



MIND YOUR MANOR

ORWIN MANOR WESTMINSTER ASSOCIATION – Serving Orwin Manor Westminster since 1983

No. 1 Winter 2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By President Stephen Pategas

Annual Meeting Report

In spite of the hyped weather report, the Annual Meeting took place at Commerce Bank & Trust, one of our long-time sponsors.

- We heard from the Winter Park Police who reported on our, at that time minimal crime issues and reminded us to lock vehicle doors and remove valuables

- I presented a longer version of The Unquenchable Florida Land Boom, Walter W. Rose, and Orwin Manor. See Neighborhood Bits for a link to a video of it.

- The OMWA Survey was unveiled (please see the insert)

- WP City Commissioner Sheila DeCiccio joined us. See Kudos.

- Due to the lower attendance, door prizes were plentiful

OMWA Survey

The last neighborhood survey was in 2007 and new board member Laura Alphonso suggested that with this year's Centennial it was time for another one. There are numerous ways to submit the survey (one per person) including by email, online with a link to a Google Form, or by mail. For the Google Form, please visit <https://orwinmanor.org/forms/>. Please share your thoughts and ideas.



Centennial Update

- The submissions for two historical markers slated for The Park at Orwin Manor and the park at the corner of Harmon and Orange (west side) are completed. The State of Florida will create one and the City of Winter Park will provide the other at no charge.

- The Centennial Celebration is Saturday, Nov. 16, 12-4 at The Park at Orwin Manor. So far, we are planning live music, food trucks, and historical displays. We have more to plan so please contact me at info@orwinmanor.org to join the celebration committee.

OMWA E-News Update

The E-News is moving to a MailChimp platform which will provide more flexibility. The E-News goes out usually no more than once a month. So far, we reach about one-third of our neighbors. Why are two-thirds missing? Sign up at <https://orwinmanor.org/omw>.

Easter Egg Hunt

Hey neighbors! We hope to see you at this year's Orwin Manor Easter event! There will be a special visit by the Easter Bunny, Mimosas and light snacks to enjoy. You are welcome to bring a dish to share too! Hope to see everyone soon!



We are proud to have Katie Bean Travels, Commerce Bank & Trust, Home Boys of Keller Williams Realty, and AdventHealth Partnership as our OMWA Neighborhood Sponsors for a year.

Mind Your Manor

is published quarterly by Orwin Manor
Westminster Association
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- Leslie Williams, 407.234.4484, littleles7@gmail.com

Mind Your Manor Advertising Rates

- \$100 (\$180 yearly) horiz or vert 3.67" x 4.75" or a pre-printed flyer we insert into the 350 hand-delivered newsletters
- \$50 (\$90 yearly) horizontal or vertical business card size (3.5" x 2")
- \$25 for a classified text ad (approx. 30 words) OR one free 50 word ad per member, your phone number or email required.

Newsletter Item/Ad Deadlines

Mind Your Manor Number I Winter
Deadline – February 1
Mind Your Manor Number II Spring
Deadline – May 1
Mind Your Manor Number III Summer
Deadline – August 1
Mind Your Manor Number IV Autumn
Deadline – November 1

Visit orwinmanor.org for neighborhood
and event sponsorship opportunities and
the advertising form.

Editor reserves the right to edit.

AROUND THE CORNER

AROUND THE CORNER

by neighbors & board members

Upcoming Orlando and Winter Park Elections

• Presidential Preference Republican Primary and Winter Park Municipal elections will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. Early voting runs from March 4 -17. Visit <https://www.ocfelections.com/>

Orlando polling location is Marks St. Senior Center, 99 E. Marks St. Winter Park Polling location is Calvary Assembly, 1199 Clay St. If required the Winter Park run off is April 16.

Mayor – Commissioner Sheila DeCiccio and Candidate Michael Cameron

Commission Seat 2 - Candidate Jason Johnson, Candidate Stockton Reeves, and Candidate Craig Russell



In Memoriam

• We lament the death of Harold Card. Harold was raised at 1645 Berkshire Ave. and returned there after the passing of his parents. Along with his wife Carol, Harold operated Card's Opticians (founded in 1957) for decades.

In the Neighborhood – for updates sign up at <https://orwinmanor.org/omwn/> for the OMWA E-News

- The FDOT Orange Avenue Lane reduction project is scheduled for this spring with completion in November. The project includes the addition of a left turn lane at 17/92. Curbs will not be disturbed outside of the turn lane addition area. The roundabout at Clay and Wilkinson has not been funded yet.
- The AT&T contractor will be installing fiber optic throughout most of Orwin Manor Westminster this spring

Kudos

• **Welcome to Our Newest Board Member** - Please join us in welcoming Laura Alphonso to the OMWA Board. Laura Alphonso and Jason, her husband, have been residents on Harmon Avenue since September of 2018. She has lived in Orlando for the last 21 years and considers it home over her hometown. She enjoys entertaining, cooking, traveling, spending time with friends and family, being on the board of OMWA, and loving their daughter dog, and son and daughter cats. Laura is a human resources executive and lawyer.



- Big thanks to the six Centennial Block Party organizers and their assistants
- AdventHealth Partnership is now an annual sponsor for OMWA
- When an errant motorist knocked down the stop/street sign at Orange and Berkshire, the city had a temporary stop sign in place within hours and a full replacement within 48 hours

ABOUT OMWA

The Orwin Manor Westminster Association (OMWA) founded in 1983, offers the best of two worlds – a neighborhood association with voluntary membership but without the rules, regulations, or assessments of a homeowners' association. If our neighborhood was within an HOA, every household would be assessed mandatory fees. Many volunteers contribute their time and energy to improve our neighborhood. OMWA advocates with municipalities and is responsible for launching The Park at Orwin Manor, creating the bronze identity signs, hosting events, and researching our history.

- Einstein Bagels continues to provide complimentary bagels for our Centennial Block parties. Say hi to Abby, the manager
- Commerce Bank & Trust loaned us their lobby for the OMWA Annual meeting
- Stephen Pategas has been named the Orwin Manor Westminster Historian

Welcome to Our New Neighbors – please say hello when you meet them

- Bette-Jo Foster, 1714 Westchester Ave.
- Maurice & Mariana Loboguerrero, 1530 Berkshire Ave.
- Ravishankar Channappa, 1647 Berkshire Ave.
- Judy Foggi, 1645 Berkshire Ave.

LOVE MY MANOR - 100 reasons for Living in Orwin Manor
Share your thoughts about why it's great to live in Orwin Manor we will post them on Facebook. Email them to info@orwinManor.org.

OMWA Events Calendar



- Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 30, 10-noon
- Westminster Block Party – Saturday, April 20; 10-noon. Join us for the last of our six Centennial Block Parties at Pelham & Westminster.
- Oktoberfest – Sunday, Oct. 13th, 4:30pm onward
- Great Pumpkin Judging – Thursday, Oct. 17, after 6
- Witches Walk – Thursday, Oct. 31, 6:30-8 pm
- Centennial Celebration -Saturday, Nov. 16, 12-4pm at The Park at Orwin Manor
- Orwin Manor Aglow – Monday, Dec., after 6, (Most Traditional, Most Creative, Most Lights)
- Holiday Gathering – Tuesday, Dec. 1, 5:30 onward (hosted by Susan Ellis)
- Luminaries – Sunday, Dec. 24 (rain date 25), 6 p.m.
- Annual Meeting 2025– Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, 7-9pm at Commerce Bank & Trust

OMWA BOARD MEETING DATES

Third Tuesday or as noted 7:30-9pm

- April 16
- June 18
- August 20
- October 15
- December 10 (2nd Tuesday)

Please join us! Call 407.622.4886 to place an item on the agenda and for the locations.

NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERINGS

Join us at the historic clubhouse at Dubsdread Golf Course, 549 West Par Street, Orlando every second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. We reserve the long high top table adjacent to the bar in the Taproom.

Upcoming Dates:

- Wednesday, March 13, 5:30 pm
- Wednesday, April 10, 5:30 pm
- * Wednesday, May 8, 5:30 pm
- * Wednesday, June 12, 5:30 pm

CENTENNIAL BLOCK PARTY

The celebrations for the OMWA Centennial continue in April with one last “neighborhood block party” at Pelham and Westminster. All residents are invited.

BLOCK PARTY ZONE 6

*April 20 * 10-noon

Contact: Matt Daley
407-247-3666
mattdaley99@hotmail.com

& Kerry Merrigan Falconer
407-970-125
kmerriganarim@gmail.com

CENTENNIAL SPONSORSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

The OMWA board has set the Centennial Sponsorship levels and benefits for 2023 and 2024:

- Level 1: Knight - \$75 w/ recognition (MYM, Facebook, and message board recognition)
- Level 2: Noble - \$250 w/ above plus web ad, t-shirt, recognition at our events
- Level 3: Crown - \$500 w/ above plus 1/4-page MYM ad
- Level 4: Royal - \$750 w/ above plus booth space at five block parties and the Centennial Celebration on Nov. 16, 2024

Funds are needed for: Block Parties, the Centennial Celebration, rebuilding the missing gateway arches, event signs, and T-shirts.

Donations may be sent as checks to Orwin Manor Westminster Association at P. O. Box 2367, Winter Park, FL 32790-2367 or visit www.orwinmanor.org/membership and use PayPal or a debit or credit card.

Donors to Date – THANK YOU!

- Crown \$500: Hortus Oasis Landscape Design – Stephen & Kristin Pategas
- Noble \$250: Bette-Jo Foster, Bre-Elle & Tristan Ishtar,
- Knight \$75: Meg Barclay & John Scholz, Laura & Jason Alphonso, Molly, Manny & Penelope Kee-see, Ann & Bill Legg, Mary & Jim Piercey
- Other: Nancy Martin

NEIGHBORHOOD BITS

- Don't miss our Third Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30th from 10 a.m. to noon in The Park at Orwin Manor!

- The Unquenchable Florida Land Boom, Walter W. Rose, and Orwin Manor by Stephen Pategas lives on! The Winter Park Library recorded the Casa Feliz presentation and it can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUS0v4qmd70>

- Your zone has changed and the use of South Florida plants continues to creep northward! As our planet continues to warm, the USDA Hardiness Zone Map (based on lowest annual winter temperature) is updated again and Central Florida is now Zone 10a (formerly 9b) 30 to 35 degrees.

- Oak leaves make great mulch. Bag some to use throughout the year.

- WP City Commissioner Sheila DeCiccio joined us at the January 9th OMWA Annual Meeting and heard a complaint about the frequently malfunctioning traffic light at Orange and 17/92. She contacted city staff the next day and he worked with FDOT to address the issue. Hongmyung Lim's response: "There was an issue not too long ago where we had 5 officers on-site as well as our signal folks at this intersection. The preemption for the railroad tracks was not functioning properly, resulting in the signal to not function as designed. Our team coordinated with the railroad team and addressed the issue. Another angle is Metroplan Orlando is currently working with the City and FDOT to retune all of the signals along 426 and 17-92 corridors. I had a kick off meeting with them yesterday, and I actually did inform their team that the most calls we get at this intersection is the left turns. They mentioned that when they do their field visits and see any issues, then they will keep me informed of the issues and recommendations."

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS

- Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival - March 15-17
- Election & Yard Signs Drop-off – recycle them at Fire Station 64 at 1439 Howell Branch Rd., Winter Park Sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org - March 19-26
- Art in Bloom, an annual fundraiser by Council of 101 at the Orlando Museum of Art, April 5-7, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tickets from www.Eventbrite.com and at the door. Antique dealers and breathtaking fresh floral arrangements inspired

by works from the Orlando Museum of Art's exhibitions. Visit www.councilof101.org .

- Earth Month & Great American Clean Up www.cityofwinterpark.org/events– Saturday, April 6th; 9-11
- Mead Botanical Garden Duck Derby – Saturday, April 13; 10-2
- Central Florida Earth Day at the east side of Lake Eola Park – Saturday, April 20th; 10-6

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- FREE paper shredding at Commerce Bank & Trust – Friday April 26; 11-1

- Earth Day at Ward Park and Center for Health and Wellbeing in Winter Park www.cityofwinterpark.org/earthday– Saturday, April 27; 8-11:30

- Winter Park Spring Cleanup; 407.774.0800 - Thursday, May 9th. Place items at the curb the evening before.

WILL YOU BE OUR VOLUNTEER?

OPEN POSITION FOR MYM DELIVERY COORDINATOR

Mary Soule is retiring from the Delivery Coordinator position after many years of volunteering. So, we need a new volunteer for the SPRING newsletter onward. The MYM is hand-delivered by 16 volunteers four times a year and newsletters need to be delivered to them. Without hand delivery, MYM distribution to every home would not be possible.

Thank you to Mary for providing this invaluable service. Please contact Stephen Pategas at info@orwinmanor.org or 407.622.4886.

The scope:

- Set up a group email for the 16 deliverers
- Email the deliverers prior to delivery to ensure they will be available. If someone is not available reach out to the board for someone to fill in.
- 358 newsletters are delivered to your front door by American Graphix Solutions
- Count out and bag newsletters for the deliverers
- Deliver newsletters to their front doors by walking or driving within the neighborhood

THANK YOU MIND YOUR MANOR DELIVERERS

- Elizabeth Chambers
- Stephen & Kristin Pategas
- Megan Lowery
- Ann Legg
- Mary Frank
- Penny Potter
- Margaret Herod
- Elle Ishtar
- Alex Dobrev
- Laura Alphonso
- Tracy Hadley
- Betsy Gwinn
- Geri Hatchitt
- Tracey Deen
- Judy Maynard
- Sam Anderson

100 Years Ago in 1923...

- Florida's population is 1.16 million compared to 21.6 million in 2021
- Henry Ford lowers the cost of a Model T from \$900 in 1919 to \$265
- Kathryn Pategas (mother of Stephen Pategas) is born
- The first Winter Olympic Games open in Chamonix, France
- The Detroit News sets a record with an annual run of 3.5 million lines of advertising. The following year the Miami Herald runs over 34.1 million lines
- The 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, is born in Plains, Georgia on October 1st
- George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" premieres on February 12th
- 25 art enthusiasts form what was then called the Orlando Art Association in January with drawing classes and exhibitions at what is now the Orlando Public Library downtown. In 1960, with the opening of a new building, the group's name changed to the Loch Haven Art Center. It was renamed Orlando Museum of Art in 1986.

BEST HOSPITALS
USNews.com
RANKED IN 4 SPECIALTIES
2023-2024

AdventHealth Orlando has been recognized as the #1 hospital in Greater Orlando for 13 years in a row by U.S. News & World Report.

#1 Hospital in Orlando Close to Home

When it comes to health care, you want the very best for your family. At AdventHealth Orlando, we've built a special brand of award-winning care that embraces the healing power of the human spirit every day. It's uplifting care you've counted on for generations.

Advent Health
feel whole.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRO – THE USE OF MULCHES IN THE GARDEN

By Master Gardener and Board Member Penny Potter

I'm frequently asked about which type of mulch is the best to use, and why is it so important. What follows is information from IFAS (UF School of Agriculture).

First and foremost, mulch helps prevent the spread of weeds. Also, it holds in moisture longer after rain or irrigation. It helps prevent soil erosion. It can be used as a ground cover in deeply shaded areas where nothing else will grow. It makes the whole landscape look neat and tidy.

As far as the kind of mulch to use, a lot depends on your personal preference as far as appearance. Non-organic mulch (rubber bits or rocks) does not contribute any organic matter (acts as fertilizer) to the soil, since they do not decompose, and may eventually settle under the surface of our sandy soil, and therefore are not recommended by UF. Bark mulches are sturdy and last a fairly long time, and look natural (except the colored ones). Cypress bark is not recommended by UF, as the trees are often cut from wild

wetlands. Melaleuca mulch is very desirable, as it comes from clearing the invasive melaleuca trees in South Florida, but it is hard to find here in Central Florida and may be expensive. Pine bark is the most common of bark mulches, is a byproduct of the lumber industry, and comes in several nugget sizes. Pine straw (pine needles) is inexpensive, especially if you rake it yourself, but it doesn't last as long as bark mulches. Leaves that are raked up from your yard - or others - are also inexpensive if you're raking or gathering bags left on the curb. However, they may shift around, and be carried off in a hard rain. Large leaves, like magnolia or sycamore leaves, should be mowed into smaller pieces. There are many IFAS publications on mulch, as well as all topics of horticulture, which you can easily access by entering IFAS after your search word in Google. Or contact the Orange County Master Gardener Plant Clinic, 407-254-9200 or orangecomgv@ifas.ufl.edu.

LEAVES ARE FALLING!

Don't buy mulch!! Take those falling leaves and use them to mulch your plants up to a 4" depth. Keep them a few inches away from trunks and plant stems. Leaves hold moisture in the soil, keep out weeds, encourage earthworms and add nutrients to the soil. Spread them and bag some for future use.

THANK YOU!!!

OUR CENTENNIAL BLOCK PARTY ORGANIZERS

- Jimmy Hendrickson
- Shawn Layton
- Richard & Vanessa Verkaik
- Tracy Hadley
- Mark & Teresa Snedeker
- Stephen Pategas
- Leslie Williams
- Matt Daley
- Kerry Merrigan Falconer



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Mike Armstrong

Vice President, Residential Real Estate
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NOT GETTING THE OMWA E-NEWS?

Visit
<https://orwinmanor.org/omwn/>

Orwin Manor Membership 2024

It's EASY to become a 2024 Orwin Manor Westminster Association Member

Thanks to all our existing and new members for supporting our neighborhood events and newsletter! OMWA dues fund our events, this newsletter, our P.O. box, rental unit fees, and so much more. Our dues are only \$35 per year.

If you would like to join, simply mail a check to:

Orwin Manor Westminster Association, PO Box 2367, Winter Park, FL 32790-2367

Or pay online at www.orwinmanor.org, under resources tab select membership.

Email us at info@orwinmanor.org with any questions.

44 PAID AS OF March 4, 2024

Please see a hand-delivered copy.



Not an OMWA Member???



Scan. Pay. Go.


IT'S EASY TO BECOME AN OMWA MEMBER

1. SCAN THIS CODE
2. MAKE \$35 PAYMENT AND CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION
3. PLEASE NOTE WHAT PAYMENT IS FOR

Help us reach 100 members for
100 YEARS!!

sound of trickling water vine
 Garden Design, Consultation & Education
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HORTUS OASIS



STEPHEN G. PATEGAS, ASLA
 Landscape Architect – FL REG #1090
 KRISTIN G. PATEGAS, APLD, FCLD
 Landscape Designer

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