about it."

Jon R., Winter Park

"I thoroughly examined your Best of Central Florida Award winners. I agree with all of the choices selected. By all accounts, you did a marvelous job executing the event and competition on the whole. Can you do more events in the future?"

Timothy M., Dr. Phillips

"I am pleased that you included several Democrats in your award categories as well. As a centrist, I am happy to see that your Editorial opinions have a centrist and conservative tone while also promoting inclusion and balance."

Jim E., Winter Garden

"I cannot tell you how strongly I disagree with your position on everything you write. Picking Anthony Sabatini for an award really goes to show your true colors."

Jenny S., Downtown Orlando

"Your story on the Vineland Veterans Cemetery should bring disgrace upon the commission. Development is fine, but destroying a Union Civil War Cemetery to put up a shopping center is a tragedy and those responsible should be voted out of office and never allowed to run again."

Coley G., Windermere



Full Portfolio of Letters Available Online at www.LocalNewsOrlando.com

Email Your Feedback At Contact@LocalNewsOrlando.Com

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 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.

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 travelled 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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