



The Latest  
LOCAL POLITICS  
AND OPINION

Winter Park Commission Mounts  
Anti-Progress Agenda Will the city  
council's agenda cause blowback?  
Page 3  
Primary Election 2020: We Picked the  
Winners All our endorsements won, with  
one exception... Page 2  
Casselberry's Russiagate? Casselberry  
commission candidate Chad Albritton  
recently disbursed campaign donations to  
several foreign companies, including one  
based in Moscow... Page 4  
Baldwin Elementary School Prevented  
from Using COVID Protective  
Equipment.. Page 3  
A Pandemic of Racism? In the wake of  
Salaythis Melvin's death, some question  
the complicity of the OCSO in racism...  
Page 2  
Central Florida Urban League Invests  
In Entrepreneurs.... Page 4  
Opinion: 535-Apopka-Vineland  
Connector Benefits All... Page 5

LOCAL DELIGHTS

Orlando City Comes Roaring Back:  
But can they keep up the wins? Page 5  
High School Administrator Instills  
Patriotism in Students: Brian Rose of  
The First Academy takes special time out  
to instruct students on the importance of  
patriotism... Page 5  
Chatham's is the Place: For over three  
decades, Chatham's Place has grown into  
a world icon for the one of the top dining  
experiences in Orlando... Page 6  
Bob Rose Let a Song Go Out of His  
Heart: See why guests of Chatham's  
Place rave about pianist Bob Rose..  
Page 6  
Hangry Bison, Pizzeria Valdiano:  
A truly American Story of an Italian  
family...Page 7  
The McLeod Law Firm: Apopka's  
most famous dynamic duo practice law...  
Page 7  
Long May She Wave: A selection from  
our online gallery of American flags  
throughout our community... Page 8  
The College Park Cafe A family fleeing  
Communist Cuba works their way up  
to the American dream and restores the  
College Park Cafe... Page 8

WINTER PARK COMMISSION  
MOUNTS ANTI-PROGRESS AGENDA

WILL THE CHICKENS  
COME HOME TO ROOST  
IN WINTER PARK?

Opinion: The W.P. Commission's  
Looney-Tune Agenda Must Be Exposed

By MARCUS TURNER

When Herbert Hoover ran for President in 1928, his campaign promised "a chicken in every pot." Now, some members of the Winter Park commission have hatched a plan do the same, literally, with backyard chicken pens. The problem is, not everyone likes the idea. I, for one, would much rather enjoy a porterhouse steak, or some pork chops! And what of the chickens themselves? Hasn't anyone bothered to ask them, or the roosters?! If you think these questions are just as preposterous as backyard chickens, then you're in good company: a recent poll found a majority of Winter Park residents disagreed with the idea, especially the chickens! But joking aside, Todd Weaver and the Winter Park commission, indeed, have seriously begun contemplating this cock-amamie idea by voting to support a backyard chicken pilot program...CONTINUED PAGE 3

COUNCIL MEMBERS SEEK  
TO SEGREGATE NEW BLACK  
COMMISSION DISTRICT

By TIMOTHY MASON

One issue being heavily advocated for by Winter Park Commissioners Marty Sullivan (right), Sheila DeCiccio and Todd Weaver zeroes in on alleged civil rights inequities in the town. Home to one of the most affluent African-American neighborhoods in the country, Winter Park's black historic district remains a point of pride for the entire community. However, Sullivan opines that not a single black commissioner in Winter Park has been elected since the late 19th century. To remedy the problem, he now suggests single member districts for Winter Park commission seats to bring in ... CONTINUED PAGE 3



PRIMARY ELECTION 2020: WE PICKED THE WINNERS

Last issue we submitted our choices for Central Florida's August 18th election. And though our wide array of candidates did not cover every race, all our selections won with flying colors, except one. We don't admit to owning a crystal ball, but we wish all of the winners just as much luck governing! In terms of races not covered, we feel it necessary to weigh in on a few honorable (and dishonorable mentions). Though Randy Ross has served Orange County well as Republican State Committeeman, we feel Rich Crotty's election will aid in the rejuvenation of the party in the area. The era of Democratic, one-sided domination witnessed throughout Central Florida has lately spiked to an unacceptable level, and this change will hopefully bring about some breakthroughs in this arena. A perfect example of this monopolization of local polites was displayed in the State Attorney's race, where radical BLM-leaning candidate Monique Worrell swept aside her opponents with ease, including the highly respected and qualified former Judge Belvin Perry. We hope Perry returns to run again and bring moderation to our local government, even as a Democrat. Our election commentary continues on page 2.



BALDWIN SCHOOL PREVENTED FROM  
USING COVID-19 PROTECTIVE FILTERS  
Denied on Grounds of "Equity"



By MARSHALL SWANSON

With the recent reopening of Baldwin Park Elementary school, parents concerned about students' exposure to the coronavirus held a fundraiser with the Bobcat Fund to support raising money for the school to purchase air purifiers for the classrooms... CONTINUED PAGE 3

CASSELBERRY'S RUSSIAGATE?

Recent Campaign Expenditures by One City Commission  
Candidate Leave Residents Concerned

By JEAN LEFFLER

As we prepare to vote in 2020, many people question the integrity of our elections given the Russian interference witnessed in 2016, which manipulated those on both sides of the aisle. But could they do it again? According to recently released campaign reports, such interference may be closer to home than we think.

It is well known that the Russian government, through private organizations, tend to groom candidates and agents from a young age. Might such a scenario be unfolding before our very eyes in our own town? We'll never know for sure, but the we can certainly let the facts speak for themselves. Just several months ago, Chad Albritton, a candidate for Casselberry Commission, conducted business with a Russian vendor based in Moscow called Tilda Publishing in support of his campaign's social media and web outreach, according to public campaign finance records. Sound familiar? CONTINUED PAGE 4





WE PICKED ALL THE WINNERS!

With One Exception, All of our Endorsements Won on Election Day!

OPINION: NIX AND KRAYNICK BRING RESPECT AND DIGNITY TO THE BENCH

By JON WARNER

From cronyism to judicial activism, over the years, our court system seems to have been on a slide in the wrong direction at every level. With the election of Mike Kraynick and Mikaela Nix to the bench, we can be confident that fairness, equality under the law and non-activist decisions will be carried out to preserve the original meaning of the law and preserve the integrity of our judicial process.

Legislating from the bench sets a dangerous precedent of erroneous decisions based on partisan or ideological objectives. Though this activity has been going on for years in the courts at every level, we feel the election of Nix and Kraynick is a positive sign and a step to help put actions like these in check.

In addition, we feel Nix and Kraynick to be excellent fits for their offices in terms of their character and dedicated history of doing what is right for their family and community. All too often, elected officials of all offices find themselves mired in scandal and we are grateful that the profiles of these fine individuals will bring honor to the Judicial system and the offices for which Nix and Kraynick ran. Congratulations and good luck to them both!



ABOVE: Judge Mike Kraynick, who recently won the confidence of the people in the August 18th election. BELOW: Mikaela Nix, a newcomer to the bench with a stellar record of practicing law.



SPANO OUT, FRANKLIN IN

Scott Franklin really knocked out Ross Spano, and we couldn't be happier. Though most of the district resides outside of the Orlando area, we've received many great compliments for our recent endorsement of Spano from Clermont residents and those in surrounding communities.

Everyone makes mistakes and perhaps after some time Spano may be found fit to return. His brief time and experience in Congress did yield results for his constituents from time to time and for that we are grateful. However, his deceit and concealment of what appeared to be blatant corruption can't be ignored.

Mr. Franklin is the leader we need. A former Navy pilot and businessman, Franklin knows that going to Washington is about more than just a career. His integrity and record of service convey honor and decency that the constituents in his district can place their faith and trust in.

We will be closely watching Mr. Franklin through the general election and whole-heartedly give him our best as he presses on in his fight!



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.

ORANGE COUNTY "SINGHS" A NEW SONG, AS RICK AND DAUGHTER EXIT STAGE



By JEAN LEFFLER

Most often people enter public service with good intentions. However over time their character sometimes changes. The great Abraham Lincoln once said, "If you want to test a man's character, give him power." The people gave Rick Singh power, and he failed the test. Though his flirtation with graft and scandal did not rise to the level of another elected official in a neighboring county, his use of county property and funds for personal purposes did signify a gross misuse of taxpayer dollars.

From trips to India and Spain, to alleged strippers in his office, Singh clearly abused the public trust. While engaging with strippers is unbecoming and certainly not a positive attribute for an elected official, such

activity is not new for men in positions of power, but his alleged use of public property to do so set the bar lower than ever before.

We will never know whether or not his daughter might have made a good judge. However, it is certain the voters identified his behavior and began to question her integrity as well. She may have been an innocent casualty in this election, but perhaps the electorate has begun to realize the folly of political dynasties at both the national and local levels.

Orange County is "Singh"-ing a new song, and for that we welcome this change. We wish the best of luck to Mr. Singh's successor and will be monitoring closely their progress in office.

A PANDEMIC OF RACISM IN ORANGE COUNTY? The Statistics Say Not So Much



By CHANDLER BENNETT

Everyone by now has heard about the tragic killing of Salaythis Melvin. Whether a criminal or an innocent victim, any loss of life is always devastating emotionally to the family, friends and officers involved. The Mayor has called for an investigation by the DOJ, though many of the facts now seem to point to an adverse reaction by the police. The Sheriff's office denies the officers were racist or used any slurs against Salaythis Melvin.

However, without knowing the facts, a group of protestors marched at the Florida Mall to promote the need for justice in the case of Melvin and police

violence against African Americans. We investigated whether or not a "pandemic of racism" truly exists within the law enforcement agencies of our local cities and the Orange County Sheriff's Office itself.

Statistics from a *Washington Post* study indicate that from the year 2015 to the present, only three unarmed black men were shot by officers in Orange County, FL. And while each of these lives hold immense meaning and value, as a whole, these killings do not reflect a broad pattern of unarmed shootings or police violence on the basis of race.



COMMISSION DISTRICT (CONTINUED)...

representation from the black historic district. In a recent commission meeting, a majority of the members voted in support of putting single member districts on the ballot, effectively segregating them from the rest of the largely white community.

Support for this measure also boasts few advocates in the community. Of those pushing for this agenda item, only 6-8 emails were received by the commission and almost everyone speaking in favor of the change at the recent town council meeting were from elsewhere and not Winter Park residents.

Sadly, when it comes to the voting record of these three commissioners, ignoring the wishes of their own constituents ranks highest among all else on their agenda. Strangely, they're not even sure what *they* want. No plan has yet been presented on what the maps for these new districts might look like. However, what is known, is that these commissioners continue to ignore the recommendations of own appointees, ignore common sense and throw precedence out the window in favor of ill-advised and border-line racist

agendas put up by powerful interests.

We agree the lack of diversity in the Winter Park commission needs to change. And that's why we'd fully support any decision made by Sullivan, DeCiccio, or Weaver to step down and campaign for an African-American candidate. Of course, he would never do that. And why? Because single member districts lead to less representation, a racist ploy to further exclude black involvement in the commission. While Mr. Sullivan's naive understanding of this issue may be innocuous, those pushing this agenda item are well aware of its intended potential results. Having progressed beyond the ugly history of segregation once grappled with in this country, some now feel they have an advocate in Sullivan to foist tribal divisions back upon us by establishing separate districts for blacks and whites.

"But wouldn't single member districts bring more representation to the under-represented?" some ask. With African-Americans making up less than 10% of Winter Park, apportionment to include a single black district necessarily calls for ten distinct districts, leaving the black

community with virtually no control and only one tenth the governing power of whites. As to the validity of the complaint, certainly the Winter Park commission should be more diverse. No doubt. But no one expects Eatonville to elect a white commission member, mainly as a result of the town's demographics. The same is true with Winter Park. Yes, the west side of Winter Park is a "black district," however, the makeup of this area has changed rapidly over the decades and many African-Americans have moved away. Regardless of statistics, people should decide their vote on the content of one's character and not the color of their skin.



ABOVE:Hannibal Square  
BELOW: Mount Moriah Church in the African-American district of Winter Park. LEFT: Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in the early 20th century.



*"With African-Americans making up less than 10% of Winter Park, apportionment to include a single black district necessarily calls for ten distinct districts, leaving the black community with virtual no control and only one tenth the governing power of whites."*

# WILL THE CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST IN WINTER PARK?

(continued from first page)... But some people say the commission's decision to implement this program will look more like the *pilot* episode of the Beverly Hillbillies than a progressive step toward sustainability (though Buddy Ebsen did attend Rollins).

We think a better way to preserve the vitality of the city is to remain focused on the things people really care about, like jobs and growth. Though this isn't the only out-there agenda item brought up at Winter Park's commission meetings, it is certainly in the runner up category, right there with re-segregating our political system, an idea commissioner Marty Sullivan has sought to champion.

While members of the Winter Park commission debate backyard chickens and the merits of Jim Crow-like policies, the rest of the community suffers under the economic and health ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the commission shouldn't count their eggs before they hatch. Voters are watching, and one day, the chickens will come home to roost!



**PARK AVENUE'S FUTURE?**  
*For years, escaped chickens  
wandered the streets of Gotha.  
Could a similar scenario be in store  
for chic Park Avenue?*



# O.C.P.S. REFUSES PROTECTIVE GEAR FOR STUDENTS



(continued from Page 1)...The Board of Directors for the foundation, the Bobcat Fund, states that they voted to purchase 130 air purifiers for the classroom. Nevertheless, Orange County Public Schools, led by Teresa Jacobs (right) and Superintendent Barbara Jenkins (left), told the principal that the purifiers would be restricted for the school and that they must refuse the delivery. In a statement to Channel 6 News, Rene Burke, the media promotions manager for Orange County Public schools, said that “in order to ensure equity throughout the district, the district has an approved personal protective equipment package of products for use in every school and classroom. Any items not on the approved PPE list must go through an approval process.” Some parents disagree, calling it a local issue. In addition, not every school in the district is the same. Some schools, like Baldwin Park Elementary, are older and possess dated systems not up to modern standards. The school was built in 2007, while many others were built in 2014 and later. Sadly, the school district thinks they know better about how to manage children’s lives than their own parents do. Shouldn’t this be a local issue?



# CENTRAL FLORIDA URBAN LEAGUE INVESTS IN ENTREPRENEURS

By FRANCISCO GONZALEZ

Since becoming President and CEO of the Central Florida Urban League (CFUL) in 2016, Glen Gilzean has taken the organization to new heights, with a focus on what he calls “The Three E’s: Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurship: We believe the three E’s will really eradicate generational poverty,” said Gilzean.

When he came to the Central Florida Urban League in late 2015, the nonprofit organization was in \$1.2 million in debt. He didn’t take a salary for the first seven months on the job, living only off his personal savings. He finally collected his first paycheck from CFUL and was permanently named CEO in July 2016. From there, he has spent the rest of his time helping other people in the black community earn their own paycheck too, taking them from welfare to work. While the CFUL office is located in Pine Hills, the organization services populations in the seven Central Florida counties of Polk, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Lake, Brevard, and Volusia. They also have plans to add a satellite office in Sanford and other locations in the region.

Under his leadership, the Central Florida Urban League has grown in size, influence, and impact. In 2018, the CFUL was named the best affiliate in the country by the National Urban League. And in 2019, Gilzean was named one of Central Florida’s CEO’s of the year by *Orlando Business Journal*. While Gilzean was at the head of leadership, he stresses that “there is no ‘I’ in team” and gave much of the credit for this success to everyone on staff and on the board for working together to turn the organization around. He also gave credit to someone else.

Most of what Gilzean learned in his life came from his mother. She always taught him the importance of learning to read and acquiring work experience. He’s been putting that philosophy to work to help transform the lives of so many others.

Last fall, Gilzean and the CFUL hosted an event with Ashley Bell, the White House Policy Advisor for Opportunity Zones and the Regional Administrator for the Small Business Administration. That day, Gilzean and Bell both signed a Memorandum of Agreement with to partner in developing Opportunity Zones here in Orlando – the first Urban League in the country to be a partner with the SBA. “The concept behind it is how can we incentivize private capital in underserved communities” with tax incentives for businesses and access to capital for entrepreneurs of minority-led businesses and impoverished areas.

Building on their many programs that have been historically focused on those in the black community, but open to all, the CFUL recently announced that they are now an approved Microsoft Office Specialist provider – a first for any Urban League in the country. This means that they will be providing programs to train those in the IT industry to become certified to be a Microsoft Office Specialist. “We realized that if you have this certification, you can demand roughly about \$17,000 more a year (in salary),” said Gilzean. And in today’s COVID world, with so



LEFT TO RIGHT (clockwise): Glen Gilzean, President of the Central Florida Urban League with Gov. Ron Desantis, supporters and members. At top right, Glen Gilzean. Middle Left, Gilzean meets with Governor Ron Desantis to discuss important issues relating to economic growth among urban communities, education and entrepreneurial development within the inner city.



much being digital, it makes this skill set even more important. “We are working to get people ... gainfully back to work as soon as possible,” said Gilzean.

*Their first Microsoft Office Specialist course kicks off in September 2020. To find out more, contact the Central Florida Urban League at (407) 841-7654, email them at [info@cful.org](mailto:info@cful.org), or visit their website at [cful.org](http://cful.org).*

*Glen Gilzean was also recently featured on Episode 80 of the Agents of Innovation podcast, hosted by Francisco Gonzalez, the author of this article.*

## GOD'S WORD

"Everyone comes naked from their mother’s womb, and as everyone comes, so they depart. They take nothing from their toil that they can carry in their hands."  
Ecclesiastes 6:15

## WORDS TO THE WISE

"People who say they're too busy to have lunch have a false sense of their own importance."  
John Howard

# CASSELBERRY'S RUSSIAGATE?

CAMPAIGN TREASURER'S REPORT – ITEMIZED EXPENDITURES				
(1) Name <u>Chad Albritton</u>		(2) I.D. Number _____		
(3) Cover Period <u>6/13/2020</u> through <u>6/26/2020</u>		(4) Page <u>1</u> of _____		
(5) Date (6) Sequence Number	(7) Full Name (Last, Suffix, First, Middle) Street Address & City, State, Zip Code	(8) Purpose (add office sought if contribution to a candidate)	(9) Expenditure Type	(10) Amendment
6/22/2020 1	Fifth Third Bank, P.O. BOX 630900 CINCINNATI, OH 45263-0900	card fees	MO	
6/18/2020 2	Dfd Ignite, 125 NorthShore Circle Casselberry, FL 32707	photography	MO	
6/22/2020 3	Tilda Publishing, N. Syromyatnicheskaya,10 Moscow, Ru 105120	website	MO	



(continued from Page 1)...Reports of this activity aren't new among agents seeking to manipulate US candidates. A young man such as Mr. Albritton seems quite loyal to this nation, and until more facts come out, we would never question that. However, as demonstrated with Russian "gun advocate" Maria Butina's short-lived NRA career, both Russian firms and the state's activists do wield a massive but subtle influence over candidates from local offices to nation-wide races. Moreover, the Russian government has also been known to use Troll Farms located near to the headquarters of Tilda Publishing for the purpose of influencing US voters on social media. Not only has Mr. Albritton conducted business with potential

Russian agents in Moscow, he has also outsourced most of his expenditures on campaign consulting and technology to non-Casselberry firms with questionable backgrounds.Why not spend more money in Casselberry? We tried to reach Mr. Albritton for an answer but never received a response. While this election be a "hanging chad" for Casselberry, one thing's for sure: Mr. Albritton's false promises, inexperience and questionable foreign relationships leave Casselberry's best interest in the dust.

BOTTOM RIGHT (first page): Candidate for Casselberry Commission Chad Albritton, recently accused by of dealing with a Russian based firm after making several out-of-state and foreign transations. The full extent of his contacts are unknown. LEFT: Campaign finance report indicating one of Albritton's foreign transactions during the campaign. RIGHT: N.Syromyatnicheskaya,10 Moscow, Ru 105120, where Tilda Publishing is located.



# ORLANDO CITY MAKES STRONG COMEBACK

## Exploria Stadium to Host Limited Number of Fans as Season Restarts

By FRANCISCO GONZALEZ

Major League Soccer (MLS) became the first American professional sports league to return after the restrictions from COVID19 shut down the economy and nearly all sports and entertainment events worldwide. While tourists have not been coming to Orlando by the millions that we typically expect each week, the world has still had its eye on Orlando. Both the MLS and the NBA hosted games at ESPN’s Wide World of Sports complex at Walt Disney World with no fans allowed in attendance. Restrictions of who was allowed in recast this facility with the nickname, “the bubble.” But at least fans were able to see their favorite teams and players on television. Things got more interesting for Orlando sports fans when the Orlando City Soccer Club came out of the pandemic on fire. Of the 26 MLS teams, Orlando City went all the way to the final in dramatic fashion, ultimately falling to the Portland Timbers 2-1 in the championship game. For a team that has never made the playoffs in their first five seasons, their performance throughout the “MLS is Back” tournament, under new head coach Oscar Pareja, excited fans with renewed passion.

“Orlando City’s play in the MLS is Back tournament has revitalized this fan base. For the first time since joining MLS, City fans are hopeful about our future,” said season ticket holder Ryan Meerdo. “Oscar Pareja has done what James O’Connor, Jason Kries, and even Inchy couldn’t. The future of this club is bright, and fans have a reason to be excited.” On August 26, Exploria Stadium reopened for the first Orlando City home game – for a limited number of fans – since the home opener was played on February 29. Orlando City won the game over Nashville 3-1. It’s a restart not only for live sports since COVID19, but also to what Orlando City and their fans hope to be a light at the end of the tunnel on the long wait for their first playoff opportunity.



PICTURED: Members of the Orlando City Soccer Team Celebrating a recent win. Games will begin again soon at Exploria.



# LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR TEACHES STUDENTS THE MEANING OF PATRIOTISM

By MARSHALL SWANSON

Nearly two decades ago, Brian Rose began a career at The First Academy that served as not only a profession, but a life mission. Today, he continues that mission and strives to instill in students not only the attributes of Christian morality but also a sense of patriotism and a love for their country.

Born and raised in Northwestern Pennsylvania, Mr. Brian Rose attended Hobe Sound Bible College and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Social Studies. He went on to earn a Master of Education Administration from Columbia International University in Columbia, South Carolina. He began his educational career in 1985 at Jupiter Christian School in South Florida then served 5 years at the Whitefield Academy in Louisville, KY.

In July 2005, Rose became Assistant Head of School at The First Academy. After 10 years of years serving in that role, he transitioned to Upper School Principal. He was blessed to work with the students and faculty in that capacity until he was asked to return to serve as Assistant Head of School for Advancement. In this position, Rose oversees the Office of Institutional Advancement.

This office is committed to securing the needed resources through the generosity of our families to train the next generation of Christian leaders. On top of founding and supporting the Wounded Warrior Club at The First Academy where students actively support combat veterans, Brian Rose is also part of the Camaraderie Foundation. The Camaraderie Foundation’s mission is to provide



healing for the “invisible wounds of war” through counseling, emotional and spiritual support for all branches of Post-9/11 Veterans, Service Members and their families. In every aspect of his life, Brian Rose exemplifies an example of true American patriot and Christian role model. Rose thanks his wife of over three decades and his children, all TFA alumni, for their support and love.

# OPINION: PROPOSED APOPKA-VINELAND AND 535 CONNECTOR WOULD RELIEVE TRAFFIC

By MARSHALL SWANSON

Windermere, FL - Anyone who has driven near, Fenton. Bruhn states that he is not advocating for the development of the surrounding swampland but does believe the plan is necessary for a single road to improve conditions for all residents in the area.

Wildlife activists argue that a disruption of the swamp would impact the ecosystems of the area. We feel that that enough green space would be preserved in the plan to fend off allegations of environmental disturbance.

It is our hope that Mayor Demings considers the project as a potential contender for county funds in the future. This endeavor doesn't just provide benefits for one area of town but helps alleviate traffic concerns for all parties involved.

The road would begin at the Grand Cypress Resort and extend through to Daryl Carter Parkway's end point



Top, the proposed road extension to ease traffic. Left, former Windermere Mayor Gary Bruhn, a supporter of the link, says the route will calm some of the congestion in the area by creating a bypass.



# FINE DINING: CHATHAM'S IS THE PLACE

By MARSHALL SWANSON

In 1988, two brothers with a talent for the restaurant business decided to settle on Dr. Phillips, a rather undeveloped portion of Southwest Orange County even at that time, to launch their new restaurant enterprise. When Louis Chatham and his brother Randolph founded Chatham's Place, the establishment transformed into an icon not only to those living in the area, but also to visitors from all around the globe. Today, world-class musicians, movie stars, the ultra wealthy and the nation's most prominent lawyers such as John Morgan continue to dine here for its class, elegance and delicious food.

In the late 90s, Randolph passed and Louis decided it was time to sell. So in 1997, the late Mauricio Colindres partnered up with the restaurant's Sous Chef Tony Lopez, and Carol Conwell, a customer seeking to take part in operating her favorite dining establishment.

Lopez took command of the kitchen as executive chef, Colindres was the maitre'd and manager, and Conwell served as hostess, taking over for Chatham's mother, Bettye.

Conwell died in 2006 and Lopez and Colindres carried on the quality and legacy of the restaurant. Sadly, Mr. Colindres passed on as well in 2018, though his spirit lives in the work of Chef Tony and the entire staff. The restaurant hasn't changed all too much over

the years, and that's precisely why people keep coming back. An army of loyal patrons continues to pay tribute to the luxurious and world renown service offered by the restaurant. Bob Rose still graces the piano with his charming jazz tunes, and nearly anything you want him to play.

Ronald Reagan visited the restaurant during its early years with his wife, First Lady Nancy Reagan (top right). Other famous guests include former US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, as well as the late Payne Stewart and Arnold Palmer (bottom right). Of course, not everyone who visits the restaurant is a celebrity. In fact, many Central Florida residents spend time at Chatham's Place for special occasions including birthdays and anniversaries.

Over the past few months the restaurant has been closed due to lockdowns and the coronavirus pandemic, though traditionally, the restaurant is closed yearly in the month of July. Doors reopened in early August to the public and the restaurant has taken every precaution, going above and beyond to follow CDC guidelines and protect guests during this time.

Chef Tony has spent more than 30 years of his life dedicated to fine dining and the restaurant. He and the entire staff invite you to come join the ranks of Presidents, Hollywood celebrities, politicians, and sports stars, for a night full of memories and exquisite dining. Whether you're celebrating a proposal, anniversary, birthday, or just a special night out, Chatham's is the place!



# BOB ROSE LET A SONG GO OUT OF HIS HEART, AND RIGHT INTO OUR EARS

By MARSHALL SWANSON

As couples meander into Chatham's Place in Dr. Phillips for their romantic dinners, or come for a special birthday surprise, the magic of Bob Rose's music permeates the air with the strike of every key. Rose began playing piano from a young age and studied at Juilliard from where he graduated.

Mr. Rose not only enjoys being a jazz pianist, but is also a composer, and arranger: "He plays with passion and joy, influenced by international styles, jazz, blues, classical, and experimental. He improvises, harmonizes, and mesmerizes....".

Throughout the years, Rose has studied with world famous musicians including Mitchell Andrew, Jimmy Amadie, Pat Martino, George Crumb, and dozens of others. He also has performed with jazz greats like Alex Acuna, Ben Riley, Bernard Purdie, Panama Francis, Danny Gottlieb, Dave Liebman, Doug Mathews, Leroy

Cooper, Nathan Page, Little Milton, Bernie Lee, Bill White, and Jacqueline Jones.

Over the decades, Bob Rose has played in New York, Philadelphia, and the Orlando music scenes, as well as some of the most iconic and renown venues in the world. Rose also founded the bands Solar Wind, Tapestry, and The Bob Rose Trio.

Though the times dictate that he suspend many of his concerts and tours, Rose still offers the finest musical talent found in Orlando at Chatham's Place and, in addition, still finds time to give lessons and perform at private events.

Come listen to the beautiful music of Bob Rose tonight for your enchanted evening, as he lets a song go out of his heart and into yours! To find out more about Bob Rose and his music, visit [bobrosepiano.com](http://bobrosepiano.com) and also go to [chathamspplace.com](http://chathamspplace.com) for more information about reservations and hours.



ABOVE: M-Bar's collection of vehicles ranges as widely and is matched perfectly with any of their select cocktails, wine, beer or champagne. BOTTOM: A model, Soukaina El Anaoui, visits M-Bar to take in the classic cars and grab a bite.

# M-BAR TAKES A DRIVE DOWN MEMORY LANE

By MARSHALL SWANSON

It's safe to say that M-Bar (and M-Lounge) are major successes in more ways than one. Founded in 2017 by Tim Majors, an Australian-born real estate investor, his true passion is collecting classic cars, made possible through the monumental success of his investment firm. Among the drab and boring bars dotting Central Florida, M-Bar stands out among the rest as a breath of fresh air. "I wanted to make a one-of-a-kind bar where the experience matters. A sophisticated, memorable atmosphere is what you will find at the M-Lounge," says Majors.

Complete with a museum and a rooftop bar, there's something for everyone at M lounge. The rooftop level is complete with panoramic views of downtown Orlando and Winter Park, perfect for celebrating birthdays or a fun date. You'll find many people unwinding from work and others just out on the town for a fun evening with friends.

Automotive collectors and enthusiasts will be elated to see the wide collection of classic American and European models from the 1950s, 60s and 70s. The museum also

boasts of the largest number of Kaiser Darrin's in the country. You'll also find classic and antique paraphernalia throughout the building and quotes from famous 20th-century figures along with their pictures in the corridors of many of the hallways. The bar staff and servers remain dedicated to putting you first and their friendly demeanor permeates the entire experience you'll have while there. And now the establishment has expanded their food menu, also offering brunch on the weekends. The chill atmosphere, delicious food and cocktails and classic vibe will bring you back every time.

Situated just off the corner of 2000 N. Orange Avenue in Orlando, M bar and M lounge can't wait to see you, so rev up your engines and join in the fun!



ABOVE: Tim Majors of Majors Investments sits in his vintage Corvette on the first floor of his establishment. The bar and lounge are not only open to the public, but also offer the space for events and special celebrations.



THE HANGRY BISON:  
A STAMPEDE OF  
TASTY BITES

*The Wildly Successful Hangry Bison Pivots  
to Winter Garden Where a New Location is  
Said to Open in the Future*

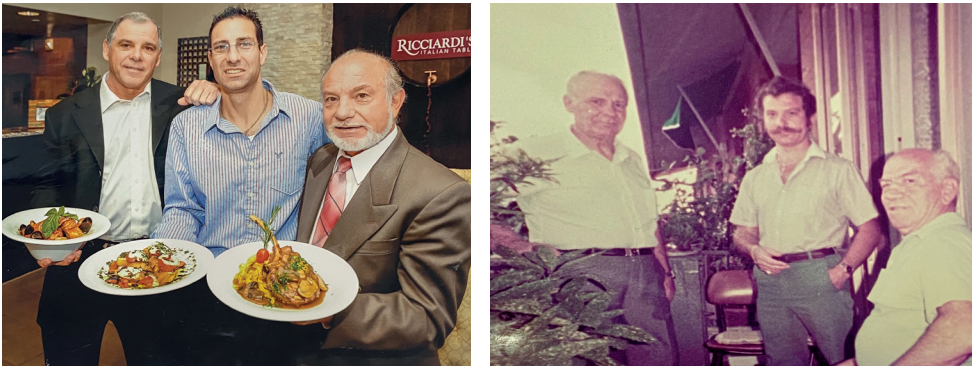


By MARSHALL SWANSON

Ever feel hangry? We all do, and now Joe and Michael Liguori have a solution to the problem: at the Hangry Bison, you'll leave with your stomach satsfied and a stampede of flavor. Those who have traveled to states such as North and South Dakota, Wyoming, or Montana, know the taste of Bison can be even more savory than a burger. And that is why so many become addicted to the delicious menu items featured at the Hangry Bison, which go beyond just a Buffalo burger. There is something for everyone at the Hangry Bison, even Vegans and Vegetarians.

The Hangry Bison also serves up cocktails, wine and beer to complement a fun evening with friends or refresh your palate after a long day at work. Now the Hangry Bison's owners are looking to expand to Winter Garden. Though times have been tough with the pandemic, the loyal clientele continue to pour into the restaurant. The Winter Garden location will be over 4k square feet and create more than fifty jobs. The restaurant won the 2019 *Orlando Sentinel* Reader's Choice Food Award for best burger and we agree! Now more than ever, we must support our local businesses, including restaurants: so stop in today and order bison burger and satsfy your hangry stomach!

MICHAEL LIGUORI'S  
PIZZERIA VALDIANO:  
AN AMERICAN STORY OF AN ITALIAN FAMILY



LEFT: (left to right) Doug, Joe, Michael RIGHT: Michael and his father in Italy

By MARSHALL SWANSON

When Michael Liguori was born in Salerno, his family never imagined he would one day be a successful restaurant owner in America. Then in 1969, he and his father left for the United States and quickly saved their money to start in the business. The family followed in 1970 and in the next year, his father Joe bought DEE BEE Pizza in New York. Later, the family opened a second restaurant in New Haven, Connecticut they dubbed the "Recovery Room" after a medical facility upstairs.

After selling these businesses, the family moved to Florida in the year 1981 and opened several new restaurants including "Michael's" on East Colonial Drive and "Amalfi Italian" Restaurant in Rio Pinar Plaza. Michael's family business also branched Oviedo and several areas of Seminole County.

Following a short sabbatical from the restaurant business, Michael returned with his son Joe and business partner Doug Maniscalco to carry on the his family's legacy, opening Valdiano's Pizzeria in the year 2002. Today, Valdiano's has won many first place awards, including the Orlando Foodie Award. Named for Valle Di Diano, a valley where he grew up, Michael Liguori says that while he loves his home country Italy, " I really appreciate the United States of America because this is the greatest country in the world, not only because of the freedom, but because you have the opportunity to accomplish whatever you want and desire."

Liguori also credits his faith as his driving motivator: "Through this business I met people of faith who helped me to understand our Creator much better than before. Through that learning, originally in 1988, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Now I share my faith as much as I can, and God's love with my co-workers and friends."

Michael says he enjoys being in the restaurant business because of how much he learns from the unique people he meets from all walks of life.

Though Valdiano's has several locations, his Winter Park location is probably closest to you. And while many people chow down on a slice of pizza or pasta before a movie at Winter Park Village, Michael invites everyone to come in any time and have a slice of Italy in Central Florida!

THE MCLEOD LAW FIRM: APOPKA'S  
DYNAMIC DUO PRACTICE LAW

By MARSHALL SWANSON

It's a typical weekday afternoon and Bill McLeod is sitting at his desk surrounded by a collection of western memorabilia and antiques. Upon meeting Bill, you might think him to be the twin brother of Sam Elliot! His tall stature and signature mustache echo that of his doppelgänger. However, his real brother, Raymond McLeod, works right down the hall in a neighboring office.

Originally founded by the late Johnie McLeod, a prominent attorney and former Justice of the Peace in Orange County. Established in 1951, Johnie McLeod built a law firm that continues to this day in the representation of residents and business owners in legal matters including estate planning, probate, family law, civil litigation, real estate, and land use. Pictured bottom right, the original building still serves as the headquarters of the McLeod Law Firm, constructed in 1923 as the Hawthorne Building by Ben and James Hawthorne (left to right in the picture), who is known for settlling the town of Hawthorne in Alachua.

The McLeod Law Firm has occupied the Hawthorne Building since 1983, and has over the years received a top rating, including Apopka's number one law firm since 2011. McLeod senior believed in a traditional hands-on approach, and that is exactly what the McLeod brothers offer. Raymond and Bill McLeod have practiced law in the area since July 1981. Raymond McLeod received his undergraduate degree from Stetson University

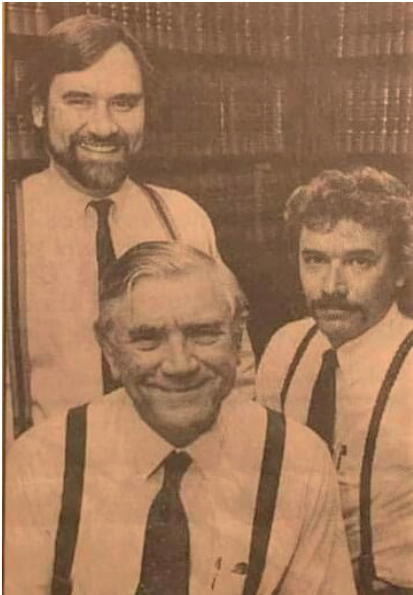
in 1974 and his law degree from the Mississippi College of Law in 1981. Bill McLeod attended the University of Central Florida, graduating in 1977, and finished law school at Stetson University in 1981.

With decades of combined legal experience, The firm serves clients in Orange, Seminole and Lake county regularly. Raymond and Bill McLeod are active in the community and members of the Scottish Rite as well as the Community Juvenile Restoration Justice Program. Raymond McLeod has also been the past president and director of the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce and served as general counsel to the Miss Florida scholarship pageant.

Raymond and Bill explained the importance their father played in their lives. The greatest lesson he taught them? Not judging a book by its cover. The boys once went to a car dealership with their father, and witnessed a friend, the owner of an auto mechanic shop attempting to buy an Oldsmobile. However, because of his dirty appearance and oily clothing, no one at the dealership thought he had any money, but possessed cash in his pocket. His father explained how the salesmen missed out because they judged the man by his appearance.

And to this day, the McLeod brothers hold up the firm to those same standards, to treat everyone equally and with fairness.

*Need an attorney personal touch and decades of experience? Call McLeod law at 407-886-3300.*



TOP: Raymond McLeod (left); William "Bill" McLeod (Right); Johnie McLeod (Middle) BOTTOM: The old Hawthorne Building, now the headquarters for McLeod Law and built originally in 1923 by Ben and James Hawthorne, the founders of the city of Hawthorne in Alachua County.





# THE COLLEGE PARK CAFE: AN AMERICAN DREAM COME TRUE

For decades the College Park Cafe has served residents who enjoy a personal, home cooked meal to get away from the corporate, hustle-bustle life of the city. Over the years, several families have owned the cafe. Most recently, Julio and Jaun Pelegreno's family bought the cafe. Pelegreno's family immigrated from Cuba during the Mariel Boat life to escape the hardships and persecution of the Communist government.

His family began working in the trucking business and then transitioned into restaurants. "I remember living in a one bedroom apartment with my mom and family growing up," said Julio. His family seemed destined for the restaurant industry from the start, when his mother met his father at a restaurant where she worked. His mother Barbara Martinez, the restaurants chef and owner, loves to cook and has added new and delicious Cuban bites to the menu, including some recipes from Julio's grandmother, pictured to the middle. The menu also contains most of the old dishes as well, including pot roast and traditional American breakfast.

Though the pandemic has taken a toll, the business still enjoys a loyal following of faithful customers each and every day for breakfast and lunch. Why not hop over tomorrow for breakfast to dine at a College Park icon and get a taste of the American dream?



LEFT TO RIGHT: The Pelegreno brothers sit at a table, with Damirka, the Cafe's loyal hostess; Agueda Lamelas, the family's matriarch posing for a portrait; a picture of the front of the College Park Cafe just off the corner of Edgewater and Princeton.



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## LONG MAY SHE WAVE: A GALLERY OF LOCAL FLAGS



TOP TO BOTTOM: John Craig in Winter Park;  
PR's Taco Palace, College Park;  
Bay Hill near South Bay in Doctor Phillips,  
Southwest Orange County

## SHIRLEY JANE'S COOKBOOK

### SQUASH AND CHEESE CASSEROLE

**4 POUNDS YELLOW SQUASH**  
**2 POUNDS ZUCCHINI SQUASH**  
**1 LARGE ONION CHOPPED**  
**2 TABLESPOONS SUGAR**  
**1 TABLESPOON SALT**  
**2 CUPS WATER**  
**1 CUP SHREDDED CHEDDAR CHEESE**  
**1 CUP AMERICAN CHHESE, SHREDDED**  
**1 STICK BUTTER**  
**1 CUP AND HALF CREAM**

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Slice squash; peel and chop onion. Add sugar, salt and water and simmer until squash is tender, about 20 mintues. Drain and mash. In a buttered 2-quart casserole dish, alternate layers of squash and mixed cheeses. Dot with butter. Pour half-and-half cream over the top and bake at 300 degrees F for fifteen minutes. Yield - 8 servings. Best served with steak.*

### 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 ocassions for charity and research which he submitted to Members of Congress and the National Security Council at the White House.*

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