

## Real Estate Research Consultants Achieves 20-year Milestone!

Also commonly known as RERC, this local economic advisory firm is celebrating 20 years of successful client service in 2006. Growing from a two-man professional research firm founded by Bill Owen in downtown Orlando in 1986, RERC is now regarded as one of the most respected strategic advisory firms in the state of Florida, especially in the areas of downtown redevelopment, economic development, and community building. RERC played a major role in the successful planning for award-winning Baldwin Park, and the firm has provided 20 years of consulting excellence on some of Central Florida's most innovative and iconic developments. The reputation of RERC and its staff has become synonymous with creativity, credibility, honesty and integrity in the Florida real estate and planning communities.

Bill Owen was Chairman of DOI (now known as Downtown Orlando Partnership) in 1984-85, President of Light Up Orlando for the first five years, and Downtowner of the Year in 1985. Also at RERC are Tom Kohler, former Executive Director of the Downtown Development Board and Downtowner of the Year in 1991; Daisy Staniszki, long-time executive with the DDB; and Lynne Owen, DOI's first paid employee. The fifteen-member firm has made downtown Orlando its business home since its beginnings. For more information regarding RERC and its staff, visit [www.RERCInc.com](http://www.RERCInc.com).

## President Hitt Presents Vision for UCF's Future

The past year has been one of the most remarkable to date for the University of Central Florida. Against all odds but with community-wide political and financial support, UCF won approval from the Board of Governors to build a medical school. With the vision of a "Medical City" anchored by the UCF College of Medicine taking shape at Lake Nona, the prestigious Burnham Institute decided to set up shop in Orlando.

The UCF Board of Trustees approved building a 45,000-seat football stadium on campus. Construction began on a new 10,000-seat convocation center with retail and mixed-use development, a small part of an unprecedented building boom on UCF's main campus. School enrollment continued to increase, moving UCF to the seventh largest university in the country and second largest in the state. The internationally acclaimed Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy (FIEA) welcomed its second class of students.

The list of accomplishments goes on and the question in everyone's mind is "What's next?" Named Central Florida "Man of the Year" by the Orlando Sentinel, "Most Powerful Person in Orlando" by Orlando Magazine, and presented with the "Most Influential Businessmen Legacy Award" by the Orlando Business Journal for his work to bring a medical school to Orlando and the impact his 14-year presidency has had on Central Florida's growth and prosperity, UCF President John Hitt will review recent accomplishments and lay out his vision for the future during a "State of the University" address at a special President's Forum. The event will take place on Friday, Feb. 2, 2007, from 7:30-9 a.m. at FIEA (formerly the Expo Centre), 500 West Livingston Street in Orlando. For more information, call UCF Community Relations at 407-235-3935.

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# dateline DOWNTOWN

A publication of the Downtown Orlando Partnership

November/December 2006

## November Social at the Grand Bohemian Hotel – Orlando

Join the Downtown Orlando Partnership on Wednesday, Nov. 15 from 5:30 – 7 pm at the Grand Bohemian Hotel-Orlando's Bösendorfer Lounge. Be stirred, not shaken as you enjoy appetizers, drinks and networking while checking out this edgy and intriguing lounge voted "Best Hotel Bar in Orlando". Admission is \$2 for DOP members and \$6 for non-members; reservations are not necessary. On Nov. 20, the Westin Grand Bohemian, the city's hallmark luxury hotel, will formally become the Grand Bohemian Hotel-Orlando. Rated as the most successful hotel in the Westin brand since its inception five years ago, the Grand Bohemian Hotel-Orlando is looking forward to its state of independence. As the flagship of The Kessler Collection, an Orlando-based boutique hotel company, the Grand Bohemian Hotel – Orlando is the first hotel in a series of new hotels to be built in various destinations across the USA under the same flag.

THANK YOU to our sponsors for our Nov. 15 event, Monarch Condominiums and City Beverages. Monarch, a 24-story, 179-residence condominium complex located in the Eola South Residential District offers 19 matchless floor plans, from one-bedroom homes to five-bedroom penthouses and unique two-story loft residences. Monarch condominiums are priced from the upper \$300,000s to more than \$2 million. For more information on Monarch condominiums, call 407-426-8452, or visit [www.monarchorlando.com](http://www.monarchorlando.com).

## Golden Brick Awards Call For Entries

This is your opportunity to win a prestigious Golden Brick Award! Hosted by the Downtown Orlando Partnership, this year's luncheon will be held in early March at The Ballroom at Church Street in downtown Orlando.

The Golden Brick Awards luncheon is a celebration of the previous year's projects that affect the Downtown Development District and contribute significantly to its quality of life - 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, 2006 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 Friday, January 26.

## Hello & Goodbye from Kimbra Hennessy, 2006 DOP President



I say "hello" and "goodbye" since this is my first article in Dateline Downtown and my last month as President of the Downtown Orlando Partnership. I have submitted other "Messages from the President" this year; however, our newsletters in 2006 were so chock-full of more important information – events, new members, city happenings, etc. – my article has been pulled each time.

Honestly, this is fine by me! What a great year it has been for the DOP – our events have sold out or moved to exciting new locations, the DOP membership has increased and, with some new additions, our Board of Directors has gotten even stronger. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that

this success is thanks in large part to one person: our Executive Director, Buffie Paulauski, who celebrated her 20th anniversary with the DOP this year!

In closing, I look forward to continuing to serve on the DOP Board and support our incoming President, OUC's Vickie Hungate, who has great plans for 2007. See you at the next event.

Kimbra Hennessy, Partner  
Bitner/Hennessy Public Relations

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505 N. Mills Ave. • Suite 200  
Orlando, FL 32803



Phone 407.228.3891 • Fax 407.228.3981  
[downtownorlando@bellsouth.net](mailto:downtownorlando@bellsouth.net) • [www.downtownorlandopartnership.com](http://www.downtownorlandopartnership.com)

## September Social THANK YOU

The DOP Networking/Social committee held our September event at Kres Chophouse & Lounge, located at 17 W. Church St. Once again we had a fantastic event at this excellent restaurant. Kres brings big city atmosphere, energy and sophistication to Downtown Orlando. First Place, Best New Restaurant AND Best Late Night Dining at the 11th Annual Dining Awards; Second Place for Best Steakhouse AND Best Place for a Business Dinner are just a sample of the awards that this fantastic restaurant won in 2005. If the Social Committee had awards, Kres could add Best Networking Venue to its list.

Special thanks to our September Social sponsors, Tom Cook Commercial. Tom Cook Commercial provides quality commercial real estate brokerage services in the Orlando market. In the last several years they have specialized in the downtown Orlando office market. Additionally, they are the leading company with an emphasis on the office condominium market, exemplified by the Premiere Trade Plaza and Cornerstone projects in downtown Orlando.

Last but not least, a special thanks to Steve Smith and City Beverages for their continued support to all of our networking and social events held all year long! They make it possible for all of us to be able to spend our drink tickets and ease some of the burden on our venues. THANK YOU CITY BEVERAGES!

Please contact our office at 407-228-3891, email [downtownorlando@bellsouth.net](mailto:downtownorlando@bellsouth.net), or go to [www.downtownorlandopartnership.com](http://www.downtownorlandopartnership.com) for more information on becoming a sponsor.

## October's O-Town Brewhaha a Huge Success

More than 150 people enjoyed a beautiful evening under the stars at Latitudes and The Big Belly Brewery for DOP's O-Town Brewhaha event on Oct. 26. Plenty of networking took place, while everyone sampled beverages from more than 50 vendors, and munched on light bites courtesy of Toojay's Gourmet Deli.

Special thanks goes out to all of the incredible vendors who graciously sampled their libations and to Latitudes and The Big Belly Brewery for being our hosts. A great big thanks to our sponsors, Condo Connection, LLC, R.L. Haines Construction, Toojay's Gourmet Deli and City Beverages. We couldn't have put the event together without them.

## Eola Place Sales Center Celebrates Grand Opening

Eola Place, a 16-story, mixed-use community featuring loft-inspired homes from the mid \$200,000s, announces its Sales Center's Grand Opening on October 20. The sales center is located at 330 E. Central Blvd. Eola Place's developer John Bahng stated, "We're pleased to receive such an enthusiastic response to Eola Place. Our sales center, staffed by Mark Pateman and Melanie Shaginaw, provides us additional visibility in this great community, while conveniently located in the heart of the Thornton Park/Lake Eola area. Smart buyers in today's market recognize that Eola Place is a unique downtown product offering the essential and timeless qualities of both price and location."

Located in the revitalized, residential corridors of Thornton Park and Lake Eola, Eola Place will feature 196 loft-inspired homes that afford homeowners the luxury of space with high ceilings, natural light and open floor plans. These homes will showcase quality appointments such as granite countertops, porcelain tile, GE Profile appliances, and private balconies. In addition, Eola Place will offer an array of amenities to include an Aquatics & Spa Fitness Center, Zen garden with outdoor cooking area, pet exercise area, and ground floor retail. And with its central location, Eola Place is just a few steps away from local dining, shopping, and nightlife.

Eola Place was designed by Baker Barrios Architects with The Welbro Companies handling the development and construction. Construction of Eola Place is slated to begin in early 2007 with occupancy set for mid 2008. For more information, please visit [www.eolaplace.com](http://www.eolaplace.com) or call the sales center at 407-999-4949.

## A Look to the Future of Downtown

The 2007 State of Downtown held Oct. 4 at The Ballroom at Church Street offered more than just dining, schmoozing and networking. This year's event featured a special address by Mayor Buddy Dyer and Frank Billingsley, the City's Deputy Director of Economic Development, on the exciting future of Downtown Orlando.

More than 600 attendees including elected officials, downtown dignitaries and DOP Members enjoyed a first hand look at the changes Orlando has seen over the past few decades and the exciting plans for the Downtown Triple Crown. With a new major event venue, a new arena and a revitalized Citrus Bowl in the works, Mayor Dyer and Mr. Billingsley shared their enthusiasm for a vibrant, well-attended downtown that offers great places to live, work and play.

This extremely successful event could not take place without the help of our corporate sponsors. The Title Sponsor for the event was Baker Hostetler. Our Golf Sponsors were 55 West, 801 North Orange, LLC, Baker Barrios Architects, Inc., FAIRWINDS Credit Union, Hardin Construction, HD Supply, Historic Creations, KeyBank Real Estate Capital, Kuykendall Gardner, Monarch, OUC - The *Reliable One*, PCL Construction Services, Inc., Powell Design Group, Inc., Real Estate Research Consultants, Inc., The Condo Store, TLC Engineering for Architecture, Tom Cook Commercial, Tradition Towers, University of Central Florida, ZOM Florida, Inc.. Thank you to all of The State of Downtown Address sponsors.

## New Member Spotlight: Property Condition Assessment, Inc.

Property Condition Assessment, Inc. (PCAInc) performs inspections on commercial and residential properties, construction "draw" inspections, environmental site assessments, construction plans and cost reviews, and infrared water intrusion surveys. The company also handles NTO/Lien Release tracking on commercial construction properties.

Paul J. Halyard, President of PCAInc. has provided monthly construction lending inspections for the past two decades. Presently, the firm performs in excess of 150 inspections per month for numerous lenders with offices throughout Central Florida and the Southeast U.S. PCAInc inspects properties from the northern area of Jacksonville to the southern area of Vero Beach, west to Tampa, and all points in between. PCAInc. is able to inspect properties in a timely, efficient manner to accommodate the needs of its clients.

PCAInc. is located at 1877 Edgewater Dr., Orlando, 32804. Please visit our website at: [PCAIInspections.com](http://PCAIInspections.com) or call us at 407-422-5599.

## 'RESPECT: A Musical Journey of Women' Debuts at Orlando Science Center's Darden Adventure Theater

Featuring selections ranging from Gershwin's "Someone To Watch Over Me" to Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive," "RESPECT: A Musical Journey of Women," an acclaimed musical review celebrating women through American popular music, made its Orlando premiere Oct. 26 at Orlando Science Center's Darden Adventure Theater, 777 E. Princeton Street. Tickets are on sale now!

RESPECT takes a funny, exuberant look at the lives of women as reflected in music through the years. Written by popular music authority Dorothy Marcic, the production chronicles the lives of women throughout the 20th century, as played out against the songs they were listening to during various periods in their lives. The musical features an ensemble cast of four, a live band and more than 60 songs, including "I Wanna Be Loved by You," "Tonight, You Belong To Me," "Diamonds are a Girls Best Friend," "Whatever Lola Wants," "These Boots are Made for Walkin'," "Piece of My Heart," "Born A Woman," "Hero," and "Video."

The performance schedule is as follows: Wednesdays at 2 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 3 and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. On Thursday, Nov. 24, there will be no performance in observance of Thanksgiving. Performances will also be suspended January 12-21, 2007. Tickets are \$36 for the general public and \$34 for seniors 65 or older and students with valid ID. Tickets are \$32 for groups of 15 or more. Services charges apply. For tickets and more information, please visit [www.respectthemusical.com](http://www.respectthemusical.com) for easy online ordering or call the ticket office at 866-386-4849 (4TIX). For groups of 15 or more, call Group Tix at 877-4-GRP-TIX or visit [www.grouptix.net](http://www.grouptix.net).

## DOP Golf Tourney Was a Ball at New Venue!

The Downtown Orlando Partnership's Annual Golf Tournament changed things up this year with a move to the scenic and challenging MetroWest Golf Club. The location was superb and all who participated had a great time, regardless of the final score!

Congratulations go out to the winning team of Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, PA, who had an especially successful day!

The DOP would once again like to thank our Title Sponsor, Colliers Arnold Commercial Real Estate Services, who has sponsored this tournament from its inception. We would also like to thank our other key sponsors: Colonial Properties Trust (driving range) and City Beverages (drink cart). Our hole sponsors also deserve recognition for their continued support: 55 West, Broad and Cassel Attorneys at Law, CFSE Wealth Management, Inc., CNL Hotels & Resorts, CNL Bank, Collis Roofing, Inc., Duke Realty Corporation, Florida Business Interiors, Inc., Hanson Tobin Construction, LLC, Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, PA, PCL Construction Services, Inc., R.L. Haines Construction, RBC Centura Bank, REALTY CAPITAL, Schwed Patten & Kahle, LLC, United Heritage Bank, Ustler Development, Vaco Orlando, LLC, and Workplace Resource.

The DOP continues to support its members with well-organized events that offer great business networking and marketing opportunities. Thanks again to all those who participated in this signature event!

## Fall Hot Topics Recap

If you attended the Hot Topic Event with Shelley Lauten of MyRegion.com, you were actively involved in a critical discussion regarding the future of our region. The event was attended by local business professionals and residents interested in the impact of growth on the Central Florida Region. We would like to thank LYNX – our regional transit authority and the title sponsor who will also sponsor the follow-up event scheduled for Nov. 8 with Linda Chapin (see article). In addition we greatly appreciate the sponsorship of Olde Town Brokers for this event.

Did you attend the Mid Day Hot Topic event with Orlando Police Department Chief Mike McCoy? If you did not attend, you missed a great event. The Chief discussed crime statistics, trends and his department's response plans for our growing city. The Chief was typically candid and the attendees asked great questions. Thank you to the Florida Real Estate Consortium, LLC and Workscapes for their sponsorship of this event and their continued support.

Special thanks to Linda Chapin, Director of UCF's Metropolitan Center for Regional Studies, for her presentation on Central Florida in the 21st Century at our November 8th Hot Topics Midday Mixer Luncheon.

Thank you to LYNX, our regional transit authority, for participating as the title sponsor for this event. Also, thanks to our supporting sponsors Eola Place and the Economic Development Commission of Mid Florida.



### November

- 15** DOP November Social  
5:30 pm–7:00 pm  
Grand Bohemian Hotel – Orlando

View an updated list of DOP events online!  
[www.downtownorlandopartnership.com](http://www.downtownorlandopartnership.com)

## Swalstead Jewelers' 20th Annual Dig For Diamonds Event

### What?

We have salted our "mine" with diamonds and other gemstones. Donate \$1 and get one shovel of sand. See if you can dig up a diamond!

### When?

Thursday & Friday, Nov. 16 & 17  
10:00 am–4:00 pm

### Why?

All proceeds to benefit the American Diabetes Association.

### Where?

In front of Swalstead Jewelers, 2 block south of Church Street, 255 S. Orange Avenue, downtown Orlando

For more information, please contact Swalstead Jewelers at 407-843-6493