

June is a month to celebrate ... for our youth, it marks the beginning of summer vacation, and for all of for all of us, it is a month to commemorate the importance of fathers.

William Shakespeare wrote, "When a father gives to his son, both laugh; when a son gives to his father, both cry." As we begin the summer season, please take a moment to remember your father and give back to him. My father passed away 34 years ago and not a day goes by when I'm not grateful for the time we spent together, and for the legacy he left my family and me. Father's Day is special...take a moment and express your gratitude to your dad and all of the dads in your life.

Orlando boasts many great ways to spend time together as a family in honor of Father's Day and throughout the summer. Besides the theme parks and the new Wizarding World of Harry Potter, Orlando has many other great amenities to explore. Spend a day at Loch Haven Park visiting the Orlando Science Center, the Orlando Museum of Art or The Mennello Museum of American Art. Or check out one of the Orlando Shakespeare Theater's family-friendly summer shows. And not only does Orlando have some of the best pocket parks and playgrounds around, but larger parks such as Bill Frederick Park at Turkey Lake or Orlando Wetlands Park offer activities such as hiking, wildlife tours, fishing and camping... all great, economical ways to spend quality time with friends and family. For more information about all of these great amenities, plus others such as Dubsdread Golf Course and Harry P. Leu Gardens, check out [www.cityoforlando.net/fpr](http://www.cityoforlando.net/fpr).

As we continue to make our downtown a great destination for our entire City, consider coming downtown on a Friday after work beginning June 4<sup>th</sup> for *Rockin Lake Eola*, an outdoor concert series featuring tribute bands and local artists. For more information check out the City's calendar at [www.cityoforlando.net](http://www.cityoforlando.net)

And if you, like many of us, are looking for ways to plan a summer vacation on a budget, why not consider staying close to home this year and visiting some of the fun destinations right in our backyard? For ideas check out Central Florida News 13's *Florida on a Tank Full* segments or sign up for the Orlando Sentinel's *Travel Unraveled* Newsletter. Another good website to get ideas about the hidden tourist gems of our state is [www.visitflorida.com](http://www.visitflorida.com).

Just a friendly reminder if you are going to be traveling this summer to please let a neighbor know when your house is going to be vacant so that they can keep an eye out for anything out of the ordinary. Also, don't forget to put a hold on your mail and stop your newspaper delivery so that it isn't obvious that you aren't home. And consider leaving on a few lights or even a t.v. inside your home to keep it from looking empty. If you do get home and something looks suspicious, don't be embarrassed to call the Orlando Police Department, either by using **911** or the non-emergency number, **321-235-5300**.

With the summer comes another Hurricane Season which begins **June 1<sup>st</sup>**. And while it may seem redundant, it is times like this, when we have had a few quiet seasons when we need to refresh our memory on all of the preparedness information and check our pantries and cabinets to make sure we have our supplies readily available. For information on hurricane and other disaster preparedness issues, check out the City's Emergency Management Department's

webpage for tips and updates, [www.cityoforlando.net/emergency](http://www.cityoforlando.net/emergency).

While it is usually called Spring cleaning, summer is also a good time to go through your things, donating what you don't need to one of our worthwhile charities, and responsibly recycling items such as computers, cell phones, televisions, and office equipment. **With that in mind, the City is hosting another Electronic Waste Clean Up at Orlando Festival Park (2911 East Robinson Street) on Saturday, June 12 from 9 a to 1 p.** Recycling electronics captures lead and other toxic materials, keeping them from contaminating our ground and groundwater. Anyone who drops off something will be entered for a chance to win a brand new laptop from Waste Management.

Hope you and your family have a fun, safe summer. As I begin my second four-year term in office, it is important for me to take a moment to say thank you for your continued support of my office, and our Great City! I look forward to continuing to work together to bring positive change to our shared community.