



## President's Message *by Tony Gregory, Tony Gregory CPA* Downtown Orlando Partnership Gears Up For 2008

It's the New Year and the Downtown Orlando Partnership headed into 2008 with big plans for the future. With Tony Gregory as its new president, along with a diverse board of twenty-five influential business leaders, the DOP is focusing its efforts on this year as well as the years ahead.

Downtown Orlando continues to evolve with new additions to the skyline including The Vue, Premier Trade Plaza and 55 West and upcoming changes like the re-opening of Cheyenne Saloon, new performing arts center and arena, and renovated Citrus Bowl on the horizon.

In response to all this growth and excitement, DOP is expanding its organizational structure to keep pace with the city. In addition to existing committees and events, we have added two new committees to help ensure we closely aligned with downtown's anticipated changes.

The Community/Civic Involvement Committee will be tasked with generating new relationships within the community on a more diverse basis. Joint collaboration with other chambers, cultural diversification and philanthropic support are just a few of this committee's initiatives. The Visioning Committee will be the "think-tank" that helps grow the DOP and increase its involvement in downtown. Comprised of both current and former board members, as well as other selected leaders within the community, this committee will work toward developing DOP's long range vision.

As one of the largest civic groups in Orlando, we are proud to have over 300 companies on our member roster and more than 1,300 individual names on our mailing list. DOP's success is highly dependent on our membership, so we encourage you to become a member (if you are not already). Visit us online at [www.downtownorlandopartnership.com](http://www.downtownorlandopartnership.com), send an email to [downtownorlando@bellsouth.net](mailto:downtownorlando@bellsouth.net) or phone 407-228-3891.

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### January Social Will Be 'Hot' at Brick & Fire

Did your networking cool off over the holidays? Heat it back up with the first Downtown Orlando Partnership Social of the year!



Join us on Thursday, January 24 in the historical surroundings of Church Street Station at Brick & Fire Pizza and Wine Co., located at 116 West Church Street. Admission is \$2 for DOP members and \$10 for non-members\*; reservations are not necessary. \*(Note: the non-member entry price has increased from 2007).

Surrounded by old-world Chicago bricks, dark stained wood, and green marble bar counters, the newly renovated Brick & Fire restaurant features a "Dual Oven" show and guest interaction kitchen, as well as the only underground dine-in wine cellar in Orlando. Brick & Fire's menu offers a broad and affordable selection appetizers, salads, specialty pastas, and Italian-influenced entrees. For more information, visit [www.brickandfire.com](http://www.brickandfire.com).



THANK YOU to Vision IV Construction for sponsoring the January event. Vision IV Construction offers general contracting services specializing in new commercial construction, interior renovations and facilities & maintenance contracts. Recent projects have varied in size from the interior renovations of Brick & Fire Pizza and Wine Co. to 80,000 square-foot commercial facilities. For more information, call 407-426-9022.

As always, a special thanks to City Beverages for their continued support of our events!

### Celebrate the Culinary Arts on June 5th at the Taste of Downtown

The Downtown Orlando Partnership is proud to present the 2008 Taste of Downtown featuring Orlando's favorite downtown restaurants on Thursday, June 5, 2008 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at City Hall. Last year, we hosted over 400 DOP members, business and community leaders in attendance. Make sure to mark your calendars now as this event is not to be missed.

The Taste of Downtown is heavily promoted to our entire membership and to the downtown business community. As a result, the Taste of Downtown has great sponsorship potential. We are offering three levels of sponsorship as low as \$500. If you would like more sponsorship information, please visit [www.downtownorlandopartnership.com](http://www.downtownorlandopartnership.com). We would like to thank and recognize the following sponsors who have already stepped up to support the 2008 event - Territo Electric, Inc., Central Florida Lifestyle Magazine, Downtown Development Board, and City Beverages.

In addition to sponsorships, it also takes volunteers to produce this annual favorite. The 2008 Taste of Downtown committee is looking for strong volunteers to help with planning and promotion. If you want to get involved, please let us know by contacting DOP.

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## Chief Val B. Demings: Winning the War on Crime

On December 17, 2007 Chief Val B. Demings became the 36th chief of the Orlando Police Department, and first female to attain that position. Below is a partial excerpt, in her own words, on how she plans to win the war on crime.

"Police work is not easy, but the men and women who join our ranks do so realizing that they will work nights and weekends, during holidays and hurricanes, and place their lives on the line to protect the innocent. We stand ready and have won many battles, but, in order to win the war, we must do the following:

- We must stay focused on our mission: to 'Keep Orlando a Safe City by Reducing Crime and Maintaining Livable Neighborhoods.' We must educate the community through regular meetings with citizens to help them understand their role in maintaining livable neighborhoods and improving their quality of life.
- We must enhance our crime prevention efforts through greater citizen participation in prevention programs. We will launch aggressive campaigns to increase the number of active neighborhood and business watches, citizens on patrol, and other volunteer opportunities within OPD.
- We will meet with business owners to solicit their support of existing youth programs and faith-based initiatives, and invest in the future by developing new programs designed to give youth positive alternatives to delinquency.
- We will utilize technology to enhance our efforts to monitor, detect and arrest law violators
- We will be courteous to law-abiding citizens but relentless in our efforts to disrupt violent criminals who have no respect for the police, citizens, or their property.

Finally, to our city officials, community leaders, business owners and citizens, we are much stronger together than we will ever be apart. Your support is critical to a vibrant, wholesome and safe community where families can live, work, and play. I look forward to partnering with you for a safer Orlando."

## Golden Brick Awards – Call For Entries

Presented by



This is your opportunity to win a prestigious Golden Brick Award! Tom Cook Commercial and the Downtown Orlando Partnership present the 2007 Golden Brick Award on Thursday, May 1 at The Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Orlando.

The Golden Brick Awards luncheon is a celebration of the previous year's projects that impact the Downtown Development District, making Downtown Orlando a more exciting, interesting and desirable place to work, live and play.

If your project was completed between January 1 and December 31, 2007, and you would like to enter it into this prestigious award event, download the entry form online from our website [www.downtownorlandopartnership.com](http://www.downtownorlandopartnership.com) or email a request to the Partnership Office at [downtownorlando@bellsouth.net](mailto:downtownorlando@bellsouth.net). Entry deadline is 5:00 pm Monday, March 3.

DOP would like to thank our title sponsor, Tom Cook Commercial, a full-service commercial real estate company with specialties in office properties and office condos in the central business district and surrounding sub markets. We would also like to recognize Turner Construction Company for being a Gold sponsor. Additional Gold level sponsorships are available for \$1,500. Call 407-228-3891 or email [downtownorlando@bellsouth.net](mailto:downtownorlando@bellsouth.net) to become a sponsor today!

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## DOP Announces 2008 Membership Drive

The Downtown Orlando Partnership membership committee is proud to report that we met last year's new member goal. AND, thanks to feedback received from current and new members, we are increasing our membership goals in 2008. We are aiming for an ambitious, but reachable, goal for new members (our present membership count is approximately 2,000-plus).

This year's membership drive will be two pronged – FIRST, focus on retaining current members by outreach programs designed to increase involvement, and SECOND, expand new member sign-ups through a concerted incentive drive. (Watch for these details to be announced in the next newsletter.)

The Downtown Orlando Partnership is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and economic development of Downtown Orlando. We are a partnership of volunteers whose focus is to promote events, organization, people, leadership and excitement for downtown. **P**romoting: **E**vents, **O**rganization, **P**eople, **L**eadership and **E**xcitement for Downtown Orlando. **P**EOPLE for Downtown Orlando.

## CityArts Factory to Host February Social

Support the Arts and Downtown Orlando Partnership at the same time by joining us on Thursday, February 28th at the CityArts Factory on the corner of Orange and Pine. Admission is \$2 for DOP members and \$10 for non-members; reservations are not necessary.

The Downtown Arts District (DAD) strives to grow the arts in the heart of Orlando. This is done through supporting local artists, theatres and film organizations, as well as a various other arts and cultural organizations located throughout Downtown. DAD's flagship is the CityArts Factory, which opened in October of 2006. Last year, CityArts Factory hosted more than 150 cultural events and over 30,000 visitors.

THANK YOU to CityArts Factory for sponsoring our February social. For more information on CityArts Factory please visit their website at [www.cityartsfactory.com](http://www.cityartsfactory.com) or call 407-648-7060.

As always, a special thanks to City Beverages!



# Event calendar

## January

**24 DOP January Social**  
Brick & Fire Pizza & Wine Co.  
5:30 - 7:00PM

## February

**28 DOP February Social**  
CityArts Factory  
5:30 - 7:00PM

## Top 10 Reasons to Join The Downtown Orlando Partnership in 2008

10. Networking opportunities with Orlando's movers & shakers
9. Subscription to DOP's "Dateline Downtown" newsletter
8. Quarterly Luncheon Forums featuring notable presenters
7. Free DOP Member Directory with access to our 1,300 members
6. Help shape Downtown Orlando's future
5. Ability to serve on our prestigious Board of Directors
4. New marketing and sponsorship opportunities for your company
3. Enjoy making friends and business contacts at Orlando civic events
2. It's affordable! Annual Memberships start as low as \$200
1. It's easy to join! Call us today at 407-228-3891 or send us an **e-mail now!**